

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

**Our August 2020 meeting will be  
August 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM on Zoom!**

**‘Immigration Ports of Entry’  
with Christine Cohen**

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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AUGUST QUOTE

‘The thing that interests me most about family history is the gap between the things we think we know about our families and the realities.’

- Jeremy Hardy

## • August Presentation: 'Immigration Ports of Entry' •

### About our speaker Christine Cohen

I am a long-time member of the Whittier Area Genealogical Society (WAGS), and have served in many capacities, including President. In addition to WAGS, I'm also a member of the El Redondo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames and the Association of Professional Genealogists.

My interest in genealogy began in 1977 with the airing of the TV mini-series "Roots" and was piqued when I found a typed pedigree chart of my Dutch heritage from the New Netherlands in the 1660's. I'm a native Californian, a graduate of UCLA in Political Science and have worked for Vitol Aviation Company since 1993.



### Immigration Ports of Entry

Exploring how to locate when and where your ancestor immigrated to the United States. We'll look at all ports of entry such as New Orleans, Providence or Boston, (not just Ellis Island). Plus cover other tools available such as the Census, Voter lists, and Homestead records to help research your ancestor's immigration history.

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## • QHGS President's Message •

At this time, we will probably not be meeting in the near future. Following the lead of other local societies who have opted to only gather thru virtual meetings for the rest of the year, I believe this will be true for our own society.

We had a virtual meeting on July 19th to get a feel for this new way of meeting. It was great to see smiling faces. I have missed being around people who understand each other when it comes to our passion for genealogy. I hope to see you all at our August virtual meeting when we will have a speaker presentation.

It has been mentioned in various genealogy newsletters that we should keep a journal of these trying times. A hundred years from now, descendants in our families will be able to read a first-hand account of what was happening in the world around us and most importantly, in our own lives. Have you kept a journal?

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

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20 QHGS members attended our first Zoom meeting on July 19.  
Will we see you at our next meeting August 16?

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## • Opportunities at Questing Heirs Genealogical Society in 2021 •

**Share your wealth of genealogy knowledge with other QHGS members!**

In 2021 we will have three openings on the QHGS Board. These positions are very fulfilling and your service to our organization is really appreciated by all of our members. Is 2021 the year that you'll be our next Board member? We also have a volunteer opening for Digital Archivist.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Membership  
 Director – Newsletter  
 Director – Publicity  
 Digital Archivist

If you are interested in learning more about these open positions, please contact our nomination chair, Sandy McDonald. Sandy's email is [sandymcdonald02@aol.com](mailto:sandymcdonald02@aol.com)

## • Zoom Meetings •

We had our first Questing Heirs meeting since February on Sunday, July 19th. There were 20 Questing Heirs members online and Tina McKillip lead the meeting. It was good to see everyone 'in-person'. We hope to have even more people at the August 16 meeting. QHGS has a Zoom membership so all you need to do is log into the meeting.

People are now working from home and using Zoom or other online apps to meet with colleagues. Children have been learning from home and interacting with teachers and fellow students using Zoom. Some of you may be using Zoom to attend church groups, other genealogy meetings or visiting with family online.

**I don't have a computer or internet right now. Can I still Zoom?** Yes, you can. If you have one of the following you can participate in a Zoom meeting. You can download an app for electronic devices.

- ✓ Smart phone
- ✓ Computer (PC or Apple)
- ✓ A tablet
- ✓ iPad
- ✓ Landline phone (no app download is needed)

**Would you rather not be on live video?** There are settings so you can post a static photo or turn your camera off completely and still participate in the discussions.

**Where do I get the code for the Zoom meeting?** About 24 hours ahead of the meeting you will receive an email with the meeting code and password. If you are calling in from a landline phone, there will be phone numbers that you can use in that email.

**Where can I learn more?** Zoom has a page of short how-to videos for the beginning Zoom user at <https://blog.zoom.us/quick-info-how-to-zoom-new-videos/>

## • Reference Guide for Locality Research •

Are you researching a new country, state, county or town? Or are you trying to get past a brick wall and wonder if you've searched everywhere for records? Many professionals suggest that you build a locality research guide. Putting together this guide will help you become familiar with the area and immerse yourself in the period of time for that location. What written records might be available to find out more about your family?



**Location Essentials:** You can include facts, history, geography and maps of the location. The year the state founded and the year the county and city were formed is important. Make a note of nearby counties and towns. Boundaries can change over time.

