

**QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGY SOCIETY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

DECEMBER QHGS MEETING

Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

Join us for our annual
installation of officers and potluck.

Come share your stories from the past year
and play genealogy bingo.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held
on the third Sunday of the month
at 1:15 p.m. at the Lakewood
Masonic Center, 5918 E.
Parkcrest Street,
in Long Beach California.
See the map on the last page.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Dues are \$30 per year
for an individual or
\$45 per year for a family.

Look for us on the Web:

<http://www.ghgs.info/>

or on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/)

[QuestingHeirs/](https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/)

QHGS is an IRS recognized
501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.
Donations are tax-deductible.

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• MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL •

The Questing Heirs Genealogy Society membership year runs
from September 1st through August 31. If you have not already
done so, please complete the form on page 80 and return it at
the December QHGS meeting. You may also mail it to the
address at the bottom of this page. Thank you.

• Our December Meeting •

Installation of Officers, Potluck and Genealogy Bingo

Come and share one of your favorite dishes with your Questing Heirs friends at our annual potluck. In December, we will gather to install our new QHGS officers, share stories and eat great food.

For suggestions on what food item to bring, please check with the lady to the right. Plates and utensils will be provided. After dessert is served, we will install our new officers for 2019.

We will end our meeting with 'genealogy bingo'. If you have not played this game, you are in for a treat. Last year was my first exposure to this QHGS phenomenon and we all had great fun trying to fill in our genealogy-based bingo cards.

If your last name begins with:
 A to F Desserts
 G to L Appetizers
 M to R Salads
 S to Z Hot Dishes



• Dating Family Photographs from the October Newsletter •



Did you guess that this photo was taken in 1910? Did you notice the stamp in the lower left corner for Cawston Ostrich Farm?

As you may have guessed, the couple in the photo were my great grandparents. They lived in Vancouver, Washington where Henry worked for a lumber company. They probably did not have enough income to follow the latest styles of this period but you will notice some clues of the time period.

Gloves were commonplace for women of this period. After 1910 women's skirts rose from floor length to above the ankle. As the clothing profile got smaller, hair styles got bigger. The columnar profile marked the end of the corset. The Gibson Girl and pompadour hair styles were popular and often worn under large and ornate hats.

In January, we will be publishing another vintage photo, so sharpen your detective skills. Your newsletter editor will be handing out another Starbucks gift card to one lucky member who guesses the correct time period when the photo was taken.

• Cawston Ostrich Farm •

An Englishman, Edwin Cawston, acquired fifty ostriches in South Africa and chartered a ship to bring the ostriches to Galveston Texas in 1885. From there, he transported them by train to South Pasadena. Only eighteen of the original ostriches survived the trip. The farm was established in 1886.

Cawston wanted to become the main provider of ostrich feathers in America. Their 1921 brochure states that 'It is interesting to note that the famous Audubon society thoroughly approves and heartily endorses the use of ostrich plumes for millinery purposes.' The brochure goes on to say 'There is no other article of adornment more popular. Plumes are among the oldest articles of feminine adornment of which there is any record.'

The ostrich farm was not a normal farm environment. Guests to the Cawston farm could see about a hundred ostriches, take ostrich draw carriage rides, have their photo taken and ride on the back of ostriches. Visitors could shop in the retail store and buy feather boas, muffs, caps and other merchandise. A mail order retail operation was added so that ostrich plumes could be sold throughout the world in addition to the company owned stores. The Cawston Ostrich Farm closed in 1935.

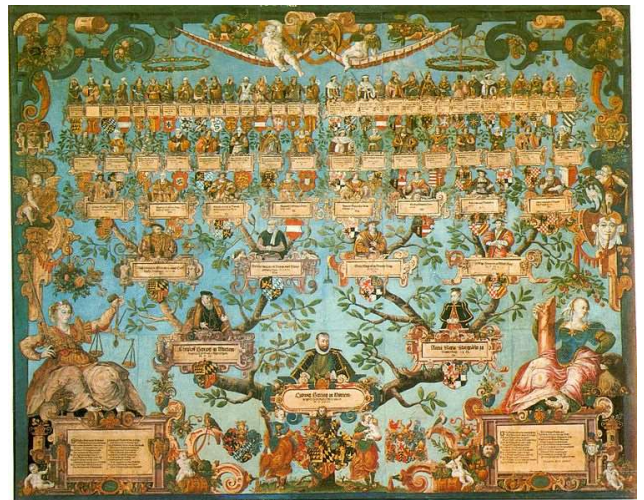


• Starting Out in Genealogy •

I've seen a lot of TV shows about people finding their family's ancestors and I want to do that too. Where do I start? Have you asked that question?

