

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, JANUARY 18, 2009

12:30	Class	BASIC: No Beginning Class this month.
	Period	
1:15		INTERMEDIATE: "Using Google for your Genealogy," presented by Gena Philibert Ortega
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: Gena Philibert Ortega Remember the Ladies: Finding Female Ancestors

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CLIMBING YOUR FAMILY TREE

**Gretna Greens and your Ancestor's Missing Marriage Record
by Gena Philibert Ortega**

It can be frustrating to look for a marriage record. You check in the county where they lived; you check neighboring counties and still find nothing. When researching a marriage for a couple and you cannot find the record where you think it might be, you might want to explore the possibility of their going to a Gretna Green.

A Gretna Green is a locality where people travel to get married. They are named for a city called Gretna Green in Scotland. The city of Gretna Green became a haven for those wishing to get married because of Scotland's historical lax requirements for marriage; the couple only had to be over 16 years of age and declare themselves husband and wife in front of witnesses. People from neighboring countries, like England, have flocked to marry there. Gretna Green was the first post along the route from England to the Scotland border; so, that's where eloping couples would stop to get married.

Gretna Greens in the United States were popular places to get married for a variety of reasons. Young couples in love could go there and get married quickly, without much fuss. Typically, couples filled out a form without needing a license or a blood test, paid a small amount of money, and were married very quickly. Nothing fancy, but it got the job done. Other reasons for going to a Gretna Green to get married include low fees, little paper work, no blood tests, in some cases no age requirement, and maybe even to get away from disapproving family members.

Some Gretna Greens exist because they may lack a waiting period. In 1927, California enacted the Gin Marriage Law. This law provided for a waiting period where a couple had to wait three days from the time they purchased their marriage license before they could get married. This was enacted at the height

of the Prohibition era. The law was meant to stop couples who might be making the decision to become married while intoxicated—to give them some time to sober up. While this was the intention, the result of the law was that it drove couples to other places such as Yuma, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada, where they could get "quickie" marriages. Additionally, California passed a 1939 law that required a medical examination before marriage. During one year of the enforcement of the marriage law, Yuma recorded 17,000 marriages for a town that had 5,000 residents.

Genealogist Arlene Eakle, www.arleneeakle.com/wordpress, discusses Gretna Greens and provides a list of 19 such places in the February 19, 2007, posting on her blog. Reading her list and reader comments might provide you with some more ideas for places your ancestors may have run off to, to get married.

Researching nearby Gretna Greens may provide you with the answer as to why you haven't been able to find your ancestor's marriage.

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[Note: The 19 places mentioned in Arlene Eakle's article are Coeur d'Alene ID, Evanston WY, Yuma AZ, Crown Point IN, Cincinnati OH, Niagara Falls NY, Ogdensburg NY, Washington County PA, Maysville KY, Aberdeen OH, West Alexander WV, Farmington UT, Douglas County NV, Pittsburgh PA, Berks County PA, Pike County KY, Mt Airy NC, Lowell MA, and Groton CT.]

The Editor

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

PRISCILLA NIELSEN 1927-2008

Priscilla Mary Colvin was born in Newton, Massachusetts, the daughter of Earl and Mary Colvin on August 20, 1927. She grew up a “New Englander.”

Relocating to Southern California, she worked as a physical therapist at Orthopedic Hospital in Los Angeles, where she met A. Jerome Nielsen, another therapist. They were married on December 23, 1950.

Priscilla later worked at the Visiting Nurse Service in Long Beach. She was active in the Lutheran churches she attended and also became a leader in Questing Heirs Genealogical Society. Among other things, she arranged for our current meeting place at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

On December 4, 2008, at the age of 81 years, Priscilla passed away at her home here in Long Beach. She is survived by her husband of almost 58 years; two sons, Eric and Carl Nielsen; two daughters, Karen Nielsen Higgins and Sonja Nielsen Chandler; a nephew, Larry Colvin; and four grandchildren, Mark and Lisa Nielsen and Jennifer and Danielle Chandler.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to give out a big **THANK YOU** to **YOU** our members. You have made these last two years so pleasant. I really appreciate your spirit, cooperation and consideration. I also want to share with you the names of some of the people who have contributed to the success of these past two years.