**U.S. Migration:** Look at the migration routes in and out of the area. Where did the settlers come from? Knowing this might give you clues to where earlier records exist. For U.S. migration routes see [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US\\_Migration\\_Trails\\_and\\_Roads](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Migration_Trails_and_Roads)

**History:** Look for newspaper stories about the town or county. There may be published county or town histories. Check Ancestry, FamilySearch and Google Books for published books. GenWeb and local genealogy societies often have historical information posted online. Go to US GenWeb at <https://www.usgenweb.org/>.

**Maps:** Looking at historical maps will confirm the borders during their lifetime. It could make a difference in the jurisdiction of where records were kept or recorded. If you are not certain you can review county boundaries at <https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>. If county borders changed over time, records might reside in a 'parent' county. Here are a few map types that you might consider:

- ✓ Demographic maps
- ✓ Fire insurance maps
- ✓ Military maps
- ✓ Panoramic maps
- ✓ Records at the Bureau of Land Management <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>

### Things to know:

Put these together in a list for quick reference.

- ✓ Available years of state or US censuses completed or population schedules
- ✓ Copies of census schedules or lists of what information was recorded for each census year
- ✓ Gazetteers
- ✓ Genealogy and historical societies in the area – check for publications and online resources
- ✓ Libraries or archives – what repositories, courthouses, public libraries or genealogical libraries have collections specific to the locality? Do they have any research aides for their collection?
- ✓ Local history – local history books, county histories, town histories, etc.
- ✓ Military records and pension applications
- ✓ Online research guides – links to the FamilySearch wiki guide about the locality and other guides online
- ✓ Records lost due to fires, floods and destruction
- ✓ Reference books, pamphlets and cheat sheets for locations, record type or time period
- ✓ Timeline of the events in the area of research that would affect your family
- ✓ Years that official vital records began for birth, marriage, death, court proceedings and probate

### A few records to start with:

- ✓ Cemetery records – don't just look at Find a Grave and Billion Graves. Many genealogy societies, churches, and cemeteries post records online.
- ✓ Census records and other government surveys

- ✓ Church records – refer to July QHGS newsletter for details about record types
- ✓ Court record collections and descriptions of what they might contain
- ✓ Location collections – catalog listings for the location at Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, MyHeritage.com, FindMyPast.com, and others
- ✓ Immigration and naturalization records
- ✓ Newspapers or city directories – look for information about your ancestor, their family or events where they lived
- ✓ Probate and Orphans Court records
- ✓ Recorded genealogies. I found a detailed six generation book on FamilySearch.org for my family.
- ✓ Records for personal property and estate taxes
- ✓ Records related to land transactions and other land records
- ✓ Vital records – compile a list of the collections available. Think outside the box.

### Online and Printed Resources:

- ✓ Magazines articles: *Family Tree Magazine*, *Internet Genealogy*, *Internet Genealogy*, *Your Genealogy*, *Ancestry* (old issues are available on Google Books) and *NBS Magazine*
- ✓ The FamilySearch Wiki is a good starting point for state, county and city records. See [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Genealogy)
- ✓ The NGS Research in the States series are available at <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/books/>
- ✓ The Family Tree Sourcebook from the editors of *Family Tree Magazine*
- ✓ U.S. State Research Guides on [familytreemagazine.com](https://www.familytreemagazine.com/product-category/family-tree-magazine/genealogy-research-state-guides/). These guides are usually about four pages. <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/product-category/family-tree-magazine/genealogy-research-state-guides/>

You may not know what you don't know until you go looking. These records are just a few that are out there. While we are trying to stay at home in the second half of 2020, it might be interesting to pick a county or city and learn as much as you can about it. Create your own reference guide.

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‘An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.’

Benjamin Franklin

‘I was gratified to be able to answer promptly, and I did. I said I didn't know.’

Mark Twain

‘There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits to human intelligence, imagination, and wonder.’

Ronald Reagan

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## ANCESTRY® FEATURES FLASH REPORT - Updates coming soon to DNA matches

‘From Ancestry Society News for July 2020’ (Reprinted with permission)

We're making changes that will improve the accuracy and quality of your DNA matches. To see our FAQ, please view your DNA Matches page and click "Learn More"

### More accurate number of shared segments

The DNA you share with a match is distributed across segments - short segments, long segments, or some combination of both. Our updated matching algorithm may reduce the estimated number of segments you share with some of your DNA matches. This doesn't change the estimated total amount of shared DNA (measured in centimorgans/cM) or the predicted relationship to your matches.

