

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA



**The May 2020 QHGS meeting
has been cancelled.**

For more information, please
read the President's message
on page 27. Thank you.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held
on the third Sunday of the month
at 1:00 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.qhgs.info/>

or on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/](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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MAY QUOTE

'When we learn about the past,
we gather strength for the future.'

- Hank Smith

•QHGS President's Message •

Stay at home orders are expected to be lifted on May 15th but could change at any time. Social distancing is still being asked of us so for this reason, we are cancelling our May meeting. If the rules for gatherings of ten or more is lifted, we may be able to have our June meeting.

Since many of you have stayed home for over five weeks now and your genealogy is completed (laugh), here are a few suggestions to fill your idle time and be helpful to the community.

FamilySearch is looking for volunteers to help index millions of records on their site. To learn more, check out: <https://www.familysearch.org/indexing/about>

Unclaimed Persons is a group of volunteers who research collaboratively to help locate next of kin of unclaimed persons in the county coroner's offices across the United States. To learn more, check out: <https://unclaimed-persons.org/>

I have helped with both of these groups and it has been a rewarding experience. The more indexed records there are, the easier our own genealogy research becomes. Contributing to giving closure to a family of a deceased person is also rewarding. Many of these unclaimed persons are veterans and many have been estranged from their families for many years.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas or suggestions, please let me know. You can find my contact information in the member directory.

Christina "Tina" McKillip

• Looking for My Ancestors in England •

I've decided to delve into my ancestors who came from England now that we all have a little more time at home due to the COVID-19 restrictions. In all honesty, I don't have many records for these families. One family is the newly discovered birth family for one of my grandfathers. The other ancestor took a voyage on a well-known merchant ship whose usual cargo was wine and dry goods. But in 1620 this ship, the Mayflower, carried passengers to the New World.

Here are just a few of the resources that I found on my journey to discovery. I hope you find at least one resource you haven't used before.

CENSUS RECORDS

England began collecting useful genealogy information in 1841. They collected data every ten years. The census records are available to the public through 1911. These records are easily accessible on FamilySearch and Ancestry. The 1931 census was completely destroyed in a fire in Hayes, Middlesex. Due to World War II, the 1941 census was not taken.

There was a population count of 'all persons in the United Kingdom at the appointed time' and 'all persons entering or born in the United Kingdom after that time' taken in 1939. The National Registration Act of 1939 was used



to produce identity cards and later, ration books. The survey included name, sex, age, occupation, profession, trade or employment, residence, marriage, and membership in military service. These records can be viewed at Findmypast.co.uk (1939 Register), Ancestry.co.uk (1939 England and Wales Register) and MyHeritage.com (1939 Register - no images).

HISTORICAL DIRECTORIES

Trade and Local directories for England and Wales are available online for the time period 1766-1946. The types of directories available are street, commercial, trade, court and post office. These searchable records are available on Ancestry (search using key words UK, City and County Directories) and free online the University of Leicester at <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4>. These records can be helpful in putting your ancestor in a place at a specific time.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATHS

Official birth, marriage and death records began in 1837, before the first census. However, compliance with registering these events was not mandatory until 1874. Research in civil registrations can come from two sources. You might first check the quarterly indexes from the UK Office of the National Statistics. One free source for that is <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>. If you find your ancestor in the BMD Index, you can order a copy from the General Register Office at www.gro.gov.uk.

CHURCH RECORDS

You might find records for your family from select Catholic and Church of England parishes. These will be very helpful for records before 1837. In the 1530's, the Church of England began keeping records. In 1598 parishes were mandated to send copies to their bishop. Non-conformists even had their marriages recorded in the Church of England. FamilySearch has a wiki page called 'England Church Records' that is helpful in understanding the structure of records and links to their data at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Church_Records. Ancestry also has a set of UK church records titled 'UK Parish Baptism, Marriage and Burial Records'. There is a link on the page to view all the collections related to this category. Both Ancestry and FamilySearch also have Non-conformist record collections.