Loran Bures and his wife, Tricia, make a great team! Besides handling programming and publicity, Loran is our idea man. We are lucky that Loran and Tricia moved from Washington back to Long Beach.

Another valuable team couple is Sally and Howard Davis. Sally has done a great job as our 2nd Vice President-Membership Chair in keeping

track of all of us. Both of them have taken on the responsibility of folding, sorting and mailing out our newsletters. They escape up to Big Bear but make sure they are in town when we need them.

Sandra Hollandsworth handles the challenge of taking notes at our Board Meetings! She is right on top of getting us the minutes so we know what we talked about. She also does a very nice job of sending out cards and letters as needed.

Our Treasurer, Dave Werts, is a good money handler. He keeps good track of the money we take in and where it is spent.

What would we do without John McCoy? He is a great resource and advice man to all of us on the Board. He is also very good on the electronic end of things. He has taken on Membership for this year—until we can train replacements.

I have seen other newsletters, but Linda Artuso's are not just full of fluff. They are packed with important information for all the membership. Did you know that Linda also picks up and distributes the mail from our post office box and assembles the exchange newsletters we receive? She also makes fliers, ads, seminar notices, etc., available on the table near the coffeepot at each meeting. Take a look at what she displays.

We are looking for a Beginners Class teacher to replace Rellen Owen who did a great job last year. His classes were important for the newer researchers; so, please let us know if you would like to take over this position.

Tina Yanis takes buses all over LA and Orange Counties helping to find lost family information to answer queries that come to our website. She is the person who starts the coffee before meetings, sets up the food for snack time, and sometimes provides flowers. Many of you pitch in to help with setup and cleanup, and your help is much appreciated!

I think we have the most unusual snacks of any meeting I've attended. That is probably because

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ON THE WEB

NEW FAMILY SEARCH, ETC.

New Family Search is a compilation of family data submitted to the LDS church by members many years ago, by members and non-members to the Ancestral File and its successor the Pedigree Resource File, and from records extracted and added to the International Genealogical Index (IGI). At the present time this database is only accessible by members of the LDS church. At some time in the future it will be made available to the general public.

Another **big** project the FamilySearch organization is working on is digitizing and indexing all the items that have been microfilmed over the years. As each individual project is completed, it is added to the familysearch.org website. To see what records are currently available:

- Go to www.familysearch.org,
- Click on the "Search Records" tab,
- From the drop-down list, click on "Record Search pilot," and
- To the right of the World Map, click on "View all collections."

Each title is a link to that record collection, or you can make a search of all records by filling in the blanks below "Search for Your Ancestors."

If you would like to speed this process along, you can volunteer to help with the indexing of the databases. Click "Volunteer" to register at:

www.familysearchindexing.org.

There you can view a list of current, upcoming, and completed projects. To index, you will need to install a package of software to your computer. Then, once registered, when you go to the website and click on the "Start indexing" button, your personal page will appear. You can click on the "Download Batch" tab, and a segment (such as one census page) will be downloaded for you to work on; or if you click on "Download From," you can choose which project you want to work on. The webpage suggests that a typical download will take 30 minutes to complete, but that depends on the particular record and your expertise.

TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE DATABASE DEBUTS

<http://www.slavevoyages.org>

A group of international scholars gathered at Emory University December 5-6 to celebrate the debut of "Voyages: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database." The conference also marked the bicentennial of the end of the trans-Atlantic slave trade in 1808.

The project was funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Harvard University's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research.

"Two years in the making at Emory, the free and interactive Web-based resource documents the slave trade from Africa to the New World between the 16th and 19th centuries, says David Eltis, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of History...

"Voyages provides searchable information on almost 35,000 trans-Atlantic voyages hauling human cargo, as well as maps, images and data on some individual Africans transported," says Eltis...