We have all started out at that point once in our lives. While it may seem daunting, it can be rewarding and a lot of fun to find out more about your ancestors. You may be the first person in your family to research your family tree. What a gift this will be to future generations that follow you. So where do you start?

Unofficial rule number one: Remember to take small steps and don't try and run a marathon when you first start. What does that mean? Start with small goals. Work



on one family at a time. Don't try to pencil in ten or more generations so that you can connect yourself to a Royal or someone famous as you start out. Those things are lots fun to find along the way.

Unofficial rule number two: Don't believe everything someone else has put on their tree. Even trees that have supporting sources can be wrong. Sometimes, a census or vital record can be attributed to the wrong person with a similar name.

I remember seeing a first cousin's tree online. She had posted that our great grandmother had been born in Bavaria when in fact she had been born in a small rural town in Minnesota. She hadn't been married twice, but had married seven different men.

What should I think about doing right away? You might consider preserving the memories of the oldest generation that is still living. Has anyone interviewed them to see what they remember about family in their generation and older? It is no secret that as we age, precious memories fade. Are there any records or photos that they are willing to share?

FamilySearch has a couple of wonderful resources if you plan to interview a family member. You can find them here:

- ✓ 'Creating A Personal History' contains a list of about 1800 questions to about family members about your family history at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Creating_A_Personal_History
- ✓ 'Creative Oral Histories' outlines what you should consider before sitting down to interview a family member. It can be found at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Creating_Oral_Histories

What should I do first? Record the facts you already know. Write down all the ancestors you know two or three generations back. Next record the descendants from each of those ancestors. From those living descendants there might be some that would be willing to share their family stories, documents or photos. Not everyone in a family treasures records or ephemera as a genealogist would. eBay and swap meets are full of vintage family photos and documents that were discarded when an estate was settled.

You should try using a pedigree chart as you write in the names of your ancestors. The number of family members you add multiples exponentially as you go back each generation. If you start out with just your parents and then write in the names of your grandparents and great-grandparents, you will have added 14 people to your tree. If you go back a few more generations to your fourth great-grandparents you will find 126 ancestors on your pedigree chart. Then imagine finding their birth dates, marriages, and children as another step.

Why is a pedigree chart important? A pedigree chart helps you keep track of the family you are researching. It helps also you focus your search. You might consider working on one family or one generation at a time. Note the sources used in your research so you don't cover the same ground twice. All of us have come across conflicting information. If you note your source information, it will be easier to sort out which record is correct later on.

Where do I get these forms?

The National Archives has blank forms to help you write down what you find as you do your research. They can be found at: <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>

They are:

- ✓ Ancestral Chart
- ✓ Family Group Sheet
- ✓ Federal Census Forms
- ✓ Immigration Forms
- ✓ Military Forms and more

Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and FamilyTreeMagazine.com also have great forms you can download online.

You can find many free records online at FamilySearch.org (4.4 billion records). Subscription services like Ancestry.com (20 billion records) and MyHeritage.com (8.8 billion records) are well worth the investment.

Keep organized, keep organized, and keep organized. Whether you are a paper person or electronic person, you should label files, create a file folder hierarchy and develop a naming system to saving e-files so they are easy to find later.

What else can I do? Attend local genealogy society meetings. There is a wealth of knowledge to be shared. You never know when a casual conversation might produce a lead to where records can be found. Speaker topics can vary throughout the year and you can broaden your knowledge about genealogy, and historical events. Attend a local genealogy conference and watch webinars on your computer or tablet.

Gather the records you may already have. Look for these records:

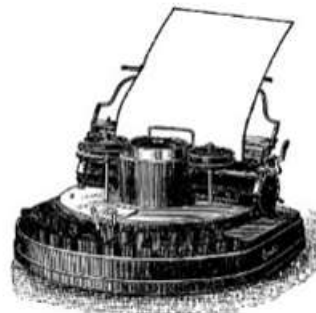
- ✓ Family group sheets or pedigree charts
- ✓ Family Bibles
- ✓ Journals, diaries, and letters
- ✓ Photographs
- ✓ Obituaries and newspaper clippings
- ✓ Birth, marriage, and death certificates



Congratulations on taking this first step on a wonderful journey of discovery.

• Blogs and Articles to Read This Month •

- ✓ Ancestry Blog: 'Ancestry Launches a New Take on Genetic Traits' <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/>
- ✓ FamilySearch Blog: 'Connecting with Your Swedish Ancestry' <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/swedish-ancestry/>
- ✓ Lisa Louise Cooke Blog: 'New Genealogy Records online: WWI U.S. Records & More' <https://lisalouisecooke.com/2018/10/29/wwi-records-online-familysearch/>



• Learning Opportunities •

Family Tree Webinars

December 12 – ‘101 Ways to Design a Genealogy Chart’ by Janet Hovorka

December 14 – ‘Citations for Beginners’ by Shellee Morehead

December 19 – ‘That Splendid Little War: Research Your Spanish American War Ancestors’
by Michael L. Strauss

For more information: <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

Conferences and Seminars

- ✓ RootsTech 2019: February 27 – March 2, 2019, Salt Lake City, Utah

<https://www.rootstech.org/>

- ✓ Genealogy Jamboree 2019: May 30 – June 2, 2019, Burbank, California

<http://genealogyjamboree.com/>

Please note: The Orange County FamilySearch Library will be closed December 17 – January 1 for the holidays.

