

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

APRIL QHGS MEETING

Sunday, April 15, 2018

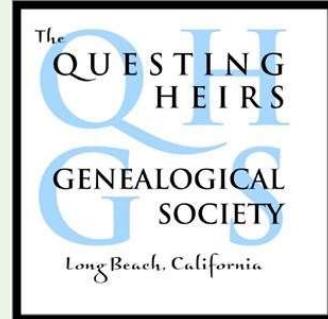
Joel Weintraub

1:15 PM

“What Happened at Ellis Island?
The Name Change Myth”

2:45 PM

“Crowdsourcing the Path to the 1950 Census”



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Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p.m. at the Lakewood Masonic Center, 5918 E. Parkcrest Street, in Long Beach California. See map on the last page.

Membership Levels

Individual: \$25.00
Family: \$37.50

QHGS is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations are tax-deductible.

QHGS 50th Anniversary Committee

QHGS is forming a committee to work on our 50th anniversary. Would you like join us? There will be a signup sheet for volunteers at the April meeting. The Board has already started discussion on ideas.

QHGS is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies

Save the Date

Field trip to Los Angeles Family History Library on May 12, 2018.
See page 22 for more details.

Our March Speaker is Joel Weintraub

Joel Weintraub 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 over a decade ago and was a volunteer for nine years at the National Archives and Records Administration, then located at Laguna Niguel, CA.

Joel started transcribing streets within census districts in 2001 to help researchers search the 1930 US Census (released in 2002). He was joined in the venture by Stephen Morse in 2002. Over the years, Joel has produced a number of online census searching utilities for the 1900 through 1940 federal censuses, and the New York State censuses for NYC (1905, 1915, and 1925) on the Morse 'One-Step' website (stevemorse.org). Joel spent seven years with Steve and many volunteers developing data sets for the 1940 census which were used by the 'One-Step', National Archives, Ancestry.com and the NY Public Library 1940 websites, and is currently developing similar locational tools for the 1950 census (to be released in 2022).



He has given many presentations on census, immigration and naturalization, the genealogical standards, and Jewish genealogy to genealogy, natural history, and university groups and has published articles on census research and the 72-year rule. His hobbies include birding, collecting census memorabilia and making interesting PowerPoint presentations.



Bain News Service, Publisher. *Arriving at Ellis Island*, ca 1915 [Between and Ca. 1920]

Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress.

What Happened at Ellis Island? The Name Change Myth

Did your ancestors come through Ellis Island? Does your family story include a name change by an immigration inspector? Joel Weintraub will review the evidence of name changes and the procedures that were followed in the processing of newly arrived immigrants. These include the legal documents that accompanied immigrants and official documents that were generated in the course of detentions at the station.

Crowdsourcing the Path to the 1950 Census

The 1940 U.S. Census opened in 2012 without a name index. A FamilySearch led consortium used 160,000 volunteers to name index that census in 4 months. In addition, Joel and Steve Morse, over seven years with about 125 volunteers, developed free utilities to find which of 150,000 census districts someone was in, when a location or address is known. These projects are examples of crowdsourcing. Steve and Joel are now doing a similar project for the 1950 Census. Joel will discuss differences between the 1940 and 1950 censuses that impacted their planning and project design. The film scanning, publicity, volunteer response, Yahoo Group site, cloud storage, software, One-Step utilities, and project phases will be discussed. All 233,800 1950 enumeration district definitions have now been transcribed. Street indexes will also be completed for over 2,000 communities (over 900 already done at this time) to help find 1950 census district numbers. Original 1950 census documents will be displayed.

Breaking Through Brick Walls

You might be new to researching your family tree or you may have been doing research for years. But all of us have probably experienced a brick wall. There might be a person you can't find or an important record that remains just beyond your grasp. Consider the following strategies to help with your own personal brick wall.

