



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 42 ✦ Number 6 ✦ June 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, JUNE 21, 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: Connie Moretti  
Meeting Immigrant Ancestors Before 1776**

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

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**MAY MEETING**

As most of you know, our May meeting had to be canceled on short notice; so, the programs planned for the Intermediate and Beginning Classes will be presented at our June meeting. Alice Volker's talk on "Naming Children in Colonial New England" has been rescheduled for September.

**JUNE MEETING**

**PROGRAM:**

**Immigrant Ancestors Before 1776**

An overview of the main ethnic groups in Colonial America—with settlement patterns, resource information, and Revolutionary heroes from each group. Lots of print, CD and Internet resources will be mentioned

**SPEAKER:**

**CONNIE MORETTI**

Connie Moretti, a third-generation Californian, developed her love for genealogy from a storytelling grandmother who enrolled her in Knott's Berry Farm's Covered Wagon Club at age nine. After thirty years as an educator, she started her own consulting business and now works as a professional genealogist. Connie teaches genealogy classes for South Bay Adult School and also served as editor of the South Bay Cities Newsletter for five years. She is the co-author of two genealogy books: *Stepping Stones to Genealogy* and *On the Road: Day Trips to Local Genealogy Research Sites*. Connie is also the author or co-author of *Around the South Bay with Kids*, *Dixie Manor Days*, and *Tyree H. Bell: Forrest's Fighting Lieutenant*. She is a member of APG, NGS, NEHGS, VGS, NSDAR, USD1812 and was Historian General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy 2004-2006.



**REFRESHMENTS**

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

Our June hosts will be:

Tricia BURES                      Robert COLLINS  
Linda IVERS                      George & Polly JOHNSON

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

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

**RENEWALS**

Betty Bell FELDMAN    Patron                      9/09

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

April Income	\$ 295.04
April Expenses	\$ 371.40
Operating Budget Balance	\$2,936.28

**NOTE: Submissions for the July 2009 Newsletter are due by June 28, 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.*



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### PITFALLS THAT CAN CREATE BRICK WALLS OR CAUSE YOU TO CLAIM THE WRONG ANCESTORS



*This article appeared in Dick Eastman's blog on 17 Jan 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. However, it was originally contributed by Mary L. B. to his EOGN Discussion Forum on 4 Jan 2009.*

Following are just a few of the many PITFALLS that you need to be aware of:

1. **JR. and SR:** Don't EVER ASSUME that "Jr" and "Sr" are father and son!!! Often they are, but sometimes they are NOT. They may be uncle and nephew, grandfather and grandson, cousins, or even no relation. These are merely titles to distinguish an older man from a younger one with the same name. To add to the confusion, these titles shift as "SR" dies and "JR" becomes "SR", and a younger person often becomes "JR". Without sufficient research in official records one cannot detect these changes and identities. It only takes ONE misidentification to cause a researcher to spend years researching the WRONG PEOPLE.

2. **PLACE OF DEATH AND PLACE OF PROBATE:** A person's death record will be found in the county in which death occurred (if records were kept then). Examples would include death while traveling, visiting, hospitalized, in prison, etc. outside his or her county of residence. PROBATE records (if there was property to be distributed) would be found in the person's county of residence. It is possible that additional probate records might be found in other counties/states where the deceased owned property. Why use death records??? Because they should contain parent information and various other important data. Why use probate records??? Because they can prove family relationships that may be found nowhere else.

3. **ASSUMING THAT FAMILY STORIES ARE TRUE:** Often there is partial truth in them but details have become distorted through the years. A common one might be "Great-great Grandma was an Indian". Someone may have said "She looked like an Indian", or She MIGHT have been an Indian", or "She lived near Indians". ALWAYS seek out official records that can prove or disprove

components of the story. I once had a client who refused to pay me the balance owed because the records I found did not support her fantasy of an Indian connection. She said I just didn't want to believe her story!!! Thorough research can reveal the facts. Another client had me research the WRONG branch of the family for a supposed Indian connection.

4. **ASSUMING THAT CHILDREN IN A PRE-1880 CENSUS HOUSEHOLD (when relationships began to be stated) ARE CHILDREN OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD:** They may or may NOT be. They may be nieces, nephews, step-children, grandchildren, or no relation. Study the ages and birthplaces when shown of ALL household members. Other years' census records, probate, guardianships, deeds, etc. could help identify relationships and reveal the true children of the head of household. Understanding these relationships can be crucial to building your pedigree and can unlock mysteries. Censuses through 1840 can be very helpful when analyzed with other records, but they can also be misleading if you insist on "accounting" for everyone. Various circumstances affected household members, and therefore one can only GUESS about what they see in census records before 1880.

