

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGY SOCIETY  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

**OCTOBER QHGS MEETING**

Sunday, October 21, 2018

1:15 PM 'Native American Research'

2:45 PM 'What Do You Do When Your DNA  
Doesn't Match Your Paper Trail: A Case Study'

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 the map on the last page.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Dues are \$30 per year for an individual or \$45 per year for a family.

Look for us on the Web:

<http://www.ghgs.info/>

or on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/>

[QuestingHeirs/](https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/)

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

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• OCTOBER •

Please see page 63 for:

QHGS Election of Officers

QHGS Membership Renewal

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## OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER – LINDA SERNA

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I have been involved with genealogy in researching and writing family stories for over 35 years and was privileged to work as a genealogist for the first season of the PBS Genealogy Roadshow program. Currently, I belong to several genealogical organizations and societies, as well as having served in the past for the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Orange County California Genealogical Society. Over the last 9 years, I've spoken on various topics for different groups in California and New Mexico. My loves, in addition to public speaking, include history, writing, and traveling. I especially like seeing how individual family stories fit in and make up the fabric of history.



“Native American Research” addresses looking at your Native American ancestors, including DNA’s role, identifying tribe, and finding records. Examples of record groups and how to use them are given.

“What Do You Do When Your DNA Doesn’t Match Your Paper Trail: A Case Study” follows the steps Linda took when she discovered through DNA that her husband’s ethnicity wasn’t what they thought it was. Even though this is one family’s story, it should have ideas for anyone who finds themselves in this situation by touching on DNA and how a case is pursued.

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### Expanded Ellis Island Immigrant Records 1820-1957 are now Online for Free Dick Eastman Blog August 14, 2018

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<https://blog.eogn.com/2018/08/14/expanded-ellis-island-immigrant-records-1820-1957-are-now-online-for-free/>

[FamilySearch](#) and The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. announced today the entire collection of Ellis Island New York Passenger Arrival Lists from 1820 to 1957 are now available online on both websites giving the opportunity to the descendants of over 100 million arrivals to discover their ancestors quicker and free of charge.

Originally preserved on microfilm, 9.3 million images of historical New York passenger records spanning 130 years were digitized and indexed in a massive effort by 165,590 online FamilySearch volunteers. The result is a free searchable online database containing 63.7 million names, including immigrants, crew, and other passengers traveling to and from the United States through the nation’s largest port of entry.

Details may be found in the FamilySearch Blog at: <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/archive-ellis-island-records/>

## Ancestors and Their Occupations

Have you ever wondered if one of your ancestors always worked as a farmer? Did they have other occupations before or after that farming career? Did they have an unusual job that does not exist today?

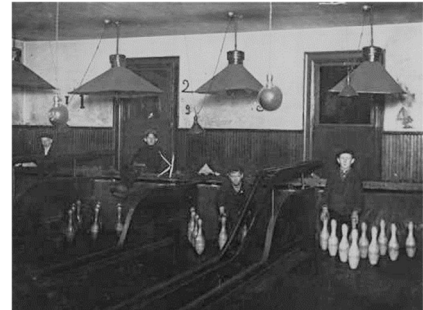
Often, beginners start to fill in their family tree with only the facts about births, marriages and deaths. As the research expands, we start to start to add more facts, documents and photos. Finding our ancestor's occupations might help you identify them in historical records.

These records are a good place to start looking:

- ✓ Birth certificates
- ✓ Census records
- ✓ City directories
- ✓ County historical writings
- ✓ Court documents
- ✓ Death and probate records
- ✓ Draft registration cards
- ✓ Marriage certificates
- ✓ Membership to fraternal societies
- ✓ Military records
- ✓ Mortuary records
- ✓ Naturalization records
- ✓ Newspaper articles
- ✓ Obituaries
- ✓ Passenger lists
- ✓ Passport applications
- ✓ Patent applications
- ✓ Photographs
- ✓ Social security applications
- ✓ Union membership documents
- ✓ Voter registrations
- ✓ Wills and Probate documents

Occupation	Industry
<i>Pinsetter</i>	<i>Bowling Alley</i>

As I started to write this column I found many occupations that no longer exist today. One of those happened to be my father's first job as a pinsetter. I about this job from family after his death, but it never appeared in a census record. In the 1940 census in Spokane, Washington, George Smith was listed as working as a pinsetter in a bowling alley. Before automation, boys were hired to set the pins in bowling alleys.



**Powder Monkey:** If you were a young boy on a warship during the civil war and earlier, you might have been a powder monkey. Because of their quickness and small hands, they would be called upon to stuff gunpowder into the cannons of ships.

What about a Lector? Factory workers in monotonous jobs often needed something to keep them entertained. Lectors or readers would entertain the workers by reading aloud books or newspapers. In Cuba, they could be found in cigar factories.

What did your ancestors do before alarm clocks? They hired a Knocker-up. It was this person's job to wake people up so that they would get to work on time. They might shoot peas at the windows or tap on the windows with a long stick.