1. Get a DNA test. These can be very helpful in unknown parentage cases. If you are lucky, you will be able to triangulate DNA matches to prove common ancestors.
 2. Do you have an ancestor who 'fibbed'? Your ancestor may not have told the truth about how many times they were married, how old they were, their ethnic background or other facts. Consider how this may have directed your research in the wrong direction.
 3. On many web sites, you can narrow your search by a particular collection. Don't depend only on general search options on databases. Not all records are indexed and may only be available by browsing.
 4. Where did your ancestors live? Are there researchers who live in the area that can help with your search? Area genealogists can visit record repositories and copy records for a fee.
 5. Road Trip! Plan a vacation to where your ancestors lived or worked. Look for records at court houses, churches and cemeteries while you are there.
 6. There may be some sources you haven't considered. Historical newspapers, church records, military records or immigration records carry a wealth of information.
 7. Check variations of first and last names. Names might have been transcribed incorrectly, spelled wrong or indexed incorrectly.
 8. Create a timeline for your ancestor. Look for gaps in that timeline. What do you know and what can you verify? Is there something that you missed?
 9. Consider that a nonpaternal event (NPE) may be skewing your research results.
 10. Identify potential records. Look for alternate sources of records when documents are missing due to fire or poor records retention. Are there official records out there that are not yet online?
 11. Sometimes the most unlikely scenario may be the right one. Toss out your assumptions including family folklore. Consider that your ancestors maybe did not come from Ireland as your favorite Grandmother always told you.
 12. Broaden your research to other family members and nearby towns. Look at the relationships and names on official records. There might be a hint you needed.
 13. Don't be afraid to ask for help or bounce your ideas off others. You might have a friend who has had difference experiences that can help you with new search strategies.
 14. Go back to the original source records. Did you miss recording other information that might be helpful like years married, immigration date, relationship of other household members?
 15. Keep track of records you have reviewed. Records are always being added to databases, so revisit them periodically to look for updates.
 16. Brush up on the area you are searching. What was happening in history at the time? Were official records kept at that time? Look at boundary lines. Town and county boundaries can change over time. You may be looking in the wrong jurisdiction for the time period.
- FINALLY**
17. Step away from your research for a short time. Never underestimate the value of looking at a problem with fresh eyes.

'I HAVE NOT FAILED. I'VE JUST FOUND TEN THOUSAND WAYS THAT WON'T WORK'.
THOMAS EDISON

How to Avoid Awkward Interactions with DNA Matches

Several years ago, I was contacted by a DNA match. He introduced himself by telling me the names, birth dates and marriages of my immediate family. He went on to tell me where I worked, my past three residences, where my family was buried and many other details that bordered on disturbing.

I have to confess, I enjoy trying to figure out how a DNA match may be related to me before contacting them. I ‘may’ research as many details as I can find online. Other family genealogists and I ‘may’ race to see who can figure out the DNA match first. But being on the receiving end of a detailed accounting of one’s own life from someone you don’t know might be a little off-putting. Eventually I contacted the DNA match and we have enjoyed a great exchange of information, documents and photos over the past few years. In fact, he still lives near where my Great Grandmother was born.

New DNA matches can be very exciting. If you are trying to fill in your family tree and have hit a road block, contacting a DNA cousin might answer the questions you have. But not all DNA matches are interested in researching their family tree nor have they. And many of your DNA matches will never respond to your email.

There are many great blogs on Ancestry.com. On September 12, 2017 Jasmine Vasquez posted an article entitled “Contacting DNA Matches: Get More Responses with these Pro Tips”. In this article Jasmine writes about strategies that Angie Bush, a genetic genealogist, uses when contacting DNA matches to increase the chances of getting a response. It is a great article and I encourage anyone working with DNA results to read. You can find the complete article at: <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2017/09/12/contacting-dna-matches-get-more-responses-with-these-pro-tips/>.

Jasmine Vasquez and Angie Bush both work for AncestryProgenealogists in Salt Lake City.

Field Trip to Los Angeles FamilySearch Library

Save Saturday, May 12th on your calendar! Cynthia Day-Elliott will lead a trip to the Los Angeles Family History Library. There will be more details and a signup sheet at the April QHGS meeting.

Cynthia plans on taking the group on the Blue Line leaving about 9 AM from the Wardlow station. If someone wants to go individually, they can. The address is 1631 East Temple Way, Los Angeles, California, 90024. From the Metro Station, there is about a six-block walk to the library. You will need a library card upon arrival or remember to bring your card if you already have one.

You can search the FS Catalog specifically for books, film, fiches, & Maps in the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library. Go to <https://www.familysearch.org/catalog/search> and select Los Angeles California FamilySearch Library. Then click Search.

