

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 42 ✦ Number 2 ✦ February 2009

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, FEBRUARY 15, 2009

12:30	Class	BASIC: No Beginning Class this month.
	Period	
1:15		INTERMEDIATE: "Getting More Out of Ancestry.com," presented by Linda Ivers
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: Carlos N. Olvera Researching Your Hispanic Ancestors

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FEBRUARY MEETING

**SPEAKER:
CARLOS N. OLVERA**

Currently the President of the Dana Point Historical Society, our speaker is a former director of the Laguna Niguel, California, Family History Center. He is also a member of the Utah Genealogical Association and of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Mr. Olvera has been a genealogical researcher for more than thirty years. He is a presenter, consultant, and teacher of genealogy and a published author of family history.



*H A P P Y
V A L E N T I N E ' S
D A Y*

**REFRESHMENTS
Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908**

Thanks to our January hosts:
Tricia BURES Robert COLLINS
Terry HAMILTON George & Polly JOHNSON

Our February hosts will be:
Laurie ANGEL Suzanne BOYLES
Sally DAVIS Linda IVERS

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT
John McCOY (562) 423-4962**

JANUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE
Members: 33 Guests: 0

RENEWALS
Elaine FLEMING Newsletter 9/09
Richard HOOVER Sustaining 9/09
Patrick HORAN Individual 9/09

**FINANCIAL REPORT
David WERTS (562) 431-7790**

December Income	\$ 301.99
December Expenses	\$ 306.21
2008 Income	\$4,154.45
2008 Expenses	\$4,984.15
2008 Deficit	\$ 829.70

For the rest of Dave's report, please see page 12.

**NOTE: Submissions for the March 2009
Newsletter are due by February 22, 2009.**

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This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of Questing Heirs; it is not meant to be sold. Those who are unable to attend our meetings but wish to subscribe to the newsletter may purchase a newsletter-only membership for \$12.00 a year. To join, please use the membership application on the outer cover of this newsletter.

CLIMBING YOUR FAMILY TREE

RESEARCHING LIBRARIES FROM HOME

by Gena Philibert Ortega

One of the benefits of being a genealogist in the age of computers and the Internet is that we can conduct research virtually anytime and anywhere. Repositories, including libraries and archives, are essential to our research. While archives hold primary records, library holdings include books, newspapers, periodicals, city directories, and other records that can benefit our research. A public library may hold reference books that help you identify the age of a photograph from the clothing styles, while a university library may hold a local history treasure or even a manuscript collection.

One of the most important aspects of research is using interlibrary loan to access materials that would not be available to you locally. Not every item in a library can be borrowed through interlibrary loan, but for the most part you can use it to borrow non-reference books. You can even borrow microfilmed records through some societies, through interlibrary loan at your local library. Interlibrary loans also include photocopies of periodical articles. Typically there is a fee for interlibrary loan that covers the cost of shipping the item to your home library. For more information on interlibrary loan, talk with your local reference librarian.

Need to find a library for the area your ancestor lived in or to find where you can check out a specific book? Check out the following web sites:

World Cat, <http://www.worldcat.org/>, is the world's largest network of library content and services, according to their web site. Their web site provides information on one billion items found in 10,000 libraries. World Cat allows you to search for a book, audio CD, or movie through thousands of libraries. You can enter

your location, and the site will provide you with information about what library collections include the book you are looking for.

Cal Cat is a very similar program to World Cat. Cal Cat, the California Libraries Catalog at <http://www.calcat.org/>, allows you to search for resources in public and private libraries within the state of California.

Libcat, <http://www.librarysites.info/>, is a directory of libraries on the Internet. You can select a state and then receive links to government, public, academic, library and other associations. There are also links to web sites for presidential libraries and foreign libraries.

Libraries on the Web, http://lists.webjunction.org/libweb/Public_main.html, is a web site of links to United States public libraries. Once you choose the state, you can then scroll through links to public libraries within that state.

