

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 42 + Number 3 + March 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, MARCH 15, 2009

12:30	Class	BASIC: No Beginning Class this month.
	Period	
1:15		INTERMEDIATE: "Getting Started in French Genealogy," presented by John McCoy
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: Wendy B. Elliott, FUGA Researching Your Quaker Ancestors

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MARCH MEETING

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Getting Started in French Genealogy

France is only about the size of Texas. In spite of its small size, it has left an indelible mark on history. A surprising number of us have a French ancestor somewhere in our pedigree. Very often that one ancestor will lead you to a surprisingly complex and colorful history, but you will have to work for it! We will review the things you need to know to get started and the resources that will help you along the way.

John McCoy has been researching his French-speaking ancestors since 1994. The search has become so time-consuming that he now works with French documents on a daily basis and has correspondents all over Europe and America.

SPEAKER:

WENDY BEBOUT ELLIOTT, FUGA

Wendy teaches U.S. history at California State University, Fullerton, specializing in U.S., California, Westward Movement, Immigration, Women, Native Americans, and ethnic history. She also teaches writing and historical thinking classes. She is faculty advisor for CSUF History Students' national award-winning publication and the Native American Council. She co-authored *The Library* and wrote several chapters for *Ancestry's Redbook* and *Printed Sources*. Wendy is the immediate past president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our February hosts:

Laurie ANGEL Suzanne BOYLES
Sally DAVIS Linda IVERS

Our March hosts will be:

Frena DOMINGUEZ Terry HAMILTON
Penny NUGENT Linda RYAN

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

John McCOY (562) 423-4962

FEBRUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 28 Guests: 0

NEW MEMBER

Lawrence LITTLE Newsletter 9/09

RENEWALS

Terry GILLIS Individual 9/09
Michael SCULLY Individual 9/09

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

January Expenses \$ 433.61

January Income \$5,166.31

(Includes a \$5,000 gift from Priscilla Nielsen, to be used for educational purposes.)

Operations Balance \$ 689.73

Special Projects Balance \$ 5,969.50

Saving Balance \$27,699.10

The 2008 *Questing Heirs* account books are available for review by anyone who has an interest.

NOTE: Submissions for the April 2009 Newsletter are due by March 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

CLOSE SPELLINGS COUNT TOWARD MATCHES

by Sharon Tate Moody

Genealogy is all about names. We find most records through surnames, and then narrow the search with given names. But too many of us search only for the perfect match. Close counts not only in horseshoes but also in heritage hunting.

When I was a girl, I noticed a family named O'Neal lived in our community. We had the same name: O'Neil. When I asked my mother about the other O'Neals, she quickly told me we weren't related because they spelled their name differently. Luckily, I never embraced that logic, and I've happily found ancestors with all sorts of spelling quirks.

Although today we can choose how to spell our last names, many of our ancestors didn't have that option. Those who could not read and write were at the mercy of someone else to record their names in documents. Spelling wasn't standardized, so names were often spelled phonetically.

As genealogists, we have to imagine how a German name sounded to English ears. I recently helped a friend whose surname is Johnsonbaugh. We both were excited when I found records that proved his name had been Americanized from the German Schanzenbach. Saying the two names out loud, it's easy to see how some English clerk might have made the translation.

Or perhaps the Schanzenback family wanted to be more American and began to say and spell it themselves as Johnsonbaugh.

A good practice is to make a list of every imaginable way to spell all the surnames in your lines. That list should be at your fingertips when you use Internet search engines or look through indexes. One name of interest to me is Hiatt. I find it spelled Hyatt, Hite, Hight and Hiatt. It

isn't even unusual to find a name spelled more than one way in a single document.

If you dig wa-a-a-y back in your history, you'll learn that our ancestors didn't always have surnames. The world was a lot smaller and people seldom traveled far from home. It was east to refer to Joseph the blacksmith and George the miller. Or a man could have been known as Joseph, son of John.

As the world grew and folks moved away from their small villages and farms, the need arose for less duplicative identification. Joseph the blacksmith may have presented himself as Joseph Black or Joseph Smith, and John's son may have become Joseph Johnson. George the miller probably became George Miller.

My immigrant Swedish ancestor came to America as John Anderssen, but there were four others with that name in the community of New Sweden.