Learning Opportunities

Genealogical Society of North Orange County 2018 Family History Seminar featuring Kory L. Meyerink. The one-day seminar is Saturday, July 28th in Yorba Linda. The classes presented will be:

- ✓ “Keeping Up with the Joneses: How to Learn about New Sources and Techniques”
- ✓ “Free State Provided Sources”
- ✓ “Ready and Waiting Online!”
- ✓ “Evaluation Evidence and Resolving Discrepancies”
- ✓ “Cemetery Research on the Internet: Pitfalls and Promises”

For more information and registration form and flyer, please visit: http://www.gsnocc.org/2018_seminar.html

FamilySearch Classes

April 9, 16, 23 & 30 “Using the FamilySearch Catalog Effectively”

April 10 “What’s New at FamilySearch”

April 12 “United States Research: New England Region”

April 19 “Guided Research: New Tools to Simplify Genealogical Research”

April 24 “Starting Family Tree: Research Help and Searching Records”

For more information: https://www.familysearch.org/locations/library_class_schedule

Family Tree Webinars

April 11 “Georgia: Gateway to Westward Expansion” by Rorey Cathcart

April 13 “Researching Your Oregon Ancestors” by Tessa Keough

April 17 “Better Together: Making Your Case with Documents and DNA” by Patti Lee Hobbs

May 8 “Discover Your Family in School Yearbooks” by Mike Mansfield

For more information about seminars: <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

Southern California Genealogical Society

April 19 “Finding Females: Maiden Name Not Known” by Craig R. Scott

May 5 “Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors” by Michael Strauss

For more information see: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>

California Genealogical Society, 49th Annual Jamboree 2018

Los Angeles Marriott, Burbank Airport Hotel, Burbank, California

For more information and to register, go to <http://genealogyjamboree.com/>

- Genetic Genealogy Conference, “Link Through DNA”, Thursday, May 31
- Family History Writers Conference, “Loving Your Family Legends”, Thursday, May 31
- Genealogical Jamboree, “Unlock Your Lineage”, Friday and Saturday, June 1 & 2

Orange County Family Search Library

April 19 “Write Your Interesting Life Story” by Dawn Thurston

April 26 “Working with the Web” by Kristi Sexton

For more information see: <http://www.ocfamilyhistory.org/Website/calender.html>

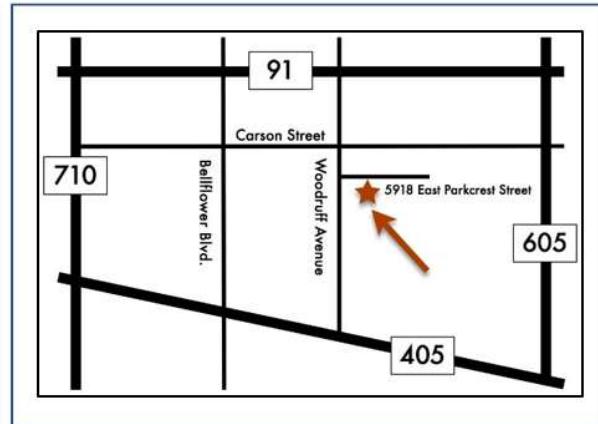
REFRESHMENT REPORT by Sandy Hollandsworth

Our March hosts are:

Dana Warshauer - Jackie Grandt - Kathleen O'Daniels - Terry Hamilton

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Cynthia Day-Elliott

Attendance at our March meeting: 35 members



Lakewood Masonic Center Hall • 5918 E. Parkcrest Street • Long Beach, CA

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board of Directors

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 Newsletter Editor - Janice Miller
 Refreshments - Sandy Hollandsworth
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Submissions for the May Newsletter Must be Received by April 25

The newsletter has been published since 1969 by Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc. Submissions, including queries, corrections, or any questions regarding the newsletter should be sent to: Janice Miller, QHGS, P.O. Box 15102, Long Beach, CA 90815-0102, or emailed to questingheirs@gmail.com. We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published, but will gladly print corrections. Newsletter illustrations - page 2: Joel Weintraub. QHGS logo designed by Mike Powers. All other illustrations are in the public domain and come from New York Public Library, Library of Congress, Internet Archive or Wikimedia Commons or as sited.

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In order to receive the monthly newsletter, one must be enrolled as a member of the Society. To join, please contact Membership Chair Cynthia Day-Elliott at (562)427-9663

Look for us on the Web:
<http://www.ghgs.info/>
 Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/>