The Library of Congress receives over 60,000 requests for books and article copies throughout the world. Some restrictions do apply when seeking an item from the Library, such as materials sent to a library have to be used at the library and cannot be checked out by the patron. For more information on the Library of Congress' interlibrary loan program see their web site at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/loan/>. Some small items too fragile to be circulated are available through digital interlibrary loan.

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QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT – continued

Year End Status:

Farmers & Merchants Bank

Operations Money: \$957.03

Money designated for special projects: \$969.50

Downey Savings/U.S. Bank

Two CDs: \$27,699.10

Questing Heirs Net Worth

1 January 2008: \$30,455.33

1 January 2009: \$29,625.63

Without Betty Marr's money, the Society would now be nearly bankrupt! Fortunately, we can continue the deficit spending for several years without raising dues, thanks to Betty.

NIELSEN BEQUEST

Our Society received a letter in early January that reads as follows.

“Ladies and Gentlemen:

“As you know, Priscilla Nielsen passed away on December 4, 2008. One of the last requests she made in her trust was that your organization be given a \$5,000 gift to be used for educational forums.

“Enclosed is a \$5,000.00 check for your organization. Priscilla enjoyed being part of your organization and wanted to give this gift to help facilitate additional educational programs on genealogy. Keep up the good work.

“Respectfully,

“Karen Nielsen Higgins, Trustee”

The Board of Directors is considering what educational forums, or educational programs, would be appropriate and helpful to the members of the Society. If you have suggestions, please let one of the Board members know what they are.

WEB PAGE UPDATE

If you haven't had a look at the Questing Heirs web site lately, please take a few minutes and see what's new. You can find our site at www.qhgs.info. Below are some highlights of what we've been working on.

We recently created an In Memoriam page, where you will find a tribute to Questing Heirs members who have passed away in the last few years. From the Members page, click on the link in the right-hand column. These notices were gathered from back issues of our newsletter. You can also find PDF files of the newsletter going back to October of 2002. From the Newsletter page, click on the Past Issues link in the right-hand column.

Be sure to take advantage of your member benefits by having your research interests listed on our web site. From the Members page, select the Members' Interests link on the right. To add your interests to this page, simply e-mail them to me at lunalake@pobox.com in this format: family name/time period/place. Another benefit of membership is that, if you have a personal web page, we will be happy to include a link to it on our Links page. Both of these options will give your research more visibility and, thus, give you a better chance of connecting with others who are researching your lines.

There are several ways you can help raise money for our society at no cost to you. Visit our Shop page for information on, and links to, several loyalty and referral programs that give back to the society. Be sure to use the links on that page so that we get credit.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding the web page, you can contact me at the e-mail address above.

Mike Powers, Webmaster

To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?

Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106-43 B.C.

SOURCES

RESEARCH IN TENNESSEE

History

Political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements were affected by the following historical events.

- 1769 – The first permanent settlement was established in the Watauga Valley by people from North Carolina and Virginia.
- 1777 – Washington County, North Carolina,* was established to provide governmental jurisdiction over the Watauga settlements. Its boundaries included all of present-day Tennessee.
- 1779 – Nashville was founded, and organized settlement began in Middle Tennessee.
- 1784 – North Carolina ceded Tennessee to the federal government. Watauga settlers organized a short-lived “State of Franklin,” which was replaced by the Southwest Territory in 1790.
- 1796 – Tennessee became a state.
- 1861 – Tennessee seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1866.

*Note that this Washington County should not be confused with the present-day Washington County, North Carolina, which was formed from Tyrrell County in 1799. Washington County, Tennessee remains in the northeast corner of the state, but many counties were created from it.

Repositories

Since Tennessee was once North Carolina, you might want to obtain Circular No. 3 entitled “Records Relating to Tennessee in the North Carolina State Archives” by writing to:

North Carolina State Archives
4614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4614

or by downloading it from their website at:

<http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov>.