Folks began to call him John Stalkofta because he was a soldier and wore steel armor that looked like a coat—stalkofta meant steel coat in Swedish. That gradually was Americanized until, a few generations later, the family was called Stalcup.

Other spellings included Stalcop, Stallcup, Stualcop and Stawlcup.

Quite simply, when it comes to names, pronounce them as many ways as you can and then spell them phonetically. Keep an open mind and a keen eye for all possibilities.

Sharon Tate Moody is a correspondent for the Tampa Bay [FL] Tribune, and this article appeared in Tampa Bay Online (www.tbo.com) on 4 Jan 2009.



QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello folks,

As some of you probably know, I was in Salt Lake City during January. The Salt Lake Family History Library is about the same, but I want to share what I learned.

As of January, the copy card money machine will NOT accept the new \$1 and \$5 bills with the color on them. So, if you're going, make sure to collect older, stiff bills for the machines. Also, the volunteers always lower the chairs to fit neatly under the tables. I finally figured that out and had one of them show me how to raise the chairs!

I stayed at the Plaza Hotel, next door to the library. They have really upgraded their rooms. The beds were oh so soft and comfortable! And they had 4 pillows—a couple of soft and a couple of firmer ones. I also enjoyed using the mini-refrigerator and microwave in my room.

Last September I attended the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) conference in Philadelphia. While in the vicinity, I also went to the Bucks County (PA) and the Gloucester County (NJ) Historical Societies. They would only let us use pencil and paper. We were not even allowed to use our digital cameras, but we could bring in our laptops.

I spent a couple days at the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College. There I learned that William Wade Hinshaw died before he could finish publishing all the material he had collected on Quakers. They have a huge book of names not published. The cards fill one side of the library wall! I was surprised to learn that the library was open on Labor Day, as was the college. They also would not let us use pens; however, digital cameras were allowed.

I guess the lesson is to call in advance of your visit to make sure of hours and policies. I gave away 4 pencils on that research trip.

It was a neat trip. The only downside was that I learned my William Stookesberry of Bucks County had a warrant out for his arrest in 17xx! We couldn't find out why. And my cousin learned that her Robert Stuchbury got property from William Penn!!!

I look forward to seeing and talking to you next month. In the meantime, Happy Hunting!

Liz

LONG BEACH ARTS CELEBRATES 85 YEARS

by Jason Lipeles

[The following article, that appeared in the Long Beach Press-Telegram's "Weekend" section on 6 Feb 2009, not only highlighted the Long Beach Arts Gallery but also Questing Heirs member Walt McNulty.]

There's nothing small about longtime Long Beach Arts member Walton McNulty: big personality, wide grin, a giant purple gem for a belt buckle (that he cut and polished himself), and a seemingly endless supply of stories.

McNulty, who was asked to join the nonprofit art organization in 1940 when he was 18, started by helping with decorating and putting together floral arrangements for important Long Beach Arts events.

Now, at 86, he has filled every position at LBA at least two or three times, and from 6 to 9 tonight [Feb 6] he will be joining the city in celebrating Long Beach Arts' 85th anniversary.

According to McNulty, who is also LBA's informal historian, beginning in 1924 Long Beach Arts used to throw fabulously wild costume parties, annual Beaux Arts Balls.

"The wilder the costume, the better," he says. (One year, McNulty attached a cluster of purple balloons to his clothes and came as a bunch of grapes.)...

OF INTEREST

THE MEDIA CORNER

by Penny Nugent

Have you ever wondered what the voyage to America was like for your ancestors? Have you thought about the screening process at Ellis Island and imagined what it might have entailed? Do you know what tasks your relatives had to perform adroitly and which questions they had to answer correctly in order to avoid having a white "X" chalked on their clothing—an "X" that doomed them to deportation? Well, wonder no more. The film *Golden Door* is now available on DVD; and if you give it two hours of your time, you will feel like you've been on an immigrant's journey yourself. It chronicles a family traveling from the island of Sicily to the island of Manhattan in 1912. Romance, magic, and realism combine to make this a movie like no other, capturing the horrors of the voyage and the individuality of each passenger in a wonderful way. Beautifully photographed, *Golden Door* won the Silver Lion prize at the Venice Film Festival in 2006, and it is a film that should be on every genealogist's must-see list. Find it, rent it, watch it—you will not be disappointed!

