

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

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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, MAY 18, 2008

12:30	Class Period	HELP TABLES: "Determine and Select Records to Answer Your Questions" by Rellen Owen (boardroom) & "Using Maps" by Liz Myers (parish hall)
1:15		INTERMEDIATE: "Jewish Research" presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: Questing Heirs Panel Professional Genealogists- Who Needs Them?

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HAVE YOU STARTED PRESERVING YOUR MEMORIES?

Tom Underhill's presentation on "Researching the Forgotten Generation" at our April meeting reminded us that we should include our own generation in our family history research, as well as those that have preceded us. Although our lives may not seem particularly interesting to us who have lived them, our descendants will want to know what life was like in the 20th century; and they will want to know what we were like—what we thought and felt about the events we lived through. Just having a few vital statistics won't give them a sense of our personality.

The first step in preserving your own legacy is to look into those closets and drawers in your house, as well as the garage, where you have stowed away the "stuff" of your life. You may find report cards from your school days, awards recognizing accomplishments on your job, letters, bronzed baby shoes or early art work created by your children, souvenirs from vacation trips, mementos of special occasions, photos, etc., etc. If you just leave this "stuff" as it is, your children or other relatives will dispose of it for you after you're gone. And they won't know what significance the items had for you or why they are worth preserving.

The next step is to organize your findings so they will make sense to someone else. Photos in a shoebox are not very meaningful. Put them into an album made of archival materials, annotated with the relevant names, dates and places. Maybe you don't really need all those photos of vacation sites, or multiple years of Christmas decorations. Choose the most meaningful photos, those that record people and significant events. You might want to take pictures of some artifacts you think may not be kept and include those photos, explaining their significance.

You can also organize the paper items—like certificates, wedding and baby announcements, obituaries, important letters, etc.—into archival scrapbooks.

As all these items you've found will jog your memory, it's a good time to start writing down

those memories in a journal or notebook. Tom had a pack of sheets with questions on them that would give you ideas of what to write, too. You may ultimately want to have your life story put into print.

What I've described may sound like an overwhelming job; but if you take it in small increments, you can break it down to a manageable size.

If you have trouble figuring out what to keep of all the "stuff" you find, Sally Jacobs (The Practical Archivist) has some suggestions on her blog at <http://practicalarchivist.blogspot.com>. Here are some of them.

Purging. There is no magic formula for deciding what to keep. At least not one that works for everyone. You have to make some hard decisions, it's true. But making no decisions at all and keeping everything instead is just delaying the problem.

Respect Age. In family collections, age and scarcity tend to go hand in hand. For example, the only known photograph of your great-great-aunt Rose? Or your grandparents' wedding? Those are keepers.

People Pictures. In going through old albums, it's best to keep the pictures of family members, rather than scenery or unidentified people.

Sentimental Value. In family collections, sentimental value reigns supreme. Future generations will want to have your favorites.

Whatever you think is worth saving should be properly stored in archival quality albums or storage boxes. Well known suppliers are Metal Edge, Gaylord and Light Impressions.

And remember there might be someone else in your family who would want what you are about to toss. You might want to pass particular items on to your children, and your ancestral research to another relative if they're not interested in it.

The Editor

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi folks,

If any of you would like to be involved with our Ralph's fundraising but don't have a computer, I will be glad to help get you signed up. Just give me a call with your Ralph's Club Card number, and I will be glad to take care of signing you up.

The Cemetery Committee will be meeting again at 12:30 p.m. before our next meeting on May 18. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome.

Our last speaker, Tom Underhill, said he always enjoys talking to our group. Several groups just sit on their hands, so to speak, and it's like talking to a morgue. Another member told me she enjoys *Questing Heirs* because we are so friendly and our speakers are so good.

Hey, it sounds like we're doing something good! Most genealogical societies these days are losing members, but we're still growing. So keep up the good work! **We are a great group of genealogists!!! Hooray!!!**

Liz

CAFÉ PRESS by Mike Powers

As announced at our last meeting, we now have *Questing Heirs* branded merchandise available for purchase online at Café Press. Among the items available are T-shirts, golf shirts, caps, tote bags, journals, and mugs. The merchandise is good quality, and our artwork looks very nice on it—if I do say so myself! Café Press takes care of the hard part; they produce the merchandise on demand and handle the payment and shipping. All we have to do is upload the artwork and set up the store. Best of all, a portion of the purchase price goes to *Questing Heirs*.