"Everyone wants to know where their ancestors came from," Eltis says. "There are more data on the slave trade than on the free migrant movement simply because the slave trade was a business and people were property, so records were likely to be better. What the database makes possible is the establishment of links between America and Africa in a way that already has been done by historians for Europeans."

Martin Halbert, director of digital innovations for Emory Libraries, added "The digital and Web-based Voyages publication is intentionally collaborative and can grow and change over time."

The above information was extracted from an article in Diverse Online's Higher Education News of 24 Nov 2008.

METHODS

THEY WENT HOME

by Michael John Neill

One good rule of thumb when an ancestor “disappears” at an older age is to look and see if they are living near any children who might have moved a distance away from the family home. One of my ancestors “disappeared” after her husband died in Indiana in 1861. The end result was that she moved further west, into Iowa to live with one of her children. As a matter of course, I always check near all the adult children of an ancestor to see if Grandma or Grandpa went to live with them as they got older.

But once in a while you’ll find one who moves back to where they used to live, even if they have no family left there.

Louis Demar came to Chicago, Illinois, from Clinton County, New York ca. 1905, probably looking for work. He seemed to evaporate after the 1920 census and could not be located in city directories or other records after the mid-1920s. Where was he? He had moved back to Clinton County, New York. There he was enumerated in the 1930 census and that is where he died a few years later in the mid-1930s.

George Trautvetter and family immigrated to the United States in 1853, settling in Illinois. In 1869, at the age of seventy-one years, he returned to Germany, leaving his family behind in America. The pastor writes in his burial entry in the church register that George returned “to live as a retiree.” He was not just making a short visit back home to see family.

Not everyone was happy in their new home, and sometimes instead of moving further west into new territory, they simply moved back to where they were from, where they possibly felt more comfortable. So if someone disappears, consider the possibility that they went home, rather than seeking newer pastures somewhere else.

A Tip from the Pros, 24/7 Family History Circle, 12 Oct 2008. Copyright The Generations Network, Inc.

M2 DESIGNATION IN THE 1910 U.S. CENSUS

by G. David Thayer

The comment by Chad Milliner...about the designation “M2” in the 1910 census for someone married more than once is correct. The enumerator instructions for the 1910 census told the enumerators to write “M2” for a “second or subsequent marriage,” so that even a third or fourth marriage might be labeled “M2.” Fortunately for genealogists, the enumerators often ignored this instruction. I have found numerous instances of individuals designated as “M3” in that column and even one person with an “M5.”

I would say treating “M2” as possibly meaning more than two marriages is a good idea, but if the enumerator chose to use “M3” or higher, he probably had a good reason for doing so.

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Georgie Lyons (the fish lady) makes sure the sign-up sheet includes at least four names for the next meeting. Then she calls to remind those people that they volunteered to bring food. I’m glad she follows through because sometimes I’ve forgotten that I signed up to bring a snack!

Our website is really looking good, thanks to the skill of Mike Powers. I don’t know anything about websites, but I know there’s a lot more to them than sitting down and writing an e-mail! He has done a great job in putting up information about our various fundraising projects. Because of the funds we receive from them, it is easier to run our society without raising dues.

So, I am looking forward to 2009. If I’ve overlooked anyone, I’m sorry; but thank you all again for making ours one of the strongest Societies in the state of California!

Liz

OF INTEREST

ALLEN WEINSTEIN RESIGNS

“On December 7, historian Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, submitted his resignation to the president, effective December 19, 2008. Professor Weinstein, who has Parkinson’s disease, cited health reasons for his decision...

“In his letter to the president, Weinstein said ‘During my tenure as Archivist, my team of colleagues and I have made substantial progress in achieving virtually all of our goals. Moreover, we at the National Archives have worked diligently and successfully on our primary mission of maximizing public access to the records of all three branches of government while protecting at all costs this agency’s rock-solid nonpartisan integrity.’

“Weinstein was nominated by President Bush on April 8, 2004, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 10, 2005. Under the National Archives statute there is no specific term of office and the position is not intended to change hands automatically with the election of a new president...