Occupation	Industry
<i>Lamp Lighter</i>	<i>American Lighting Co.</i>

In 1940, Louis Hoffman was 52 and living in Baltimore, Maryland. In the census his occupation was lamp lighter for the American Lighting Company. It was his job to make sure that all the street lights were lit each night and put out in the early morning. If we look further we find that in 1930 Louis worked as a yeast maker. In 1920 he was a carpenter and in 1910, he was a fireman in a tobacco factory.

Could your third cousin have been a Billy Boy? Billy Boys were apprentices in training that would make tea for other men at work. They would light a fire and boil the water for tea in billy cans. It sounds a bit like interns today that might run to Starbucks for a Mocha Frappuccino or a Vente black Pike's Place.

Occupation	Industry
<i>Car Knocker</i>	<i>Steam Railroad</i>

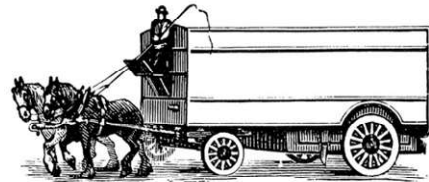
John Shedlor living in Binghamton, New York, was listed in the 1940 census as a Car Knocker. Car Knockers would inspect or repairs railroad cars. Workers like John, would tap or knock on the wheels of a railroad car to check for their dependability. He might also check the running gear of the train.

John Baker was 25 in 1940 and living in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. His occupation was listed as a Gandy Dancer. Was he working in an off-Broadway show? No, a Gandy Dancer was slang for railroad workers who maintained the railroad tracks.

Occupation	Industry
<i>Gandy Dancer</i>	<i>Steam Railroad</i>

If you are very lucky, your ancestor might be found in a county history. One of my ancestors was listed in the 'History of Taylor County, Iowa; from the Earliest Times to 1910' by Frank E. Crosson. In this county history I found the following facts about an ancestor connected to an adopted family member.

John Cooper spent his early years helping his father cultivating the fields on his farm. After he became an adult he started to work by the month as a farm hand. A few years later he moved on to buy his own farm, married and started his family of nine children. His first farm was 165 acres and in the following years he acquired five more farms for a total of 2,000 acres. He raised hogs and cattle. There then came a time in the early twentieth century that he purchased a bank. Later in life, he held many elected positions of the county board.



Just as our experiences can define us, we might better understand our ancestors knowing what they did during their lifetime. Besides the information listed in the census records, how many other records have you found that listed an occupation? It might be time to revisit your family tree and fill in more details for your ancestors.

## 2018 QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGY SOCIETY ELECTION OF OFFICERS

October: Nominations  
November: Election  
December: Installation of Officers



### QHGS Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 2

The Nominating Committee shall be:

- ✓ To report to the general membership at the October meeting at least one candidate for each office to be filled at the annual meeting. Other nominations may then be made from the floor at the October meeting or at the annual meeting prior to the election of the Officers/Directors at the annual meeting. The consent of each nominee must have been obtained prior to his/her nomination, and that person shall be present when nominated or has given written consent. (VII.2B.1)
- ✓ To provide the President and the Board with a list of at least one (1) nominee for any Officer/Director Position that becomes vacant between annual meetings. (VII.2B.2)
- ✓ A list of nominees shall be published in the November Newsletter, and the results of the election will be announced in the December newsletter. (VII.2B.2.C)
- ✓ Officers/Directors shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting, with installation at the December regular meeting. (VII.2B.2.D)



## Welcome to our new QHGS members!

Donna Heisler, Sheralyn Milton  
and Joan Zuckerman

Please take a moment to say hello to them at the next meeting.

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It is time to renew your Questing Heirs Genealogy Society membership. If you have not already done so, please complete the form on page 65 and return it at the October meeting. You may also mail it.

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### REFRESHMENT REPORT by Sandy Hollandsworth

Our October hosts are: Sandy McDonald, Diane Transue, and Linda Ryan

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Cynthia Day-Elliott

At the August meeting, there were 36 members and 6 guests in attendance.

At the September meeting there were 39 members and 4 guests in attendance.

### October Quote

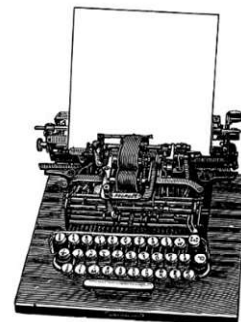
“Judge not. Our ancestors made decisions about the world they lived in based on what they knew and what was ‘normal’ and legal at the time. Good or bad today, those decisions might have been perfectly reasonable at that time and place.”