### See the length of your longest shared segment

The length of the longest segment you and a DNA match have in common can help determine if you're actually related. The longer the segment, the more likely you're related. Segment length is also the easiest way to evaluate the difference between multiple matches that all show the same estimated relationship. Our updated matching algorithm can show you the length of the longest segment you share with your matches.

### Distant DNA matches must share 8 cM or higher

Our updated matching algorithm will increase the likelihood you are actually related to your very distant matches. As a result, you'll no longer see matches (or be matched to people) that share less than 8 cM with you - unless you have added a note about them, added them to a custom group or have messaged them. These changes to the matching algorithm will reduce the total number of DNA matches you have and the number of new matches you will receive. It may also affect the number of ThruLines you may see.

### Clarifications for you and your audience:

- If you save a match below 8cM, your match will also have it saved without additional action needed
- Starred matches will be retained as they are considered in a group

Ancestry updated their AncestryDNA Matching White Paper July 15, 2020. Their 34 page white paper can be found at <https://www.ancestrycdn.com/support/us/2020/07/2020whitepaper.pdf>

Read the following blogs for more information on Ancestry DNA changes:

- ✓ 'Losing Distant Matches at Ancestry DNA' by Blaine Bettinger at <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2020/07/17/losing-distant-matches-at-ancestrydna/>
- ✓ 'Longest Segment Coming on Ancestry DNA!' at <https://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2020/07/longest-segment-coming-on-ancestrydna.html>. QHGS member Bob Prager commented that if you have a lot of endogamy in your tree, this may be helpful. Bob says his grandfather was Ashkenazi so it will help him.
- ✓ 'Ancestry to Remove DNA Matches Soon – Preservation Strategies with Detailed Instructions' on DNAeXplained – Genetic Genealogy at [https://dna-explained.com/2020/07/16/ancestry-to-remove-dna-matches-soon-preservation-strategies-with-detailed-instructions/?fbclid=IwAR1IdXIIIEfs\\_5oMCZSw6i6vEebR0hOSrxSPrBISxBGBQuHaPwi7mN-QIdU](https://dna-explained.com/2020/07/16/ancestry-to-remove-dna-matches-soon-preservation-strategies-with-detailed-instructions/?fbclid=IwAR1IdXIIIEfs_5oMCZSw6i6vEebR0hOSrxSPrBISxBGBQuHaPwi7mN-QIdU)

## • Learning Opportunities •

### Conferences

#### A Summer of DNA eConference August 15, 2020

A Summer of DNA virtual conference coming up on Saturday, August 15, 2020. The past Summer and Winter virtual conferences were very successful and had great attendance. The speakers are:

- ✓ Kevin Borland - Mathematically Reconstruct DNA kits for Your Ancestors
- ✓ Debra Renard - DNA Methodology for Unknown Parentage Research
- ✓ Andrew Lee - An Introduction to GEDmatch Tier 1 Tools
- ✓ Evert-Jan Blom - Clustering your DNA matches using Genetic Affair

Learn more at the website and register at <https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/summerdna>

### The 2020 FGS Family History Conference is Going Virtual

The 2020 FGS Virtual Family History Conference will kick off on September 2, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. EDT, with an exciting line-up of leading genealogy speakers. The speakers are:

- ✓ David E. Rencher, 'FGS: Celebrating the Past and Future'
- ✓ Judy G. Russell, 'Quarantined! Genealogy, the Law and Public Health'
- ✓ Ari Wilkins, 'Scaling the 1870 Brick Wall in African American Research'
- ✓ Thomas W. Jones, 'Building a Respectable Genealogy, One Documented Biography at a Time'
- ✓ CeCe Moore, 'Strategies of The Genetic Detective'
- ✓ Lisa Louise Cooke, 'The 2020 Genealogist's Google Search Methodology'

For more information on this and other conference registration details see <https://fgs.org/annual-conference/>

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### FamilySearch Webinars

- ✓ Aug 11: 'Switzerland Records: The Zurich Census'
- ✓ Aug 27: 'The Research Process'

For More information see [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img\\_auth.php/6/66/July\\_2020.pdf](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img_auth.php/6/66/July_2020.pdf)

