



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 45 ✦ Number 11 ✦ November 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, NOVEMBER 18, 2012

1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Finding More in the FamilySearch Catalog, by Barbara Renick

2:00 Business

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

2:45 General SPEAKER: Barbara Renick
Meeting Hidden Treasures in the FamilySearch Wiki

4:00 Class BEGINNING: Led by Linda Ivers

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Reports</i>	82
<i>October Meeting in Review: Reverse Genealogy & Online Queries</i> ..	83
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	84
<i>Commentary: Getting the Younger Generation into Genealogy</i>	85
<i>Methods</i>	86
<i>On the Web</i>	87
<i>Calendar</i>	88



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NOVEMBER MEETING

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Finding More in the FamilySearch Catalog

The classic Family History Library Catalog has been renamed the FamilySearch Catalog to reflect its update along with the familiar FamilySearch website. So far, only about half of the proposed updates to the FamilySearch Catalog have been implemented, and it is in beta (where features are added and tested against user feedback). This lecture covers what is new, some of what is planned, and what has often been missed by those using both the classic and new catalogs.

MAIN PRESENTATION

Hidden Treasures in the FamilySearch Wiki

Wikis are typically free online encyclopedias. The FamilySearch Research Wiki is a free online encyclopedia written by genealogists for genealogists. Its scope is truly amazing with more than sixty-six thousand articles world-wide and topic-wide. This lecture brings to light some of the hidden treasures within this amazing resource.

SPEAKER:

BARBARA RENICK

Barbara Renick frequently gives lectures and teaches computer labs at national genealogy conferences and at the FamilySearch Center in Orange, California. She was an NGS contributing editor for eleven years and co-authored *The Internet for Genealogists: A Beginner's Guide* in the 1990s. Her last book titled *Genealogy 101: How to Trace Your Family History and Heritage* was sponsored by the National Genealogical Society for their 100th Anniversary in 2003. Barbara is currently serving on the NGS Board of Directors.



REFRESHMENTS

Penny NUGENT (562) 290-0416

Thanks to our October hosts:

Jeanette JONES Penny NUGENT
Linda RYAN Connie WILLIAMS

Our November hosts will be:

Kathy AKAU Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT
Terry HAMILTON Kathy LATHAM

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

OCTOBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 33 Guests: 3

NEW MEMBER

Jeanne GONZALEZ Individual 9/13

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

September Income:	\$ 649.12
September Expenses:	\$ 195.68
F&M Bank Balance:	\$ 3,282.04
Operations Balance:	\$ 3,643.02
Special Projects Balance:	-\$ 360.98
U.S. Bank Balance	\$26,492.26

Submissions for the December Newsletter are due by November 25.

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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.



W E - R E - V I E W - I N - T H E - M

ONLINE QUERIES

Online queries are an important part of genealogy research; and our speaker, Joan Rambo, discussed a number of tips on how to post queries most effectively.

Regarding names, remember that Judith/Judy may be read as one word—and not likely to be found. You need to leave spaces between the names in order to find both, i.e., Judith / Judy. This is also true in the use of brackets [] and parentheses (). Leave a space between the punctuation mark and a word.

Regarding locations, it's a good idea to spell out the full name of a state and also include its abbreviation in another part of the query.

Regarding dates, even when you're not sure of a date, pinpoint its range as closely as possible rather than just saying the 1700s.

Don't make your queries too long. Keep them uncluttered and to the point. It's a good idea to let a query sit for a day or two and then take another look at it.

You want to use words in the Subject box that will catch the attention of researchers.

When searching queries yourself, use "keyword searches," using less common given or surnames. Also, you can mix names and locations.

Post your queries everywhere—on sites for surnames, states, and every county in a state where your ancestors might have left records.

Some of Joan's favorite sites are:

GenForum <http://genforum.genealogy.com>

GenWeb <http://usgenweb.org>

Rootsweb <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com>

Rootsweb's WorldConnect <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>
(Be aware of possible errors on this site.)

Joan Rambo may be reached at:
KinKatcher@aol.com

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REVERSE GENEALOGY: FINDING THE LIVING

This was our first attempt at using a DVD to present a program. It worked very well, but we ran out of battery power before the end—need to have a spare.

In her talk, Megan Smolenyak pointed out some reasons we might want to use "Reverse Genealogy:"

- To find missing kin or friends,
- To attract reunion attendees,
- To locate, or return, family heirlooms,
- To find DNA study participants,
- To support military repatriation and Unclaimed Persons projects, or
- To save lives by finding donors or by being aware of a predisposition to illness.

There are two basic strategies for finding people: Broadcast and Seeking.