-Mark Daly -



## • Blogs and Articles to Read This Month •

- ✓ FamilySearch Blog: 'What Can U.S. Census Data Tell Me about My Family?' By Sunny Morton, September 27, 2018  
<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/census-data-family/>
- ✓ Genealogy Bank: Genealogy 101: 3 Steps for Getting Started Tracing Colonial Ancestors' by Gena Philibert-Ortega.  
<https://blog.genealogybank.com/genealogy-101-3-steps-for-getting-started-tracing-colonial-ancestors.html>
- ✓ Ancestry Blog: 'Powered by the World's Largest Consumer DNA Network, Ancestry Unveils More Detailed and Precise Ethnicity Estimates Than Ever Before'. <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/>
- ✓ FamilySearch Blog: 'Nauvoo, Illinois: Walking in Your Ancestor's Footsteps'.  
<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/>
- ✓ Lisa Louise Cooke's Blog: 'Three Southern Genealogy Record Types You Should Be Using'.  
<https://lusalouisecooke.com/2018/09/06/three-southern-genealogy-records/>



## • Learning Opportunities •

### 2018 Family History Expo

Migration: Historical to Digital - October 20, 2018, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Orange County FamilySearch Library, 674 S. Yorba Street, Orange, CA 92869

To register and for more information visit: [ocfamilyhistory.org](http://ocfamilyhistory.org)

### FamilySearch Webinars

September 6 – 'German Civil Registration'

October 11 – 'United States Research: Pacific Region'

October 18 – 'England and Wales Census'

October 30 – 'Using the Family Search Catalog Effectively'

For more information

see: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)

### Family Tree Webinars

October 10 – 'In Search of My Brother's Mother – an Adoption Story' by Beth Foulk

October 12 – 'Strategies for Using FamilySearch' by Shannon Combs-Bennett

October 16 – 'Using Emigrant Guides for Genealogical Research' by Julie P. Miller

October 19 – 'Deeper Analysis: Techniques for Successful Problem Solving' by Elissa Scalise Powell

October 23 – 'True Stories of Families Reunited thanks to Genetic Genealogy' by MyHeritage

Webinars

November 6 – 'City Directories: Much More than Ye Olde Phonebooks by MyHeritage Webinars

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

## • Cruise •

Gena Philibert-Ortega's Founders, Fisherman and Family History Cruise: August 10-17, 2019

Montreal, St. Lawrence River, Quebec, Gulf of St. Lawrence, Charlottetown, Sydney, Halifax, Bar Harbor,

and Boston. For more information see <http://www.oconnelltravel.com/group/familyhistory>

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member Type:	Individual (\$30)	\$ _____
	Family (\$45)	\$ _____
	Donation	\$ _____
	Total Paid	\$ _____

The membership year runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Please take a few minutes to list/update your surname research and location preferences so our Program Chairman can engage speakers who will interest you.

Also, the information will be printed in the directory.

Surnames you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Areas of your research (countries/states/counties): \_\_\_\_\_

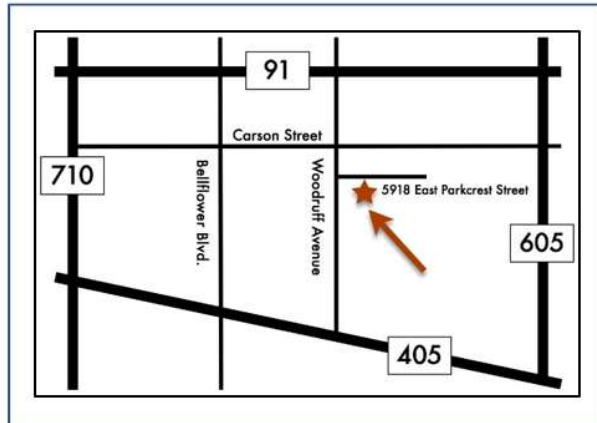
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Lakewood Masonic Center Hall • 5918 E. Parkcrest Street • Long Beach, CA

**Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board of Directors**

- President.....Sandy McDonald.....(2018)
- 1st Vice President – Programs.....Terry Hamilton ... (2018-2019)
- 2nd Vice President – Membership.....Cynthia Day-Elliott (2017-2018)
- Secretary.....Christina McKillip (2018-2019)
- Treasurer.....Christine Elia .....(2018-2019)
- Director at Large – Publicity.....Glenn Haas .....(2017-2018)
- Director at Large – Member Liaison ....Cathy Rokicki..... (2017-2018)
- Director at Large - Program Assistant ..Vacant..... (2018-2019)

**QHGS Volunteer Positions**

- Digital Archivist.....Vacant
- Research/Historian/Hospitality .....Tina Yanis
- Newsletter Editor .....Janice Miller
- Refreshments.....Sandy Hollandsworth
- Social Media/Facebook Coordinator .....Laurie Angel
- Webmaster .....Vacant

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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 contact Membership Chair Cynthia Day-Elliott

at (562)427-9663

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](mailto:questingheirs@gmail.com). We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published, but will gladly print corrections. Newsletter illustrations: Page 60: Linda Serna. QHGS logo designed by Mike Powers. All other illustrations are in the public domain and come from New York Public Library, Library of Congress, Wikimedia Commons, Dover Royalty Free Clip Art or as sited. \*Vol. 51, No. 9, page 52: Donna Railsback-Braly