



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 42 ✦ Number 5 ✦ May 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, MAY 17, 2009**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: “When are you going to start  
writing?” presented by Jeanette Jones**

**2:00 Break Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments**

**2:15 Business**

**2:30 General SPEAKER: **Alice Volkert**  
Meeting Naming Children in  
Colonial New England**

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: “Records,” presented by  
Mike Powers**

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**MAY MEETING**

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS**

**When are you going to start writing?**

Jeanette Jones will explain how she took up the challenge of writing the genealogies of her grandparents. There is no better way to organize your thoughts and move your research forward than by writing a family history. If you don't write the story of your family, what will become of your research? Jeanette makes an important point: writing the family story cannot be delayed indefinitely. Time to face up to the obstacles and start writing!

Jeanette has been a member of *Questing Heirs* for many years. She has served in numerous capacities on the Board of Directors and has recently been a member of the Nominating Committee.

**PROGRAM:**

**Naming Children in Colonial New England**

Naming children in colonial New England was a lot more complicated than you would have thought! It had been thought that there was some 'rule' about first son named for the father's father and first daughter named for the mother's mother—or something like that. But the early colonists made their own rules! Frequently they named their first-born for themselves; sometimes they even made up names. You just have to hear this!

**SPEAKER:**

**ALICE COLBY VOLKERT**

Alice has been researching the descendants of Anthony and Susannah Colby of early Massachusetts for 20 years, or more—in her spare time—and is researching in preparation for a book on their descendants. She has been taking clients for only a few years, but has been associated with the Regional Family History Library in Orange, California, for many years. She has spoken at the 2008 UGA Family History and Genealogy Conference and at many local genealogy societies. She is on the board of the Southern California Chapter of the Association for Professional Genealogists and

hosts at the Orange County California Fair. Alice is also a principal of Sunburst Genealogy Charts.

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

Thanks to our April hosts:

Marilyn BRASHER                      Cheryl TARDIFF  
Sandy HOLLANDSWORTH      Mike OWENS

Our May hosts will be:

Terry HAMILTON                      Jeanette JONES  
Rose PLESEK                              Connie WILLIAMS

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

**APRIL MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Members: 32                                      Guests: 3

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

March Income	\$ 34.75
March Expenses	\$ 327.98
Bank Balance	\$8,012.64
(Includes \$5,000 from Priscilla Nielsen)	

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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.*



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## LESSONS LEARNED ABOUT DIGITIZATION

by Dick Eastman



The recent tragic news from Germany and Italy points out just how fragile our world is. Documents, works of art, architecture, and more from throughout the centuries can be wiped out within seconds by earthquakes, fires, building collapses, wars, and other calamities. The loss to scholars, historians, genealogists, and others is incalculable. Luckily, we now have the technology and the ability to preserve multiple copies of all these priceless objects for future generations...

I would suggest that every document available to mankind that has even the slightest amount of historical significance should be digitized, and multiple copies should be stored in multiple locations. As technology changes and the storage media of choice becomes obsolete, the images need to be copied to more modern media. History has proven that data maintenance and the copying of images is inexpensive and easily accomplished.

One example is the Social Security Death Index. These records have been digitized for more than forty years. The original records that were recorded in the 1960s were done so at significant expense, and the results were stored on 80-column punch cards. While punch card readers are no longer available, the data is still available and much more easily accessed than ever before. The data that was originally stored on punched cards was later converted to magnetic tape, then converted to magnetic disks, and still later converted to optical disks (CD-ROM, DVD-ROM and Blu-Ray disks).

I am guessing that only single copies of the original punched cards were created. However, as new media appeared, costs dropped. Storage on tape was cheaper than punch cards, storage on disks was cheaper than on tape, and so on and so forth. Each new generation of storage media seems to result in a huge drop in prices. Multiple copies of records became not only practical, but desirable. We now store the same data on CD, DVD, and Blu-Ray disks

for a fraction of the cost of the filing cabinets alone that were used to store punched cards! We can expect that pricing will continue to drop in the future.

The lessons learned from the Social Security Death Index and from tens of thousands of other data conversion efforts can be applied to the billions of records that have not yet been digitized.

For an example, let's consider the recent destruction of the city archives of Cologne, Germany. This repository was one of the largest municipal archives in Europe and held records dating back more than a millennium. Some documents are being salvaged from the rubble, but it is known that a high percentage of the holdings will never be seen again by historians, scholars, genealogists, or anyone else.

If those documents had been scanned and digitized in previous years, the loss still would have been significant, but something of value would have been left behind. Those same historians, scholars, and genealogists would still be able to study the documents, even though they no longer existed physically...

