

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGY SOCIETY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY QHGS MEETING
Sunday, January 20, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

Beginning in January 2019, our meetings
will begin at 1:00 p.m.

**Hal Horrocks is returning
to QHGS
as our January Speaker**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 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.qhgs.info/>

or on Facebook:

<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.

IN THIS ISSUE

QHGS Information..... 1
 Meeting Agenda..... 1
 About Our January Speaker.....2
 QHGS President's Message.....2
 Genealogical Evidence3
 Dating Family Photographs.....4
 More About Cabinet Cards.....5
 Atlas of Historical County Boundaries Project.....5
 What is Soundex?.....6
 Learning Opportunities.....6
 Blogs and Articles to Read this Month.....7
 QHGS Board and Volunteers.....8
 Newsletter Sources & Meeting Map.....8

• THANK YOU •

We want to sincerely thank everyone who has made a donation to Questing Heirs in 2018. Your generosity and support make such a difference and helps us to provide great educational programs and speakers throughout the year.

• January Speaker – Hal Horrocks •



Hal Horrocks is a native of Long Beach and a 46-year Orange County resident currently living in Costa Mesa. Hal Horrocks is a professional genealogist, teacher, author, and lecturer and has been doing family research for 21 years. He is a member of several professional genealogical associations and is a past-president of the Orange County California Genealogical Society (OCCGS) headquartered at the Huntington Beach Central Library. Hal owns his own small manufacturing company located in La Habra and is a graduate of CSULB. He has been lecturing to genealogical and other societies for the last 13 years on a range of subjects that include why people get involved in genealogy to conducting research in early England.

Mr. Horrocks will be joining us for our January meeting with two new lectures for Questing Heirs. We are certain to hear some interesting and new information from this well-known speaker.

• President's Message •

Happy New Year!

Hope you had a little time during this busy holiday season for some genealogy research. If not, now is the time!

I look forward to serving as your president for the next two years. Our society only works with dedicated volunteers. I want to thank those of you listed in this newsletter who have stepped forward. We can always use help. Let any of us know if you are interested in helping out.

Sometime in October our incoming mail at the post office box was being returned to senders. Apparently, the post office put a block on the wrong box as our rental fee had been paid in the summer and was up to date. I have straightened out the problem but I wanted to apologize for any inconvenience to our members.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas or suggestions, please let me know. You can find my contact information in the member directory.

Christina "Tina" McKillip

• What is your New Year's resolution? •



One of my resolutions this year is to remember to access all available databases. If you can't find a fact, person or burial in the usual databases you visit, try another one. Recently I was trying to reverse engineer a family tree for a DNA match. I couldn't find anything in my 'go to' newspaper subscription site for obituaries. I went on to find it in my first search attempt in another subscription database I don't often use.

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• Genealogical Evidence – Is Yours Enough? •

TYPES OF INFORMATION:

In order to understand types of evidence, we must also understand types of information. This will help us determine how much merit we give to the evidence we find. Is the information coming from a primary source? Was it someone who was a knowledgeable observer of the event? For example, was it the mother or father of the child listed on a birth certificate?

Was it a secondary source? This is usually something recorded after the event. This would be a person who was not actually a participant in the event. They did not witness the event but may be reporting on it at a later date. Birth information recorded by a census taker is secondary information. Secondary information could also be a delayed birth certificate or portions of a death certificate. The reporting person may have witnessed the death, but may not have known the parents of the deceased.

TYPES OF EVIDENCE:

There are three kinds of evidence: direct, indirect and negative. Examples of direct evidence can be a birth certificate, marriage certificate, portions of a death certificate, ship passenger lists, immigration records, and church registers of christenings, marriages and deaths. These are generally recorded at the time of the event.

Examples of indirect evidence can be copies, transcriptions or abstracts of original records. Newspaper obituaries, published genealogies and articles written by a journalist about an event based on what people told them would also be classified as indirect evidence. Portions of a death certificate and delayed birth records are also examples.

What is negative (or the absence of evidence)? The concept behind negative evidence is that you must determine what you are missing and why. Let's take the case of Mabel Chalberg who was born in 1889 in Minnesota and appears to vanish in official records after 1910.