NEW GENEALOGY TV SHOW

[You may have heard] about "Who Do You Think You Are?," a very popular British television show that has since been exported to other countries. Each country produces their own shows, featuring local television personalities and stories. Now NBC will bring the television program to American viewers, starting April 20. The program will air on Mondays at 8 p.m.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" will feature American celebrities, including Lisa Kudrow, Sarah Jessica Parker and Susan Sarandon, as they unearth their family trees. Kudrow's company, Is or Isn't Entertainment, will produce the programs, along with the U.K.'s Wall to Wall Productions.

The series will examine a star's family tree and uncover stories about love, secrets and triumphs

in his or her family's past, while also weaving the family story into the larger narrative of American history.

"This show personalizes history and turns it into a gripping narrative," Kudrow says. "The most striking thing about the show is the realization of how connected we all are."

The article above appeared in Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 27 January 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.

FERMAZIN

by Nancy Fermazin Peralta

"For my Fermazin family I looked and looked
And soon on genealogy I was hooked
At last I found them in the census
And as a consensus
Their name was Fermazine, which rhymes with
magazine
But in the 1880 census it was Fermotsene
Years ago was known as Vormazin
And Formazin
And became Fermazin, which rhymes with win."

This is the first stanza of the poem that Questing Heirs member Nancy Peralta wrote about her search for her Fermazin ancestors. Through nineteen more stanzas she recounts how she traced them in Prussian villages from the 1840s, to the United States in the 1870s where they settled in Aurora, Illinois, and then more recent generations.

The entire poem was published in the November/December 2008 issue of *Everton's Genealogical Helper*.

Genealogy

Genealogy begins as an interest,
Becomes a hobby,
Continues as an avocation,
Takes over as an obsession,
And in its last stages,
Is an incurable disease.

Author Unknown

METHODS

Calculating Cousin Relationships

Next time you attend a family reunion, you're sure to get acquainted with relatives like your first cousin's children or Grandpa's first cousin. How do you calculate these relationships? Are they cousins or removed cousins?

When someone is a "removed" cousin, it indicates that they were born into a different generation than yourself. So in both of these cases, the individuals would be removed cousins. Your cousin's children were born into the generation after yourself, so they are *first cousins once removed*. And Grandpa's first cousin was born into his generation, which is two removed from yourself, so he/she would be your *first cousin twice removed*.

Another way to calculate relationships is to "add for greats" and "subtract for generation spans." Let me explain.

1. Assuming you are in the same generation as your relative, add one to the number of greats in the common ancestor's title to determine the cousinship.

Since a grandparent has no greats in the title, add $0 + 1 = 1$ to determine a 1st cousin relationship.

Since a great-grandparent has 1 great in the title, add $1 + 1 = 2$ nd cousins.

If you share fourth great-grandparents, then $4 + 1$ indicates you are fifth cousins.

Descent from Same Generation			
Common Ancestors	# of Greats in Title	Add One	Cousinship
grandparents	0	+ 1 =	1st cousins
Great-grandparents	1	+ 1 =	2nd cousins
2nd great-grandparents	2	+ 1 =	3rd cousins
3rd great-grandparents	3	+ 1 =	4th cousins
4th great-grandparents	4	+ 1 =	5th cousins

2. If you are not in the same generation, calculate using the first method, and subtract "or remove" the difference from the second person. Remember to start with the earliest generation (e.g., Grandpa from the example).

Luckily, most genealogy programs, such as Family Tree Maker, have tools to calculate relationships. Or you may prefer to use generation charts and calculators. Two useful tools are located on the Barren County, Kentucky, GenWeb website, hosted by RootsWeb. These tools come courtesy of T. W. Parker.

<http://email.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin13/DM/y/n2hHoWvWrvoHQRotqvoGj>

This article was previously published in Rootsweb Review: 11 February 2009, Vol. 12, No. 2.

ON THE WEB

GENEALOGY IN TIME

<http://www.GenealogyInTime.com>

Genealogy In Time™ is a new free online genealogy magazine containing genealogy news, articles and links.