WILLS AND PROBATE

Wills are held by the Principal Probate Registry and Index. These date back to 1858. You can access these on Ancestry.com by searching the card catalog for 'Index of Wills and Administrations'. You will net four results, one of which is the record set from 1858-1995 for England & Wales, National Probate Calendar. If you prefer FamilySearch, you will also find the records there.

COURT RECORDS

'Old Bailey' was what people called the Central Criminal Court of England and Wales. There is a website where you can search almost 200,000 criminal trials online. For example, if you put in the name William Cooper you will find many results including one in 1721 where a Susannah Elliot, of St. Paul at Shadwell, was indicted for breaking and entering the home of William Cooper taking two gowns, petticoats and various other items. If you drill further down, there is a link to the original document. The search page can be found on <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/forms/formMain.jsp>. It is a really interesting record set.

CALENDAR

Something to remember when researching in England is whole calendar situation. The UK switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar in 1752. Eleven days were omitted after September 2nd. The second calendar change was that the year now began on January 1 instead of March 25th. To read more about these changes, there is a good article at <http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/colonialresearch/calendar>. To convert Gregorian dates to Julian dates (and vice versa) use the calculator at <https://www.rosettacalendar.com/>. If you enter February 22, 1752 on the calculator, it will be converted to March 4, 1752.

RESEARCH GUIDES – Family History

There are 191 family history research guides available on The National Archives of the UK. They can be found at <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/?research-category=family-history>.

A few examples of the guides you will find are:

- ✓ 1939 Register
- ✓ Census records
- ✓ Wills 1384-1858
- ✓ Adoptions
- ✓ Alien arrivals

While on The National Archives site, be sure to review the page <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/#find-a-research-guide> to see the other research guides. The categories are:

- ✓ Family history
- ✓ First World War
- ✓ Second World War
- ✓ Military and maritime
- ✓ Social and cultural history
- ✓ Criminal, courts and prisons
- ✓ Political and economic history
- ✓ Foreign and colonial history
- ✓ Land and Maps
- ✓ Medieval and early modern history
- ✓ Records for legal purposes

FamilySearch WIKI

FamilySearch's page 'England Website' has a large list of databases and websites for research about England. The links are easy to find and are organized by record type. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Websites

GENUKI – UK and Ireland Genealogy

GENUKI is a genealogy web portal. Some of their pages include information, but they also have links to primary sources. The web site is maintained by volunteers, funded by a charitable trust and is found at <https://www.genuki.org.uk/>.

'5 Tips for Finding Your British Ancestors' Blog

Whether you are starting out doing research in England or are an experienced researcher, there is a three-part blog on RootTech that is interesting reading at <https://www.rootstech.org/blog/5-tips-for-finding-your-british-ancestors>.

There is a wealth of information out there if you are searching for your ancestors in England. Understanding their life and time will help you find their records. Good luck on your search!

• Websites to Bookmark •

One-Step Webpages by Stephen P Morse <https://stevemorse.org/>

You will find tools for immigration, census, and vital records. Have you been looking for information about maps, calendars, foreign alphabets and more? Check out this resource.

The UK National Archives is temporarily allowing free access to digital records on their website. You will need to register for an account. For more information see <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/>

Genealogy Bargains <https://genealogybargains.com/>

Check out this site for genealogy giveaways, discounts, free access to records and more.