### Legacy Family Tree Webinars

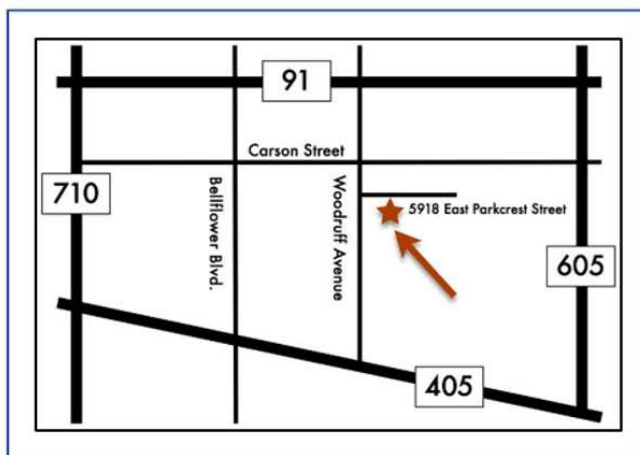
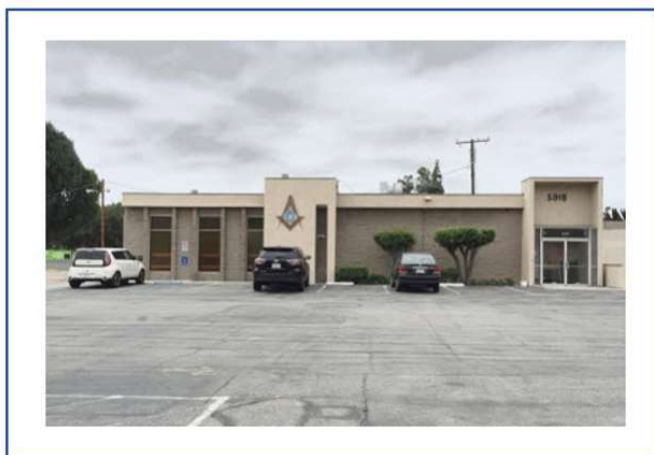
- ✓ Aug 12, 13: 'Dissecting a Civil War Pension packet – Union and Confederate' by Jill Morelli
- ✓ Aug 18,19: 'The Advance of Research Habits over Recent Decades – And the Downside' by Tom Jones
- ✓ Aug 19 'Getting to Know Mexican Church & Civil Registration Records' by Colleen Robledo Greene
- ✓ Aug 26: 'Slack for Genealogy Projects' by Thomas MacEntee
- ✓ Sept 2: ' Using Chromosome Browsers, Segment Data and Triangulation' by Michelle Leonard

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

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## • Articles to Read Online •

- ✓ 'What Was Life Like 100 Years Ago?' at <https://blog.genealogybank.com/what-was-life-like-100-years-ago.html>
- ✓ 'Genealogy 101: How to Identify Photos That Aren't Labeled' at <https://blog.genealogybank.com/genealogy-101-how-to-identify-photos-that-arent-labeled.html>
- ✓ 'Missionaries Taking Photos of Gravestones' by Cathy Wallace at <https://blog.billiongraves.com/missionaries-taking-photos-of-gravestones/>
- ✓ '15 Essential Irish Genealogy Websites' at <https://relocatingtoireland.com/15-essential-irish-genealogy-websites/>
- ✓ '10 Places to Find the Free Genealogy Printables You Need' at <https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/genealogy-printables-templates-forms-charts/>
- ✓ 'How to Research Your Illegitimate Ancestors' at <https://lialisson.com/how-to-research-your-illegitimate-ancestors/>
- ✓ 'Finding a Name: Why Probate Records are a Gold Mine for African Americans' at <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/10/12/finding-a-name-why-probate-records-are-a-gold-mine-for-african-americans/>
- ✓ 'U.S. Immigration Records Research Guide: Passenger Lists, Naturalization, and More at <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/immigration-records-research-guide/>
- ✓ '5 Steps To Research Someone You Know Little About' at <https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/post/how-do-i-research-someone-i-know-little-about>



Lakewood Masonic Center • 5918 Parkcrest Street Long Beach, CA

**Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board**

President.....	Christina McKillip.....	(2019-2020)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President – Programs .....	Terry Hamilton.....	(2018-2020)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Membership .....	Cynthia Day-Elliott.....	(2019-2020)
Secretary .....	Diana Transue.....	(2020-2021)
Treasurer .....	Bob Prager.....	(2020-2021)
Director – Hospitality.....	Tina Yanis.....	(2019-2020)
Director – Newsletter.....	Janice Miller.....	(2019-2020)
Director– Publicity .....	Jerry Hardison.....	(2020-2021)
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 .....	Mike Powers

Submissions for the September 2020 newsletter must be received by noon August 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](mailto: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. Photograph on page 46 courtesy of Sandy McDonald and page 47 courtesy of Janice Miller. 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