All in all, purchasing this merchandise is a great way to show your pride, get our name out there, and contribute to the society. The address for our online shop is www.cafepress.com/qhgs.

RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Don't forget our upcoming trip to the **Long Beach Historical Society**, located at 4260 Atlantic Avenue. We will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. for an orientation to the facility, which opens at 11:00 a.m.



GENEALOGY FOR KIDS by Carolyn Silvey

My mom referred me to a wonderful children's picture book that celebrates family history—*Aunt Claire's Yellow Beehive Hair*, by Deborah Blumenthal, illustrated by Mary GrandPre (who also illustrated the Harry Potter books).

Quick synopsis: Annie wants to know about the family that everyone talks about at holidays and that she knows only through pictures. One rainy day she and Grandma collect memorabilia from throughout the house. Annie hears the stories behind the photos and makes a scrapbook to remember them. They find the purple ribbon Aunt Claire wore in her hair—hence the book's title. I really enjoyed it—fabulous illustrations and a wonderful enticement into genealogy for all ages!

A Quick Tip from The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 25 Feb 2008. Copyright © 2008. The Generations Network, Inc.

Roots for Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People by Susan Provost Beller (2nd Edition)

This book is based on a twelve-week course the author developed for her fourth grade class. Each chapter is based on a forty-five minute classroom session. While the book is suitable for teachers seeking to supplement their social studies curriculum with material on family history, it will be used principally by a whole range of young people in their first attempt at genealogical research.

See <http://www.genealogical.com/products/Roots%20for%20Kids/422.html>

METHODS

RECORDS OF THE GAR

by Mary Penner

Civil War Union veterans might have wanted to forget their miserable and often gruesome war experiences, but they didn't want to forget their comrades and the bonds they formed. That's why thousands of vets joined the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Formed in 1866, the organization's membership peaked in 1890 when more than 409,000 men were on the GAR rosters. The last member died in 1956.

How can you discover if your ancestors joined the GAR? Start at the cemetery. Local GAR posts frequently placed markers at members' graves. Obituaries also often mention GAR membership. Members joined posts where they lived, so focus your search for records at locations near your veteran's post-war homes. GAR records were maintained at the local level, so there is no central national repository for the club's records. Check with the state archives or state historical societies for records. Some records might be at local libraries or museums.

The information in the records varies, but you might find membership rolls, lists of member deaths and burials, account books, letters of application and other correspondence, and meeting minutes.

Well aware of their own mortality, GAR members established a second-generation organization in 1881. This organization, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, still exists today and you can find some helpful information about the GAR on the group's website.

A Tip from the Pros that appeared in The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 31 March 2008. Copyright © 2008. The Generations Network, Inc.

MASONIC RECORDS

by Donna Jackson

I have been given the honor of preserving the records of the local Masonic Lodge, Swift Lodge #129, Benson, Swift County, Minnesota. While the Masons are a male fraternal organiza-

tion, they also have organizations for the spouses and daughters of their members; the primary one is the Order of the Eastern Star.

As I began scanning/transcribing these records, I found that the forms required to join this fraternal organization included information on birthplaces, occupations, ages, and previous lodge affiliations (which can determine a previous residence).

At one point, Swift County, Minnesota, had two lodges; it now has one lodge. Many of the lodges in small farming communities merged or closed as their population diminished.

Most lodges send their records to the Masonic Grand Lodge of each state; however, as in this particular case, material can be located by looking at lodges in surrounding communities or by checking at the local historical society/museum. Many Grand Lodges do not have the assets to scan and transcribe these historical records; however, you may be able to obtain a list of lodges (current and inactive), lists of officers of each lodge, and sometimes a database of all Masons in their state.