• Learning Opportunities •

Conferences and Events

- ✓ 40th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy August 9-14 in San Diego. For more information see <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2020/hosts.cfm>
- ✓ Genealogical Society of North Orange County on Saturday, July 25. Save the date for their annual seminar. The speaker will be Luana Darby at the Danish Lutheran Church in Yorba Linda. For more information see <https://www.gsnocc.org/seminar.html>
- ✓ The 2020 National Genealogical Society Family History Conference is now virtual. For more details see https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/?gclid=EAlaQobChMIlorqnsiV6QIVA_5kCh3GZgGIEAAYASAAEgl46PD_BwE

Gena Philibert-Ortega's Cruises

- ✓ Great Alaska Gold: Pioneers and Family History. August 23-30, 2020: Seattle, Victoria, Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. Presentations at sea by Cyndi Ingle, David Allen Lambert, Daniel Horowitz, Ron Arons, Tami Osmer Mize and Gena Philibert-Ortega.
- ✓ Viva Mexico: Sun and Fun on Land, Genealogy at Sea! February 6-11, 2021: Los Angeles to Cabo San Lucas

For more information see <https://www.oconnelltravel.com/GroupRegistrations/view/85944> (for Mexico) or <https://www.oconnelltravel.com/rw/view/84648> (for Alaska) or www.GenealogyCruises.com

FamilySearch Webinars

- ✓ May 11: 'To America and Back: Crossing the Pond with Your Swedish Ancestors'
- ✓ May 14: 'Strategies for Using Civil Registration in the British Isles'
- ✓ May 26: 'United States Vital Records Overview'
- ✓ June 2: 'The Research Process, Research Help, and Searching Records'

For More information see https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

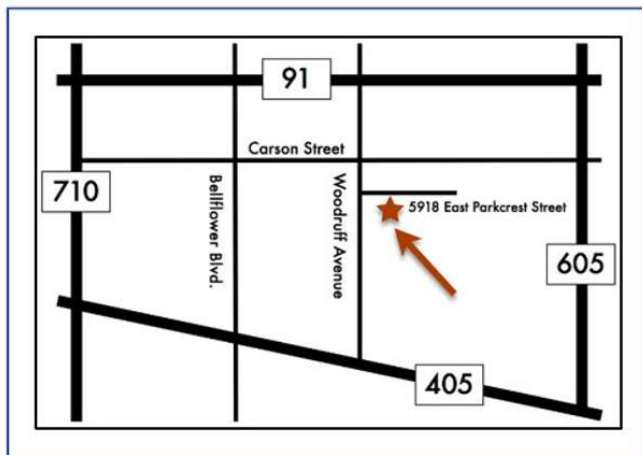
Legacy Family Tree Webinars

- ✓ May 13 and 14: 'The Ultimate Family Interview' by Nicka Smith
- ✓ May 20: 'Timesaving Apps for Busy Genealogists' by Lisa Alzo
- ✓ May 27: 'Mistrust Transcriptions: And Here's Why' by Dr. Bruce Durie
- ✓ June 2 and 3: 'Sources for Landed and Titled People' by Paul Milner
- ✓ June 3: 'What are the odds?' An online tool that can help solve DNA puzzles by Jonny Pearl

For more information on all of their upcoming webinars see <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

• Blogs to Read •

- ✓ 'Ten Tips for More Success with Newspaper Research' at <https://robinsavingstories.blogspot.com/2014/01/i-have-over-46-newspaper-articles-on.html>
- ✓ 'These Old Passport Applications May Hold the Missing Genealogy Info You Need' at <https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/these-old-passport-applications-may-hold-the-missing-genealogy-info-you-need/>
- ✓ '3 Essential Websites for German Family History Research' at <https://www.legacytree.com/blog/3-essential-websites-german-ancestors>
- ✓ 'Absolutely Free Genealogy Research Sites for Every Single U.S. State' <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/free-genealogy-sites-all-usa-states/>



Lakewood Masonic Center • 5918 Parkcrest Street Long Beach, CA

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board

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| Past President..... | Sandy McDonald..... | (2019-2020) |

QHGS Volunteer Positions

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Digital Archivist..... | Vacant |
| Research/Historian | Tina Yanis |
| Refreshments..... | Sandy Hollandsworth |
| Social Media/Facebook Coordinator..... | Laurie Angel |
| Webmaster | John McCoy |

Submissions for the June 2020 Newsletter
Must be received by noon on May 25, 2020

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: 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.

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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