A few forward-thinking repositories are already involved in such efforts. FamilySearch, the genealogy organization sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons), is already converting millions of rolls of microfilm stored in a granite mountain. The National Archives of Great Britain, the National Archives of Scotland, and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration all are digitizing millions of their most-requested documents. The Library of Congress has made digitized versions of collection materials available online since 1994, concentrating on its most rare collections and those unavailable anywhere else.

These are not "one time efforts." All of the organizations I have mentioned expect their

*Continued on page 38*



### Georgie the Riveter!

by John McCoy

Once in a while, our programs don't come off as planned. That's what happened in April, when the presenter for the program on "Rosie the Riveter" failed to show up. What to do?

In all the years I've been associated with Questing Heirs, I have come to appreciate the resourcefulness of our members. We have enough experience and expertise in our group to present almost any topic from within our ranks. So I was very pleased when Laurie Angel suggested that we share our family experiences from World War II, the era of Rosie the Riveter.

Not only did our members have many interesting experiences to share, but as the discussion developed, we discovered that we had an authentic riveter in our midst, Georgie Lyons. She became a riveter right out of high school. Her story was, as they say, riveting. She became more animated as the story unfolded: the times, the rivets, the tools, the airplanes! If you needed an explanation of how our members came to be so resourceful, so flexible and strong at the same time, look no further!

The American experience in World War II is an important part of the family history that we will pass on to the next generation. Be sure to interview your family members, and be sure to preserve their stories for the future!

#### **MONEY-EARNING PROJECTS**

by Dave Werts

Questing Heirs is a member of three programs that send us money, just for shopping at the stores we use anyway. They do, however, require some initial effort from our members to get the income rolling in.

The first is Ralphs Grocery. By registering your Rewards card, Ralphs will donate a small portion of whatever you buy at the store using

those cards to Questing Heirs. So far this year, we have had fewer members participating than last year. Perhaps this is because Ralphs required everyone to re-register their cards in August and September 2008, and not all may have done that. Nine members are currently registered, and we thank them for participating, but that is a small percentage of our membership.

A second source are stores and restaurants such as Macy's, Office Max, Eddy Bauer, Bristol Farms, Coco's, and Pick Up Stix—as well as American Airlines and Carnival Cruise Lines. They require registration and providing your credit card number, but it is not necessary to know whether an establishment is a member to use your credit card when you make a purchase. The contribution is automatically deducted and credited to Questing Heirs.

The third source are online sites, including Amazon, Café Press, Abe Books, and Footnote.com. For our society to receive a contribution from them, you just need to place your order at our website.

To enroll in any or all of these programs, go to <http://www.qhgs.info>, click on "Shop," and follow the directions.

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We were sad to learn that Loran Bures, our First Vice President, had to resign from the Board for health reasons. We're really going to miss his ideas and enthusiasm, but we do look forward to Loran and Trish coming to future meetings.

As 1st VP, Loran was in charge of Programs. He was also head of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee. If you feel that you could assume either of these responsibilities, please contact John McCoy at (562) 423-4962.

Sandy Bourassa has agreed to fill the position of Director-Past President in place of John. She will be at the FGS Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, during our May meeting, but we will see her in June.

*Liz*



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### NEW TRICKS FROM OLD DOGS: A MINI-SODE ON THE 1930 CENSUS

by Arlene Eakle



Did you know...you can identify **ethnic** entries in the 1930 census indexed images at Ancestry.com. On the search page fill in the surname, using the **predominant spelling** for that name, and the **place of residence**—state, county, town. Click search.

The entries will appear in family format—father, mother, and all the kids in the order they appear in the census.

Next review the spelling variations at the end of the predominant spelling. Watch for the **places of birth** that match your interest. This will enable you to find related families with spelling alternatives.

Then review the **places of birth** for families from **different** places of residence. These entries will lead you to related families in other parts of the country.

Families you have interviewed often know they have relatives in other towns and other states—they just can't remember who. You can find them by matching places of birth.

Try this genealogy research strategy also for locating kinship networks prior to making searches in foreign countries of origin. The kin that surround your ancestor in America are often the same kin that surround your ancestor in his place of origin.

*This article appeared in Arlene's blog on 28 Dec 2008 at <http://www.arleneeakle.com/wordpress>.*

### SPELLCHECK YOUR FAMILY HISTORY NOTES

By Della Nielson Steineckert

If your record management program does not include a spell checker for an individual's notes, try this. It's fast, easy, and it works! Open a new, empty Word document and minimize it. Now open an individual's Notes page and copy it to your clipboard. (Yes, copy—don't cut yet!) Open the Word

document and paste the copied notes there. Draw a short line at the lower end. Select the spell check feature and work through the set of notes. When finished, copy the corrected set of notes and paste at the top of the individual's Notes page. When you are satisfied that all is well, highlight and delete the old set of notes below the line you added and then delete the corrected set on the Word document. Voila! Correctly spelled notes!