Using Broadcast Strategy, you want to help other people find you. You can do this by making use of message boards and social networking sites, websites/blogs, and photobases like DeadFred and Ancientfaces.

Using the Seeking Strategy, you try to find the people you are looking for. You can find clusters of associated people and then work closer. If you have several names, start with most recently born, most unusual name and/or a male. Sometimes you have to work backwards to come forward, or you may have to follow the trail of the deceased to find the living.

The best Reverse Genealogy resources are:

1. Census indexes,
2. Social Security Death Index (SSDI),
3. Lineage collections,
4. Newspapers,
5. Online vital records,
6. Search engines & social networking,
7. People-finding & public record sites, and
8. Everything else! (e.g., cemetery, military, etc.)

Megan's website is:
www.megansmolenyak.com

She is also on Facebook and Twitter.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The study of genealogy and tracing my ancestors has made my life so much richer. I have greatly enlarged my knowledge of history and geography in the areas from which I traced my ancestors. Aside from the actual knowledge about my own personal genealogical history, I have so much enjoyed the other connections genealogy study has brought to my “real life”. Two instances of this occurred recently.

The first occurred because of the national election for President. We have been bombarded by media coverage of every little tiny facet of the candidates’ lives. Genealogical writers have been among the horde that has produced their little tidbits of information. Some time ago I became aware that Barack Obama and I shared a common ancestor through his mother and my father. This connection is that we are both descendants of Edward Fitz-Randolph who came to this country in 1630 from England. I have not been able to calculate the exact relationship because I do not have an exact line of descent back to Edward. DNA testing proved that my last proven Fitz-Randolph is descended from Edward, or maybe we are descended from a Fitz-Randolph even further back in England. This type of juxtaposition is what keeps life interesting when you can relate facts in your life to what is currently being written about or happening around you.

The other thing that came up was my daughter telling me about one question that was asked on the applications for University of California Scholarships. The question was: Are you descended from a Union or Confederate Civil War veteran? My daughter knew that I was descended from a Union Veteran who was on “Sherman’s March to the Sea” and from another veteran (Tennessee) who served first in the Confederate Army and then changed to the Union Army. My daughter was concerned whether I could prove it if my grandson were to be considered for one of those scholarships. Yes, I can. You never know when your genealogy research may come in handy. There

were other ethnic backgrounds and categories that would have to be proved by genealogy research also. I will definitely let you know if anything comes of that part of the application. Have I stimulated you to think how genealogy has influenced or made your life more interesting aside from the actual research knowledge?

J.J.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

Following is the slate of officers for the 2013–2014 term as announced at our October meeting.

- President: Terry Hamilton
- 2nd Vice President: Kathy Latham
- Director at Large: Glenn Hass
- Director at Large: Tina Yanis

Their election will take place at our November meeting.

FINAL REMINDERS

Annual dues for membership in *Questing Heirs* are due in September of each year. If you want to continue as a member of our society, you need to forward your payment to Terry Hamilton as soon as possible.

Also, we are still looking for someone to take over as Newsletter Editor in January 2013. If no one is willing to do that, our society will cease to have a newsletter.

**JOYCELYN ANN PROUST
1928-2012**

Joycelyn Aylor was born in Denver, Colorado, on 19 Feb 1928. She met and married George Proust while earning a masters degree in library science at the University of Denver. They moved to Long Beach where she worked as a librarian at Long Beach City College for thirty years.

A former member of *Questing Heirs*, Joycelyn actively researched her Aylor ancestors as well as her mother’s Morgan family. She also traveled extensively during her lifetime. Our own Jeanette Jones accompanied her on a trip to China in the summer of 1996. Joycelyn passed away on 4 Aug 2012.



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Getting the Younger Generations into Genealogy in Three Easy Steps by Scott Phillips

There is one question that seems to pervade genealogy today. It is this: ‘How do we get the next generation ‘into’ genealogy?’

Many organizations, companies, and families struggle with this question. While I don’t profess to be a mastermind, I do follow three simple mantras in all my genealogy efforts in order to draw in those younger than myself. They are simple, easy, and in my experience, surefire. They have worked for me and may well work for others.

Here they are:

- 1) Never use the word ‘genealogy’ with younger folks. Use ‘family history’.
- 2) Make everything as electronic as possible.
- 3) Ensure that your focus is all about people, their stories, and fun. Not just dates, names, and documents.

In order to attract the younger generations (and I purposely use the plural since we have to work to attract younger people of all ages) we must think of their world, not the one we have inhabited and worked in. A prime example: I spent more years working on typewriters than computers. My son may have used a typewriter half a dozen times. My grandson most likely has never even seen one. So we must not try and attract the younger generations to our love of genealogy, whoops, I mean family history, by using the same ‘bait’ that may have captured us. Not in the day and age of Facebook. However, many are trying to do just that, then sitting back, and wondering why they aren’t catching anything.