The website explains that they continuously monitor thousands of news and genealogy sites worldwide and then:

- summarize the best genealogy news stories.
- provide links to the most recent genealogy records.
- present original genealogy articles.

Genealogy In Time™ will help you:

- track down your ancestors.
- gain a better understanding of genealogy.
- provide insight into broader family history issues.
- have fun.

Take a look at the site.

SAN FRANCISCO eCARD

<https://sflib1.sfpl.org/selfreg/ecard>

At the above URL you can apply for a San Francisco Public Library eCard that is free of charge and good for four years. All that is required is a valid California residential address.

Why would you want to do that? The library provides online databases such as:

- many newspapers and magazines
- Sanborn Maps for California, 1867-1970
- Encyclopedias
- eBooks
- Current telephone directories
- History Resource Center: U.S. & World

You can see whether there are databases you're interested in that aren't available through local libraries by checking "Articles & Databases" on their main site at <http://sfpl.lib.ca.us>.

INDIAN CENSUS ROLLS, 1885-1940

Footnote.com continues to add a wealth of historical- and genealogical-relevant material. A new addition will interest many people who are researching American Indian ancestry: Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940.

According to the Footnote.com web site, most of the records include the English and/or Indian name of the person, roll number, age or date of birth, sex, and relationship to head of family. Beginning in 1930, the rolls also show the degree of Indian blood, marital status, ward status, place of residence, and sometimes other information.

This title, NARA publication M595, consists of census rolls submitted annually by agents or superintendents of Indian reservations as required by an 1884 Act of Congress. Only persons who maintained a formal affiliation with a tribe under Federal supervision are listed on these census rolls. Some tribes, particularly those in the East, were never under Federal jurisdiction and therefore not included in this publication. There is not a census for every reservation or group of Indians for every year.

Taken from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 27 January 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.

FAMILY HISTORY LESSON SERIES

<http://www.familysearch.org>

From the home page, click on "Family History Lesson Series" under "What's New." To View the lessons, left click the link. To Download them, right click the link and "Save Target As."

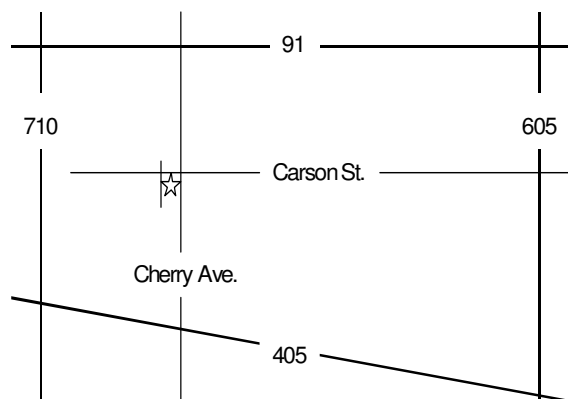
Seven lessons are provided in PDF format, including:

- Perform Descendancy Research
- Conduct Family History Interviews
- Write a Personal History
- Create a Family History
- Use the Internet for Family History Research

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 8, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Workshop on “How to Use the IGS Library—Finding Aids” by Marilyn Deatherage, their Director/Treasurer.

Sunday, March 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 18.



7th ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

“Collecting and Archiving Family History Through Scrap Booking”

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1209 So. Manhattan Place, Los Angeles
Saturday, March 14, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pre-registration Fee (Deadline Feb 20) \$25; same-day Registration Fee \$30. You can mail your check to: 1591 E. Temple Way, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

For questions, you can call 800-533-2444 or go to www.DiscoverYourRoots.org.

“A LINCOLN FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY”

The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino
April 3-4, 2009

This two-day conference will feature five sessions covering:

- Lincoln before the White House
- Reassessing Lincoln’s Wit and Wisdom
- Lincoln Confronts His “Dissatisfied Fellow Countrymen”
- Lincoln Looks West and to the Constitution
- A Lincoln for the Twenty-First Century

The registration fee for the two days is \$25.00. A buffet lunch will be provided for \$16.50 each day. Conference registration and meals are by reservation only. Your registration form and check, payable to “The Huntington,” should be returned by March 27, 2009.

You can obtain more information by calling the Huntington at 626-405-2100 or by e-mail if you write to publicinformation@huntington.org. Two registration forms will be available at our March meeting.

*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.