I use PAF and printed a list of all the names of individuals whose record contained notes (File > Print Reports > Lists > Individuals with Notes > Print.) I then worked through the list using the above idea.

*This Quick Tip appeared in The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 22 Dec 2008. Copyright © by The Generations Network, Inc.*

### FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY RESEARCH CLASSES ONLINE

At the Family Search website you can find an online class titled "England Beginning Research." From the home page at <http://www.familysearch.org>, under Family History Library in the middle of that page, click on Research Series and Special Events. Then, on the next page, click on Family History Library Research Series Online (in the left column).

The class covers five lessons:

- 1—Research Overview
- 2—Census Records
- 3—Civil Registration
- 4—Church Records
- 5—Find Your Ancestors

You can watch the video online, download it, and print a class outline as well as two other handouts.

### GENEALOGY TAGLINES

- ◆ Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.
- ◆ Genealogists are time unravelers.
- ◆ Genealogy: It's all relative in the end.
- ◆ Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.



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### 250 MILLION RECORDS TRANSCRIBED

As of 23 April 2009, FamilySearch volunteers transcribed their 250 millionth historical record. This online initiative started in January 2006 with a few thousand volunteers has now grown to be the largest Web-based initiative of its kind with over 100,000 volunteers world-wide.

For decades, FamilySearch has allowed the public to use its collection for free through 4,500 family history centers throughout the world. In 2005, it began to improve access to its collection by converting microfilm to digital images that could be searched online. The next step was to create an online tool that volunteers around the world could use to look at the digital images and extract relevant data that could then be published online in searchable indexes linked to the digital images. FamilySearch indexing is that tool.

“What makes the 250 million record milestone even more impressive is the fact that each record was actually indexed at least twice to ensure accuracy,” reported Paul Nanta, FamilySearch public affairs manager.

In 2006, FamilySearch volunteers indexed a total of 11 million records. “Today, thanks to the growth in our volunteer numbers, FamilySearch volunteers are now transcribing about a million names per day,” Nanta said.

FamilySearch, at any given time, has over 35 online indexing projects underway—many of them international projects. Completed indexes are ultimately made available online for public access through FamilySearch.org or through a family history center.

*The complete announcement may be found by clicking on the title under “News & Events” at <http://www.familysearch.org>.*

### POPULAR GENEALOGICAL WEBSITES

Kory Meyerlink, MLS, AG, FUGA, of Pro-Genealogists has published his list of the 50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites for 2009.

You can check out the list at <http://www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2009.htm> to see if there are any interesting ones that you’ve missed. In addition, because of the increasing number of genealogy blogs online, you will also find a list of the 25 most popular at: [http://www.progenealogists.com/top25blogs\\_2009.htm](http://www.progenealogists.com/top25blogs_2009.htm).



*Continued from page 35...*

digitization efforts to continue more or less forever. Smaller archives, libraries, and museums are also beginning to see the benefits of digitization. Not only can they make their materials available to more patrons in more locations, but they also can save on building costs. Placing research materials online means a probable cost reduction in making these physical materials available to the general public. The holding organizations do not need to spend as much money on public reading rooms, rest rooms, microfilm equipment, open stacks, and personnel to serve the general public.

The repositories can offer smaller reading rooms and produce the material by reservation only. The new business plan is that any person who wishes to look at materials would first look at them online. If the online images prove to be insufficient, he or she then can schedule an appointment in the new (smaller) reading room, and the materials can be retrieved from the cramped stacks in advance and delivered to the reading room in time for the appointment...

Digitizing of records appears to be a win/win situation: it preserves information and also makes that information more widely available to those who cannot travel to the holding repository.

What is your local organization doing about preserving its most precious resource: information?

*The complete article appeared in Dick Eastman’s blog on 8 April 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copy-right © 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.*



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### THE MEDIA CORNER

by Penny Nugent

It is a given that genealogists never have enough family photographs. No matter how many we may possess, we always wish we had more. Now a way to enlarge your photo collection is as close as the nearest antique swap meet: stereopticon cards.



These cards hold pictures of a world that was available for discovery in every Victorian drawing room. Using a viewer and various sets of cards, one could travel to Italy, France, Buenos Aires, Tokyo—armchair destinations were endless—and, thanks to the double images, the scenes depicted were in 3-D! Wherever your ancestors came from, there is probably a set of cards that shows the town, city, or country of their origin.