Family History: I learned early on that I was turning a lot of folks off when I would use the word ‘genealogy’ when describing my work. It got me thinking. The word is cold. It sounds scientific. It sounds like work and/or a difficult subject in school. I tried an experiment at a series of social gatherings. In some of these gatherings I used the word ‘genealogy’ to describe my work and in others I called it ‘family history’. The results were astounding to me. In almost every case, when I spoke with

a person who I knew to be younger than myself and I said ‘genealogy’ it turned off the conversation. Alternatively, using ‘family history’ drew questions, comments, and often a discussion. That was enough for me and while the purists may argue over the difference between genealogy and family history, it is irrelevant if the audience isn’t going to listen to you anyway! So family history it is for me with anyone younger than myself.

Technology: It also didn’t take long for me to witness the ease with which my children and my grandchildren utilize all types of electronics that I sometimes struggle with. Also I started to note the changes in their lives that seemed foreign to me. Simple things like the fact that my children see no use in having land-line telephones, they take their morning news on an iPad rather than on newsprint, and my daughter recently said she only checks her mailbox once every few days since everything of importance for her comes via email, text message, or the like. My three year old grandson can already use a touchscreen iPad far better than I can and my eight year old grandson fixes my computer glitches before I can fully explain them to him. It got me thinking that certainly they were not going to relish printed newsletters, books in print, and old-style communications and formats.

So our family tree is online with MyHeritage.com and it functions as a complete social network for our family. Here we can post video, audio, photos, notes, messages, set calendar events and send email to the whole family in just a few clicks. All in one, all online, all electronic. Just like the younger generation is accustomed to.

People and Stories: I also quickly learned that while I may be enthralled with finding the appropriate document to provide evidence of a relationship or event, what excited my children and grandchildren—heck even my

Continued on page 86



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HOW TO CALCULATE A GENERATION

by Michelle Brunet

We often associate those belonging to a certain generation to have their own cultural ideals and philosophies. In a family, the length of a generation is defined as the age difference between a parent and her child or the age of a parent when she has a child. The interval is generally said to be 25 years, although presently it is closer to 30 years, whereas in primitive times it was closer to 20 years. To calculate a human generation, you will get different results, depending on whether you use a mother, a father or both as a basis, or whether you are calculating the age difference between the first born and his parents or finding an average for all children.

Instructions

1. Consider first the generation interval between you and your parents. Determine the age of your mother when she had you and your siblings. Let's say she was 27 when she had you, 29 when she had your brother, and 31 when she had your sister. Add these three ages together and divide by three. This determines that the average age your mom was when she had children was 29. Do the same for your father's age when you and your siblings were born. Let's say that average was 35 years of age. Add your mother's and your father's age and divide by two. The answer, 32 years of age, is the overall average generation interval for your immediate family.
2. Research your family tree to calculate an average generation for your family line. Try to find information on at least six generations back, or your great-great-great-great-great-grandparents. Determine the date of birth of the farthest known generation back; you do not have to determine the date of birth of generations in between you and that ancestor.
3. Subtract the year of birth of your ancestor from your own year of birth. For example, let's say your ancestor was born in 1800

and you were born in 1979. Subtract 1800 from 1979 which gives you 179 years. Now if this ancestor was six generations back, or what F.M. Lancaster, author of the *Genetic and Quantitative Aspects of Genealogy*, describes as six connecting links between you and that ancestor, then divide 179 years by six. This yields an answer of 29.8333 or a generation interval rounded up to 30 years.

4. Perform more calculations working with the same ancestral generation. Calculate the generation interval based on both males and females of that time. Determine the male average, the female average and the overall average.

This article, updated on 13 Sep 2011, appeared on the eHow site at <http://www.ehow.com>.

HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE "Ye"?

If you pronounce this word as "Yee," think again. The "y" comes from the old English letter "thorn," representing the "th" sound and so should be pronounced "The."

See Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 11 Oct 2012 at <http://www.eogn.com> for more details. Copyright © by Richard W. Eastman.

Continued from page 85...

wife—is the people and their stories. They are the things that make family history come alive, that make your family unique, and make your family yours! So stories it is!

If I am lucky, one of the hundreds of family members in our MyHeritage.com social network will take up the gauntlet and become a genealogist like myself, but if I really want to insure that our ancestors and their history, culture, and values are a part of our lives today and their lives tomorrow, then I must focus on talking the talk and walking the walk for the new generations.

That means not trying to force them onto my old path and enjoying walking the new one.