5. **WILLS DON'T ALWAYS MENTION ALL CHILDREN OF A DECEASED PERSON.** Often a child has already been given property and it simply does not specify that in the Will. If the gift was real estate or other personal property, then there likely would be a DEED saying something like "For love and affection for my daughter and son-in-law Sarah and John Clark". Beautiful!!!! There is your proof of relationships. Wills are only a small part of probate records. Much, much more can be revealed in ESTATE records, INVENTORIES, BILLS OF SALE,

*Continued on page 44*

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Hello out there,

We have never before had to cancel a meeting because the Church needed the Social Hall for a Memorial Service, but that is what happened on the Sunday our May meeting was scheduled. We only found out about the need to cancel our meeting on the previous Monday.

I hope you were informed about it. We sent e-mails and made phone calls, but a few people could not be contacted because their information was wrong. John McCoy is currently updating the membership list for publication; so, please let him know of any changes in your contact information.

Save the date of **Sunday, June 28**, for the Restoration Fair being held at Luther Burbank Elementary School (4th and Junipero) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will have a booth there, and we will need some people to help at the booth! We want to do this sort of thing so people will hear about Questing Heirs. For those not working in the booth, admission is \$5.00; parking is free. For more information, see [www.rpna-tradefair.org](http://www.rpna-tradefair.org).

The Bach Library contacted us about giving a “How to Begin Genealogy” class at their facility. It has been set for 11:00 a.m. on **Saturday June 27**. Call (562) 570-1038 to sign up. The library is located at 4055 Bellflower Blvd. in Long Beach.

A very special 40th Anniversary for Questing Heirs will be held on **Sunday, July 19**. We have a special guest speaker and other events scheduled. All the details have not been worked out, but we do want to make it a special day for all of us! Join us then!!!!

*Liz*

**JOHN FOORD DIES**

Jack Foord had been ill since last December and passed away on Thursday, May 21. He and his wife Kay celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on January 26 of this year!

They moved into an assisted living facility in Cerritos a few years ago, but before that were active members in Questing Heirs. Jack helped out wherever needed, and he and Kay folded and mailed our newsletters for many years.

Although the couple had no children, they had the strong support of their church family and many other friends.



*Continued from page 43...*

ADMINISTRATOR BONDS, ORDER BOOKS, etc. ALL heirs are likely to be named in ESTATE SETTLEMENTS. LAW SUITS among family members often occurred and these can be a goldmine of factual information on which to build. Knowing the names of siblings and in-laws helps you to recognize key people in the indexes. Develop your family group sheets so the information will be handy.

6. MARRIAGE “LICENSE” VERSUS MARRIAGE “RETURNS”: Occasionally couples obtained a license or bond to marry but never carried out their intentions. It is the Minister’s or Justice of the Peace’s RETURN/CERTIFICATE that PROVES that a marriage took place. Also learn about the different types of records that are included in “Marriage Records”. Marriage APPLICATIONS should be very informative.

7. HAVING THE MINDSET THAT COURT HOUSE RECORDS AND EVIDENCE ARE “JUST FOR PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHERS”. Of course they are not!!! Court house records are essential for everyone’s research project, as is evidence. All are there for everyone who wants to learn who their ancestors were.

Begin with your parents/grandparents and work on back on your pedigree chart, building on the supporting evidence you find. Research is usually not difficult, but it does require understanding the basics. Basics are easily learned; and, with experience, productive research will become easy...

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### Finding Immigrant Origins in the Old Country—A Dozen Possibilities

by Loretto D. Szucs

1. Death certificates of immigrants will often include the name of the town in which they were born in the “Old World,” and depending on the time and place, some marriage and birth records will give you the exact birthplaces of their parents.

2. Records pertaining to your ancestor’s relatives and even close friends may point to their mutual hometown or birthplace. Family members and friends who emigrated from the same place usually settled close to one another in their new homeland.

3. Gravestone inscriptions sometimes include the birthplace of an immigrant. If your ancestor’s grave did not include that clue, be sure to look at graves of relatives or close friends who may have come from the same place.

4. Obituaries frequently provide the exact town in which the subject was born or lived in their home country.

5. World War I Draft Records include birthplaces of adult males who were living in the U.S.—even if they were foreign born.

6. Naturalization records, particularly those filed after 1906, include birthplaces, and often also include birthplaces of spouses and children. Although naturalization records filed prior to 1906 generally do not include specific birthplaces, there are many exceptions, depending on where and when an alien filed for citizenship. In cases where an ancestor was not naturalized prior to WWII, alien registration papers (available through CSIS) also provide precise birthplace information.