The History and Genealogy section of the Tennessee State Library and Archives (<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla>) has links to information on the following subjects:

- Bibliographies
- Census Records
- County Records
- Military Records
- Newspapers
- Directories
- Maps
- Vital Records

Of course, you should always check the LDS Family History Library Catalog to see what microfilms are available for the subjects and localities you’re interested in—for example:

UNITED STATES – CENSUS
TENNESSEE – MILITARY RECORDS
TENNESSEE – GREENE – TAXATION

Also check Search Records/Record Search Pilot at <http://www.familysearch.org> to see if any projects related to your interests have been digitized yet.

Vital Records

The Tennessee Department of Health at <http://health.state.tn.us/vr> can provide certified photocopies of birth certificates since January 1914 and death and marriage records for the past 50 years. Birth and marriage records cost \$15.00 and death records \$7.00. A search includes one year before and after the event.

Certified copies are available to the person named on the record and certain family members. They require an ID; however, for genealogical research, a handwritten transcript (called a verification) can be provided if you write to: Tennessee Vital Records

Central Services Building, 1st Floor
421 5th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37243

METHODS

THE DOORS IN YOUR BRICK WALLS

by Julianna Smith

Alexander Graham Bell once said, “When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.” When we run into those brick walls we often stumble upon in family history, sometimes we’re so busy staring at that one closed door that we overlook a bunch of open doors. Let’s take a look.

Unmarried Siblings

Married siblings with children represent the potential to connect with cousins, but sometimes the focus on our direct ancestor and siblings causes us to overlook that spinster aunt or bachelor uncle. The fact is, we should be researching every sibling thoroughly because while the records of one child may not include the information you need, those of a sibling may include much more detail—details that can help us past that brick wall.

Died Young

Sometimes there were siblings that we don’t even know about. High infant and child mortality rates were a fact of life for our ancestors. The siblings of our ancestors who were born and died between censuses may hold the key to that closed door. Look for them in family cemetery plots and in vital records indexes. For mothers who were alive in 1900 and 1910, the U.S. federal census asked for the number of children born, and the 1910 census also asks how many were still alive that year. Mortality schedules will also list the children who died within a census year. Once you identify a child who died young, look for birth and death records, as well as any church or other records that may have been created during their short lives.

Half Siblings

Half siblings still share one parent with your ancestors, and their records could contain

information on that parent that your direct ancestor’s record does not.

Cousins

Cousins will share the same grandparents as your ancestor, and you may even find a grandparent living with them for a time. The family Bible or other important heirlooms may have passed down through that line, and that information may be waiting for you in the hands of a distant cousin.

Current Generations

Even if you think you know all you need to about current generations, researching them thoroughly builds a strong foundation for your research. Contemporary records have more detail and could have clues to ancestral origins that older records do not. Don’t skip over Grandma Betty’s records simply because she told you all you need to know. You never know what she forgot to mention—or decided to hold back.

Step Families and In-Laws

Families from the old country often settled near others from their old neighborhood. These families often intermarried; so if you’re having trouble crossing the pond with your family, do a little digging into the origins of stepmothers and the in-laws of your ancestor and his or her siblings. You may find connections that reach back into the old country. The same thing applies to witnesses, sponsors, and business associates. Often you’ll find that not only do they share the same hometown, they also share an ancestor or two.

With so many records now indexed and available online, it’s easier to open up these often overlooked doors than it was in the past...

Previously published in 24/7 Family History Circle of 11 Jan 2009 and copyright © 2009 The Generations Network, Inc.

ON THE WEB

IRISH ROOTS: NEW GENEALOGICAL RECORDS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The following was written by Library and Archives Canada:

(Ottawa) December 22, 2008 – Library and Archives Canada is pleased to announce that its partner, the National Archives of Ireland, has launched the next important phase of an online census research tool for the Irish counties of Antrim, Kerry, and Down for 1911. The census records for all counties for 1911 and 1901 will be made available online throughout 2009.

Library and Archives Canada signed an agreement with the National Archives of Ireland in December 2005, and the two institutions have been working to make the censuses of Ireland for 1901 and 1911 accessible online, free of charge. Library and Archives Canada's contribution included digitizing microfilm reels, linking images to the database and making the records searchable by name.