This article appeared in the Huffington Post on 8/31/12. It is copyright © by AOL (UK).



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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 Getting Genealogy News are:

- Ancestry Insider—what’s new at Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker, and FamilySearch
- Dear Myrtle—besides news, Myrt has free lessons for beginners and webinars on topics both high- and low-tech
- Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter – news available by email free and a Plus edition for \$19.95 per year
- Genealogy Gems—more than 140 of Lisa Louise Cooke’s podcasts and videos plus members-only material for \$29.95 a year
- Genealogy Guys—more than 230 programs available by George G. Morgan and Drew Smith
- The Genetic Genealogist—easy-to-understand information about DNA

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch, narrates a video that provides an example of how to collaborate with others in real-time to do genealogical research. He compares the effort to an old-time barn raising.

Tackling a problem by video conferencing with five other people in different locations, the team is able to locate various pertinent records to solve the problem. The video is very interesting and may be viewed at:

<http://bcove.me/igbjt9uj>

NARA ONLINE VIDEOS

More videos you might be interested in are those of the National Archives “how to” workshops. Many genealogical research topics are available, such as Civil War records and online resources and databases. They may be accessed at:

www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives

LOCALITY SITES

www.historypin.com/channels/view/id/12313037

The North Dakota State Archives has uploaded five collections of photographs of **Fargo** from 1876 to 2009 to Historypin. Viewers can see historic photographs superimposed onto current Google street maps to compare what present buildings looked like in the past.

www.genealogy.winnebago-county-clerk.com
The **Winnebago County, Illinois**, Clerk’s Office has created a new website for people to view and get copies of:

- Birth certificates (75 years or older),
 - Marriage certificates (50 years or older),
 - Death certificates (20 years or older).
- Certificates cost \$12 each.

The above information appeared in Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter of 9 Oct and 6 Sep, 2012, respectively. Copyright © 2012 by Richard W. Eastman.

<http://allmyancestors.com/blog/2012/07/09/business-in-the-territory>

In this blog post, Debra Osbourne Spindle describes the use of pre-statehood ledgers of incorporations in the **Oklahoma Territory** that have been digitized by the joint efforts of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Secretary of State’s Office. They consist of 27 volumes for the Oklahoma Territory and 15 volumes for Indian Territory.

“Keep in mind that included are transactions for churches and lodges and private business as well as the larger banks and coal and, of course, oil companies. While the database is not searchable by personal name, it is quite user friendly if you spend a bit of time getting used to the terminology...”

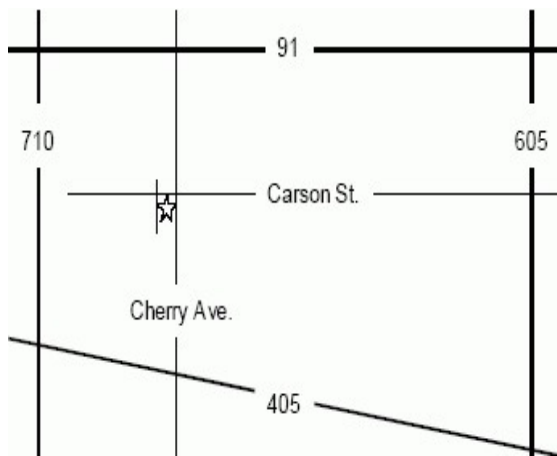
If you had people pre-statehood Oklahoma, take a look. You might find information on a church or a lodge they were a member of, or if you’re related to a mover and shaker, perhaps even the incorporation papers for their oil and/or gas company. We have lots of those in Oklahoma.”



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Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County California monthly meeting at the Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Hwy. & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: "Sifting Family Members from Others with a Common Surname," by Ruth Govorchin.

Sunday, November 18, 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 82.



*Our rural ancestors, with little blest,
Patient of labour when the end was rest,
Indulged the day that housed their
annual grain,
With feasts, and offerings, and a
thankful strain.*

Alexander Pope (at <http://www.quoteland.com>)



Upcoming Events

rootstech

March 21-23, 2013
Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

FamilySearch is hosting this third annual Family History and Technology Conference, which supports both technology and genealogy sponsors. Speakers are selected by independent committees.

RootsTech offers participants the unique experience of engaging with the latest technology to start or accelerate their efforts to find, organize, preserve, and share their family's connections and history. RootsTech offers many new, exciting resources for genealogists and family historians of all skill levels.

A full access 3-Day Pass is offered to those who register early for \$149. Over 130 classes and interactive workshops are available, as well as a huge Expo Hall, and a new "Getting Started Track" for beginners.

You can register online at <http://rootstech.org> or e-mail info@rootstech.org for information.

*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.