7. Ethnic collections including published histories of specific nationalities and fraternal organizations, neighborhood collections in libraries, and foreign language newspapers may include hard-to-find biographical sketches. Special collections like the Emigrant Savings Bank records found at Ancestry.com also include the exact birthplaces of individuals who had accounts in that bank. Irish, German, Polish, and other ethnic genealogical

societies have collected and indexed unique collections of biographical materials.

8. Church records often include the birthplaces of parents and those godparents and witnesses of marriages. Often entire congregations emigrated together from Europe and founded churches in their new homeland; so by understanding the history of a particular church, it may be possible to determine the origins of the entire group.

9. Old letters, photographs, journals and diaries as well as old world souvenirs often contain clues to our ancestors’ past. If you are not fortunate enough to have inherited any of these items, it may be worth asking older relatives or cousins who may be willing to share information or copies of documents or photographs.

10. Old newspapers have a lot more to offer than obituaries; consider wedding and engagement announcements as well as other events that may have earned immigrants a place in the social pages. Wedding anniversaries, business accomplishments, visiting relatives, travel abroad, social gatherings, club news, awards and accident reports are also places to look for immigrant origins.

11. Probate and other records generated in the courts sometimes include the birthplaces and former homes of immigrants. Many unmarried immigrants bequeathed their belongings to relatives in the old country, thereby making it possible to determine hometowns.

12. Online sources such as published local and family histories, family trees, and message boards are also worth searching for leads that will help you determine an immigrant’s homeland.

*This Tip from the Pros appeared in The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 19 Oct 2008. Copyright © by The Generations Network, Inc.*





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### INTERESTING WEBSITES

<http://www.themayflowersociety.com>

The Society of Mayflower Descendants is a very special hereditary organization comprised of a diverse group of individuals who have documented their descent from one or more of the 102 passengers who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620 at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

You can see a list of the names of the 26 male passengers and three female passengers whose maiden name is known and who are currently known to have descendants by going to the site's main page and clicking on the "Membership" link.

"A primary interest of our society is educating people about the role of the Pilgrims in the early history and development of what was to become the United States of America," said Judy Swan, the organization's current governor general and former CSULB administrator.

<http://seekingmichigan.org>

If your ancestors were Michiganders, you'll be interested in this site. It contains many interesting records, such as:

- Early Photography
- Music of Michigan
- Architecture
- Maps
- Oral Histories
- Civil War Service Records
- Death Records, 1897-1920

The contents of these categories are explained in the "Discover" section, and you may search them in the "Seek" section. A section named "Look" contains various articles about the state. More death records will be added; so, check the site periodically for updates.

<http://www.behindthename.com>

This site provides the etymology and history of first names. You can browse the names alphabetically or search for a particular name. Categories include various languages besides English, as well as Mythological and Biblical names.

### SCOTTISH VITAL RECORDS

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

This website already contains the OPR (Old Parish Registers of Scotland) entries for births/baptisms and banns/marriages. Now digital images of deaths/burials registers have been added.

The OPRs are the records which the Church of Scotland kept for these life events for the 300 years before the start of the civil registration system in 1855. When the office of Registrar General for Scotland was created in 1855, every parish in Scotland was required by law to deliver to the Registrar General all its registers up to that time, including those for that year. The earliest surviving entries in the OPRs were created in the 16th century.

The site warns visitors not to expect too much from the OPR death and burial records, however. They were not required to be kept; and the information recorded varies from register to register, with most entries containing little detail. It is recommended that one check the list of Extant OPRs (found on the site) to see whether death/burial registers exist for the parish of interest, as well as the OPR Death Years (also on site) to see what years are available for that parish.

### NEW GOOGLE SEARCH OPTIONS

Have you noticed the new search options on Google? When you start a search in the usual way, the results page has a new line below the search box and above the results: "Show options..." Clicking on that, brings up options to narrow your search: videos, forums, reviews, etc. One option lets you specify the time period you want searched, which can be very helpful in avoiding repetition if you search regularly.

Another new option is the "Wonder Wheel." Your keyword appears in a center circle, with related terms around it. If you click on a related term, a new connected circle is created with more related terms. You can also click on "Timeline" to see a list of events associated with your topic.

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### NEW LIBRARY FOR OGS

The Ohio Genealogical Society has announced that it will break ground for its new library and headquarters in Bellville, Ohio, on Friday, May 29.