What did your ancestors do for a living? Did they work in the lumber camps of Upper Michigan? Were they child laborers in the silk mills of New England? Did they use horses to



pull their plows across the plains of Kansas or mine for coal in the hills of Pennsylvania? Whatever they

did, the chances are good that you do not have any pictures of them at work because old photographs of people actually engaged in employment are very rare. The largest source of “people at work” photos from the late 1800’s and early 1900’s is stereopticon cards.

Maybe your ancestors left for the United States from the ports of Naples, Hamburg, Liverpool or Buenos Aires. Do you have a picture of their port of departure that was taken in the late 1800s? Stereopticon cards are a great source of seaport photos, too.

Because the stereopticon “craze” was pretty well over by 1920, these cards also hold pictures of a world that no longer exists: peasants farming the fields of Italy in their “native costume,” lumbermen driving six-horse teams that pulled enormous sleds of logs through the forests of Minnesota, residents promenading

in the plazas of downtown Buenos Aires, Navy recruits lined up in New Jersey for commissioning during WWI. The subjects are endless; and, because most of the pictures are actual black-and-white photographs, the quality of the images is very good—much better than pictures in a book.

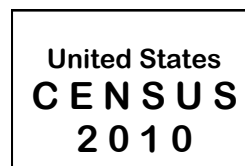
Stereopticon cards are an invaluable source for all genealogists, and I urge you to go out and find some at the next swap meet you attend.

### THE 2010 CENSUS AND YOU

As every genealogist knows, a national census is taken in the United States every ten years—the next one being scheduled for 2010. The census isn’t created for genealogists, of course. The data is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year. The data collected is of great interest to genealogists, however.

You can contribute to the success of the next census by becoming a census taker. Census takers usually work in their own neighborhoods or communities. They work varied hours, normally 20 to 40 hours per week. Assignments can last up to several weeks. They perform two main kinds of work: updating address lists and conducting interviews. Applicants for a census job are considered for both types of work.

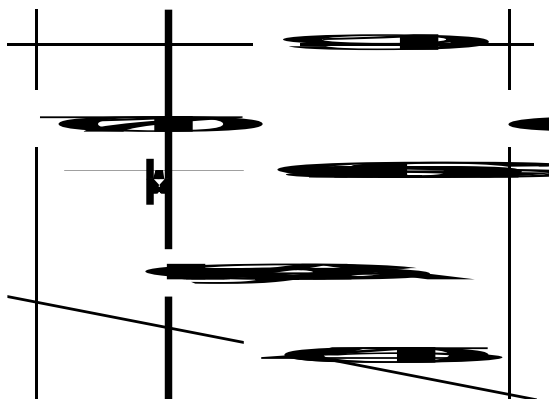
This is a good job for retirees, students, and job seekers. It is a good way to earn extra money. Qualifications include being a U. S. citizen, at least 18 years old, having a valid Social Security number and driver’s license. For more details, visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs>. To apply, you can download an application online or call 1-866-861-2010.





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Sunday, May 17, 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 20, 7:00 p.m. **Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California** monthly meeting at the Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Hwy. & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: "Back to Basics: Organization, Citation and Relationships," by Linda Serna.

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m. **South Bay Cities Genealogical Society** monthly meeting in the Katie Geissert Meeting Room at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: "Location, Location, Location: How to Use Existing Tools and Resources to Find a Location for a Person," by Paul Lipinski.

Sunday, May 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **British Isles Family History Society-USA** monthly meeting in the Genealogy Room (Lower Level 4 of the Tom Bradley Wing) at the Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles. To learn the topic and speaker for the May program, you can send an e-mail to: [vp-programs@bifhsusa.org](mailto:vp-programs@bifhsusa.org).

The **Orange County, California, Genealogical Society** will not be having a meeting in June.

## Upcoming Events

### Conejo Valley Genealogical Society Annual Seminar

Ascension Lutheran Church  
1600 E. Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
Saturday, May 9, 8:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.

Barbara Renick is the featured speaker at this seminar. Her topics will be:

- Eleven Layers of Online Research
- Online: How You Get There Does Make a Difference
- What's New at Family Search
- Finding Your Ancestors in Un-Indexed Books

The registration fee (\$40.00 after April 21) includes a syllabus, snacks and beverages, and door prizes. A box lunch is also available for \$8.00. You can visit books and merchandise tables during breaks and participate in a Silent Auction.

You can find registration forms at <http://rootsweb.com/~cacvgs>. For questions, call (805) 379-2067 or send an e-mail to: [cvgs2009seminar@aol.com](mailto:cvgs2009seminar@aol.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.