“Professor Weinstein has been an indefatigable proponent of the National Archives, visiting 32 National Archives sites nationwide, speaking at major conventions and meetings around the country, and traveling abroad to underscore the leadership and commitment of the National Archives to the international community. He has drawn on his vast network of friends and colleagues to raise the profile of the agency, creating a popular new public program series entitled ‘American Conversations.’... He has forged new relationships with the professional archival and historical communities and has been lauded in the media for his courage in making access to archival materials a priority of his tenure at the National Archives.”

Excerpts from the National Archives Press Release dated Dec. 09, 2008.

WHO OWNS THE COPYRIGHTS ON OBITUARIES?

by Dick Eastman

According to the Times-Tribune, a newspaper in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the newspaper owns the copyrights on all obituaries that they write. I’m no lawyer, but I think that newspaper has a strong case.

It seems that the Times-Tribune sued the Wilkes-Barre Publishing Co. and The Times Leader on Wednesday, claiming the Wilkes-Barre paper plagiarized more than 50 obituaries written and published in The Times-Tribune starting in late October. The suit, filed in Lackawanna County Court, lists seven claims, including misappropriation, unfair competition, fraud, breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

The Times-Tribune is asking a judge to award damages in excess of \$210,000 for lost profits, lost customers, loss of good will and damage to existing business relationships. The suit also asks that The Times Leader be barred from copying Times-Tribune obituaries or any other content from its newspapers or Web site...

From Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter of 6 Nov 2008 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2008 by Richard W. Eastman

CREATE YOUR GENEALOGY “BUSINESS” CARD

by Natasha Gold

I have run into people at conferences and local society meetings who share my surname interests. For these occasions, I have created genealogy “business cards” that include my contact information, surname interests, and the geographical areas where my search is focused. I’ve also added a link to my tree on Ancestry, so that people I meet can check for themselves to see if there is a connection between our families. Office supply stores carry paper that you can use to print the cards.

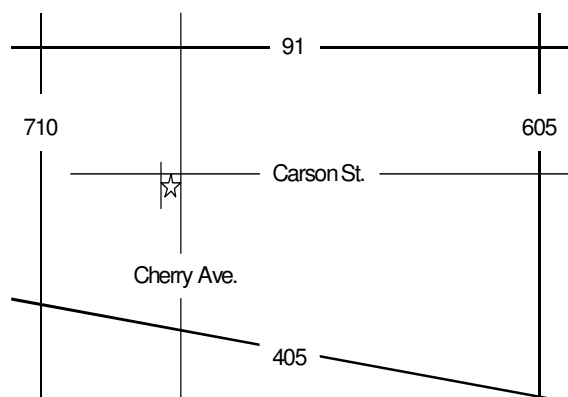
A Quick Tip from The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 22 Sep 2008. Copyright The Generations Network, Inc.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 11, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "From Pomeranian Field to Chicago Factory" by Brad Witt.

Saturday, January 17, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Program: "The Forgotten Generation" by Tom Underhill.

Sunday, January 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 2.



Sunday, January 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.* Program: "Using Google for Your Genealogy" by Gena Philibert Ortega.

Saturday, February 7, 2009, 11:00 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C&D): "What's New at the RFHC-Orange and the FHL" by Beth McCarty.

**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GEN. SOC.
SPRING SEMINAR**

Saturday, March 28, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Street, Carlsbad

Kory L. Meyerink, BS, MLS, AG[®], FUGA will be speaking on "Where Did I Come From & How Did I Get Here?"

Topics covered will be:

- Principles & Pitfalls of Immigration Research
- Getting There from Here
- Getting There When There's Nothing Here

Early registration is recommended, the fee for non-members being \$30.00. Lunch can be purchased for an additional \$7.50. You may download a registration form at:

www.cagenweb.com/nsdcgs/springsem.html.

You may also contact Nina Anderson for more information. Her phone number is (760) 599-9958 and her e-mail address is ninaanderson@sbcglobal.net.

*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.