For several years, OGS has been raising funds to build a library designed to facilitate genealogical research by its members and visitors, and to assure preservation of irreplaceable records of interest to genealogists. The new library building with floor space of 18,000 square feet will be built from the ground up to accomplish those purposes. The start of construction coincides with the society's 50th anniversary.

The 8-acre building site, located on the outskirts of Bellville, was donated to the society in 1997 by James and Marjorie Gorman. It is about 5 miles from the existing library and headquarters in Mansfield.

### BUNKER HILL - 17 JUNE 1775

The Battle of Bunker Hill did not take place at Bunker Hill. This battle, fought during the Revolutionary War, actually took place on nearby Breed's Hill in Boston. American commander William Prescott defended Bunker Hill, the highest point of the mile-long Charlestown peninsula, by fortifying nearby Breed's Hill instead. The British won the battle, driving the American Revolutionary soldiers off the hill, killing and wounding more than 400, and taking 30 prisoners. The British, however, lost 1,000 men doing so—a morale victory for the colonials.

*From Contrary  
{to Popular  
Belief} by Joey  
Green, p. 65.*



### GIFTS FOR YOUR FAVORITE GENEALOGIST

by Mary Harrell-Sesniak

If you're looking for the perfect gift for a family historian, assemble a genealogy kit—either for preserving family memorabilia or for making your road warrior's life easier. Look for acid free, lignin free, and P.A.T. (photographic activity test) on labels, and present it in totes or acid-free archival boxes...

#### Home Preservation Kit Ideas:

1. Archival box
2. Acid- and lignin-free tissue paper (for wrapping books and documents)
3. Acid-free adhesives (tapes, glues) and writing instruments (pens and pencils)
4. Archival sleeves of varying sizes, or Mylar rolls for over-sized items
5. Conservator gloves
6. Forms (blank census, pedigree charts, research logs)
7. Hygrothermograph to measure temperature and humidity
8. pH pen
9. Scrapbooks and binders
10. Silica gel desiccant packs

#### General Genealogy Kit Ideas:

1. Tote or briefcase
2. Digital memory and batteries
3. Flash drive and backup media (external drives, etc.)
4. Forms (blank census, pedigree charts, research logs)
5. Gift cards (gas/restaurants) and coins for parking
6. Library print/copy card or coins for copying
7. Magnifying glass or flat sheet (purse or pocket size)
8. Maps (historical atlases, county and current)
9. Notepads (pocket size and larger)
10. Office supplies (file folders, paper clips, pens, pencils for libraries, portable stapler)

*This Genealogy Tip was previously published in Rootsweb Review: 10 Dec 2008, Vol. 11, No. 22.*



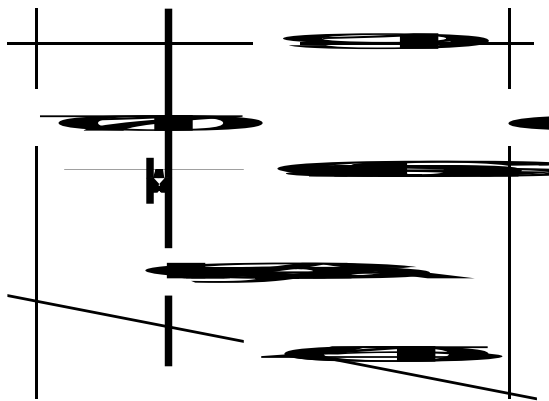
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Sunday, June 14, Noon-5:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society workshop at 1310B Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Subject: "How to use the IGS Library—Places-Map Use." Bring your information and get research help.

Wednesday, June 17, 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: "Using Maps Effectively for Genealogical Research" by Norma Keating.

Wednesday, June 17, 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: "History of Quilts" by Luella Fournell.

Sunday, June 21, 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 42.



Saturday, July 11, 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): Gena Philibert Ortega on "Research Like a History Detective."

## Upcoming Events

Don't forget that the 40th Annual Southern California **Genealogy Jamboree** is coming up soon!

Friday thru Sunday, June 26-28, 2009  
Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and  
Convention Center  
Burbank, California

Sponsored by the Southern California Genealogical Society, you can attend up to 15 lecture sessions over the three days, choosing from 100 informative presentations by nationally known genealogical speakers. Of course the Exhibit Hall will be filled by many organizations ready to explain their products and/or services.

You may choose to receive your syllabus in the print version (while supplies last) or on a CD.

For more information, to register online or download a registration form to mail in, visit [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com). You can also get information by phoning (818) 843-7247 or e-mailing [jamboree@scgsgenealogy.com](mailto:jamboree@scgsgenealogy.com).

Register before June 15.

\*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.