The original records of Swift Lodge #129 will be available at the Swift County Historical Society located in Benson, Minnesota, with back up copies at the Stevens County Historical Society, located in Morris, Minnesota. These records include scans of all the original documents, books, etc. Additional records will include a photo scrapbook containing professional photos and a short biography of each of the Past Masters of Swift Lodge #129. Where I cannot obtain a short biography, the obituary will be used.

I have also been given the honor of preserving records of other lodges and the local Order of the Eastern Star chapter.

The above was A Quick Tip from The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 14 April 2008. Copyright © 2008. The Generations Network, Inc.

OF INTEREST

**GENETIC NONDISCRIMINATION BILL
CLEARS CONGRESS**

by Alexis Madrigal – April 24, 2008

A bill to protect Americans from discrimination based on their genetic makeup has passed the Senate by a vote of 95-0, sending it to the president's desk via a final vote in the House that is considered a formality. President Bush is widely expected to sign the legislation into law.

The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act, aka GINA and S.358, had been bouncing around Congress for a decade, but this is the first time it has passed through both the House and Senate....

GINA, specifically, would bar employers and insurance companies from using genetic information in human resources decisions or determining insurance eligibility.

The bill appeared on the verge of passing into law last year before it got held up by Tom Coburn, a Republican Senator from Oklahoma Coburn's press secretary, Don Tatro, said that a clause was added to the legislation that removed Coburn's concerns.

The entire article may be viewed at <http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2008/04/genetic-non-dis.html>.

**CENSUS TO SCRAP HANDHELD
COMPUTERS FOR 2010 COUNT**

The Census Bureau will tell a House panel today [3 Apr 2008] that it will drop plans to use handheld computers to help count Americans for the 2010 census, contributing to the increase in cost for the decennial census by as much as \$3 billion, according to testimony the Commerce Department secretary plans to give this afternoon....

In 2006, the Census Bureau awarded a \$595 million contract to Harris Corp. to develop more than 525,000 handheld computers that enumerators would use to collect data from Americans who did not send in their census forms. The handhelds would replace the millions

of costly paper forms and maps that enumerators must carry when going door to door to visit Americans who did not mail in their census forms. Since awarding the contract, the project has experienced constant setbacks, including changing system requirements, that led to increased costs and missed deadlines. . . .

The Census Bureau still plans to use the handhelds to conduct address canvassing, a process to validate and update the location of every household.

The above information was extracted from an article that appeared at <http://www.nextgov.com> on 3 Apr 2008.

**ROOTSWEB MOVED TO
ANCESTRY.COM**

You may have noticed that when you go to www.rootsweb.com, the URL now changes to www.rootsweb.ancestry.com. This is because The Generations Network has decided to "transplant" RootsWeb onto the Ancestry.com domain.

Tim Sullivan, CEO of TGN, made this announcement in a news release at the Roots Web blog: <http://blogs.rootsweb.com/newsroom> on 13 March 2008.

"The Generations Network has hosted and funded the RootsWeb online community since June 2000, thereby maintaining RootsWeb as the world's oldest and largest free genealogy website.... This move will not change the RootsWeb experience or alter the ease of navigation to or within RootsWeb. RootsWeb will remain a free online experience.

The decision to host RootsWeb on Ancestry.com is being made for one primary reason: we believe that the users of each of our two main websites can be better served if they have access to the best services available on both. Simply stated, we want to introduce more Ancestry.com users to RootsWeb and vice versa."

ON THE WEB

DROUIN COLLECTION INDEXED

On April 8, 2008, Ancestry.ca announced the online launch of the fully searchable indexes for the historic Drouin Collection, which contains Quebec records spanning 346 years from 1621 to 1967.

Starting with 29 million names for the years 1850 to 1967, the indexes will include 37 million names in baptism, marriage and burial records, and also a compilation of church records from Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and various New England states, when complete in mid-2008.

From the early 1600s, the Catholic parishes of Quebec kept meticulous records of their members' baptisms, marriages and burials. The Quebec Government soon required the Catholic Church to provide it with copies of all its records and in doing so became the central holder for Quebec's vital records.

The Drouin Collection can be searched in the French or English language by name, date, place, church or institution, and religion.

For the complete announcement, see the 24/7 Family History Circle of 15 April 2008. Copyright © 2008, The Generations Network, Inc.