“With 70 million Irish diaspora around the world, and up to one-fifth of Canadians claiming Irish heritage, this project will connect even more people to their historical roots,” stated Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

Making these records accessible online will give genealogists and historians around the world the chance to explore the age, occupation, religion and marital status of individuals. It will also allow research on Irish society of the early 20th century. The National Archives of Ireland have provided vibrant historical essays on topics such as social life, government, sport and religion and photographs depicting life in Ireland in 1911.

Library and Archives Canada and the National Archives of Ireland collaborated on other projects including the popular website *The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf: Irish-Canadian Documentary Heritage* at Library and Archives Canada, and two Irish studies symposia were held in Ottawa in 2006 and 2008. There will be

additional phases added to the census online in the coming year.

To visit the Irish Census Online and the virtual exhibition of life in Ireland in 1911, please go to: www.census.nationalarchives.ie (in English only).

For more information or for information on Library and Archives Canada and the National Archives of Ireland's partnership, please visit *The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf* at: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ireland.

This news release was published in Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 22 Dec 2008 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2008 by Richard W. Eastman.



EOGN FORUM

Last October Dick Eastman started a new Discussion Forum. He says, “It now sees many new messages per day covering a wide variety of genealogy-related subjects.

“The EOGN Discussion Forum is available FREE of charge to everyone. In fact, everyone may read messages in the forum without registering. However, in order to post a new message or to reply to an existing message, you must register first. Registration is free, and you are never asked for a credit card number. As always, I will never share your registration information with any vendors. You will not be spammed because of participation in the EOGN Forum...

“Have a question about genealogy or any genealogy-related topic? Ask it in the EOGN Forum at: <http://www.eogn.com/forum>.”

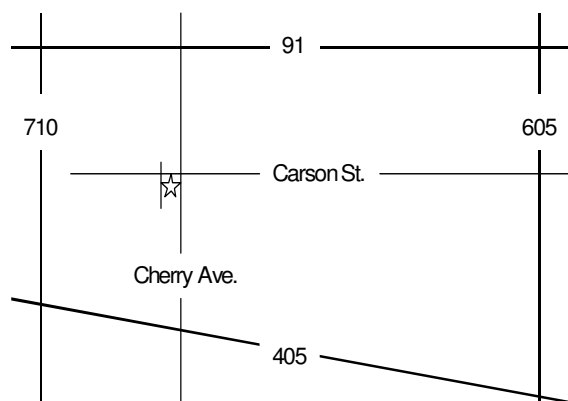
Why not check it out?

These comments were posted in his Online Genealogy Newsletter dated 3 Jan 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.

CALENDAR

Sunday, February 8, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: Warren Weimer, their computer expert, will be available to answer questions about how to use your computer online.

Sunday, February 15, 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 10.



Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Program: “Digital Photography for Genealogists” by Alice Volkert. Meeting place to be determined so check at sbcgs@hotmail.com

Sunday, February 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.* Program: “Appalachian Ancestors: Their Lives, Legends, and Lyrics “ by Jean Wilcox Hibben.

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. This month the society will be holding its annual Book Faire in Rooms C&D.

OTHER EVENTS

Knott’s Berry Farm
8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park
February 14 (9-5) & 15 (9-3)

A Lincoln Birthday Bicentennial and Grand Civil War Encampment will be held at the Park Pavilion Picnic Center on the lawn north of Independence Hall. Re-enactors will be there in full regalia with camp displays set up. Admission is free, but you do have to pay for parking unless you park in the Buena Park Mall and walk across to the site.

The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino
February 21, 1-2:30 p.m.

A Visit with Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War Brass Band of the California Battalion – Visitors can hear a live reading of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address by actor William T. Peck and enjoy Civil War-era music performed by the Band of the California Battalion in a public program on the library lawn. The program is presented in conjunction with the exhibition “The Last Full Measure of Devotion: Collecting Abraham Lincoln.” - General admission.

*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.