Whittier Area Genealogical Society, 36th Annual Seminar presents John Philip Colletta.

Saturday, January 26, 2019 in Whittier. Sessions include:

- ✓ ‘Our National Archives: The Astounding Institution and How to Use It’
- ✓ ‘Using Original and Derivative Sources: How to Evaluate Evidence’
- ✓ ‘Discovering Your Ancestors’ World Through Maps and Gazetteers’
- ✓ ‘Hacks and Hookers and Putting up Pickles: Snares of Yesteryear’s English’

For more information see: <https://wagswhittier.org/cpage.php?pt=7>

Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter: On November 20, 2018 Dick Eastman posted an interesting article entitled ‘Civil War Facial Recognition’. In his blog he writes about a free website called Civil War Photo Sleuth. This is definitely worth a read and can be found at <https://blog.eogn.com/2018/11/20/civil-war-facial-recognition/#more-25654>

Welcome to our newest QHGS member Barbara Adams!

Please take a moment to say hello to her at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Cynthia Day-Elliott

At the November meeting there were 28 members and 1 guest in attendance.

REFRESHMENT REPORT by Sandy Hollandsworth

There will be a potluck at the December meeting.

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name _____
 Spouse's Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip+4 _____
 Phone () _____
 E-Mail Address _____

Member Type:

Individual (\$30)	\$ _____
Family (\$45)	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
Total Paid	\$ _____

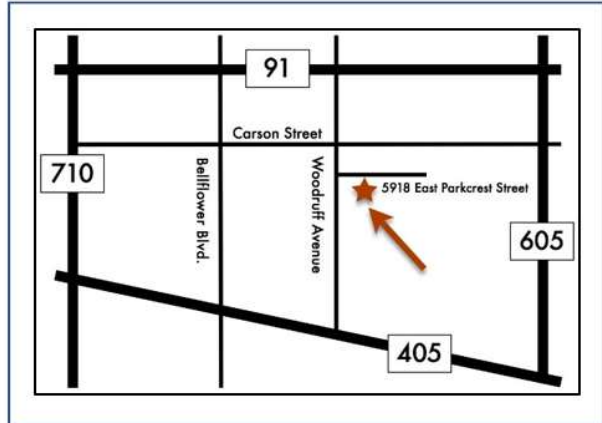
The membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st.

Please take a few minutes to list/update your surname research and location preferences so our Program Chairman can engage speakers who will interest you.

Also, the information will be printed in the directory.

Surnames you are researching: _____

Areas of your research (countries/states/counties): _____



Lakewood Masonic Center Hall • 5918 E. Parkcrest Street • Long Beach, CA

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board of Directors

- President.....Sandy McDonald.....(2018)
- 1st Vice President – Programs.....Terry Hamilton ... (2018-2019)
- 2nd Vice President – Membership.....Cynthia Day-Elliott (2017-2018)
- Secretary.....Christina McKillip (2018-2019)
- Treasurer.....Christine Elia(2018-2019)
- Director at Large – Publicity.....Glenn Haas(2017-2018)
- Director at Large – Member LiaisonCathy Rokicki (2017-2018)
- Director at Large - Program Assistant ..Vacant.....(2018-2019)

QHGS Volunteer Positions

- Digital Archivist.....Vacant
- Research/Historian/HospitalityTina Yanis
- Newsletter EditorJanice Miller
- Refreshments.....Sandy Hollandsworth
- Social Media/Facebook CoordinatorLaurie Angel
- WebmasterVacant

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This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of Questing Heirs; it is not meant to be sold.

In order to receive the monthly newsletter, one must be enrolled as a member of the Society.

To join, please contact Membership Chair Cynthia Day-Elliott

at (562)427-9663

The newsletter has been published since 1969 by Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc. Submissions, including queries, corrections, or any questions regarding the newsletter should be sent to: Janice Miller, QHGS, P.O. Box 15102, Long Beach, CA 90815-0102, or emailed to questingheirs@gmail.com. We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published, but will gladly print corrections. Newsletter illustrations: QHGS logo designed by Mike Powers. Photograph on page 75 from Janice Miller. All other illustrations are in the public domain and come from New York Public Library, Library of Congress, Wikimedia Commons, Dover Royalty Free Clip Art or as sited.