CANADIAN SEARCH ENGINE

<http://www.voicimafamille.info>

A new search tool searches genealogy and family history databases hosted by Canadian federal, provincial or territorial archives centres and libraries, as well as those of several commercial partners. "That's My Family," or "Voici Ma Famille," is free of charge and available in both French and English. It was launched and is maintained by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) with support from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists (CPTA) of Canada.

"That's My Family" hosts no data of its own. It is a search engine, similar to Google, that indexes data found on other sites. The difference

is that "That's My Family" looks only at Canadian sites that contain genealogy information. As such, it can save you a lot of time; you do not have to search each site individually.

The databases that have been indexed include both free and for-pay sources. In the case of for-pay sites, clicking on a link in "That's My Family" may take the user to a sign-in page that asks for payment of a fee. The titles of these databases are marked with a dollar sign (\$). The searches are always free, but some sites may charge a fee before displaying all the details.

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 24 April 2008 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2008 by Richard W. Eastman.

BRITISH PASSENGER LISTS

<http://www.findmypast.com>

Leading UK family history website findmypast.com has completed its project to scan and index the complete set of outbound passenger lists for long-distance voyages from all British ports between 1890 and 1960....

The final decade to go live covers the years 1950 to 1960 and includes the so-called "Ten Pound Poms" traveling under the Australian government assisted passage scheme. In most cases the old UK address of the passenger is given, enabling family historians to trace back the roots of their British ancestors. Accompanying some of the 1960 lists are scans of the handwritten departure cards completed by each passenger. These show the full date of birth of the passenger as well as their UK address and occupation, with the names and dates of birth of any children traveling with them on the reverse—a goldmine for the genealogist....

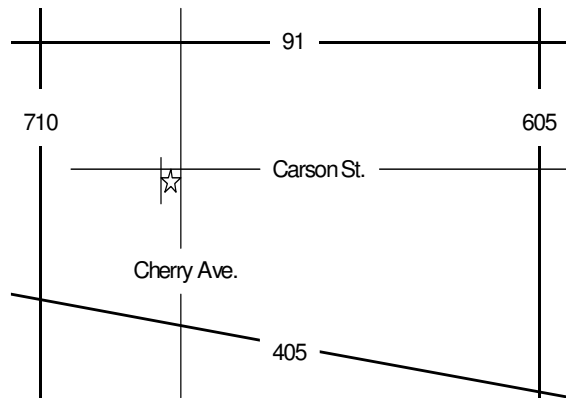
All seven decades of the passenger lists are free to search. The images and transcripts can be viewed with either a 12-month Explorer or a 1-month Voyager subscription or, alternatively, with pay-per-view units or vouchers.

Also from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter but under date of 3 April 2008.

CALENDAR

Saturday, May 17, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: "It's About Timelines," by Paul Lipinski.

Sunday, May 18, 1:15–3:30 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 34.



Wednesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Highway & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: "American Flag Man" by Chuck Kissel.

Sunday, May 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.* Program: "British Naming Patterns: Fact or Fiction" by Ivan C. Johnson.

Saturday, June 7, Orange County, California, Genealogical Society – No meeting this month!



FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

"Footprints of Family History"

3-6 September 2008

Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Brochures for this annual conference will be available at our May meeting. You can register online at www.fgs.org or mail the completed form to:

FGS 2008 Conference
P. O. Box 200940
Austin, TX 78720-0940

For more information, you can contact FGS by phone at 1-888-FGS-1500 (toll free) or by e-mail at office@fgs.org.



If you'd like to combine a vacation cruise with a genealogical conference, Wholly Genes, Inc., is hosting its 4th annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise from Oct 26-Nov 2, 2008. The Caribbean Princess leaves New York and sails to the Virgin Islands. You can find detailed information and download a registration form at <http://www.WhollyGenes.com>.

*FHC stands for Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. FHCs are open 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 Regional FHC are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LARFHC 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.larfhc.org> provides details of their extensive collection. There are smaller FHCs locally, 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. It is advisable to call ahead to the local centers, as their hours may change from time to time.