- In the 1900 census she is living in Salem, South Dakota.
- She appears next in South Dakota in 1905, and the census states that she moved there about 1893.
- In 1907 her local newspaper said she was visiting Minneapolis, MN but did not mention that she gave birth to a child.
- In the 1910 census she was listed as a boarder in New Orleans and working as a seamstress.

Does someone's absence from a census mean that they are dead? Is this a clue? Or did they move or were they not enumerated? If you look at probate records and cannot find one, is this a sign they didn't live there? It might just mean that they did not have enough property to probate. If we can't find them in these big records, what does that mean? Negative evidence is just as important as the positive. As a genealogist it helps you develop theories and to direct your research.

If you narrow your search to a census, there can be a lot of options as to why a person does not appear in the next census. Those reasons could include death, moved, changed their surname, poor indexing, not indexed, not enumerated, etc. Each of these reasons requires a different approach to overcome.

You can review vital records, do a page by page search, find addresses, or launch a broader search. You can also reach out to living family to see if they have any information. DNA testing is another valuable tool to locate ancestors.

In the case of Mabel what can be done? If she stayed in Louisiana, what records are online? What records are only found in Louisiana and must be checked on the ground? Did she move back to South Dakota where her family was after 1910? It doesn't look like she did. Her grandparents and father in South Dakota were deceased. Her mother had remarried and started a new family. Did she return to Minnesota where she had extended family? Did she marry after 1910 or did she die?

Determine the types of records you are able to access and which ones are the best to search for the target person. Write up a research plan. Make notations of your findings and citations of the records you access as you go. These are the first steps to conduct a reasonably exhaustive search.

• Dating Family Photographs •

During the next half year, we plan to publish different family photos and also learn a bit about history of different time periods.

- ✓ What can you learn from the photographer information at the bottom of the card?
- ✓ What can the clothing or hair style tell you about the time period?
- ✓ Details about this family and the location of the photo will be published in the February newsletter.

This photo was taken in Britton, Dakota. Was this portrait taken between 1895-1899, 1900-1904, 1905-1910 or 1911-1915?



Study this photo before the next meeting and see if you can figure out the time period it was taken. At our January meeting, members may submit one guess as to the time period.

One lucky member will receive a Starbuck's gift card donated by the Janice Miller. The drawing will be made from the correct answers submitted. Please see Janice or Craig at the back table before the meeting or during the break to submit your guess.

A great online article to read this month on Family Tree Magazine is 'Rules for Identifying Photographs: Study the Photo First'. It can be found at https://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/news-blogs/photo_detective/rules-identifying-photographs-1/

• More About Cabinet Cards •

Cabinet Cards were a style of photograph that were mounted on card stock. They usually measured 4-¼ by 6-½ inches. They were easily seen from across the room and were often displayed on a cabinet. The photographer's logo at the bottom of the cabinet card or on the back can provide valuable information. The location is usually printed alongside the name of the photography studio. The chart below shows general dates as to the style of the imprints on the front of the photographs. Depending on which publication you read, the dates will vary slightly.

Letter Imprint Styles

1870-1883Small plain text
 1883-1900Cursive & larger text
 1889-1894Centered monogram
 1890-1900Foil stamped text
 1894-1900Embossed text & artwork

Where Can I Find Out More?

There are many sites on the web where you might find the years that the studio was in business at a particular address. Check the web link below for detailed information about the first Photographer 'Rider' shown to the right from Chicago, Illinois.

<https://www.langdonroad.com/rh-to-ri>

You can try a Google search for the photographer's name and address or check historical city directories on Ancestry.

A few examples of Cabinet Card lettering are shown to the right



• Atlas of Historical County Boundaries Project • • The Newberry Library •

The Newberry Library in Chicago hosts the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries. It is a project of the William M. School Center for American History and Culture. It presents maps in the context of changes by date in the size, location and shape of every county in the United States.

The Atlas is organized by state. It covers every date as early as the 1600s and ending in the year 2000. This is a great tool for genealogists and helpful in finding historical records when county boundaries have changed.

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You can go to a state's detail page for links to view county chronologies. A few examples of what is available include:

- ✓ View Interactive map
- ✓ View index of counties and equivalents
- ✓ View consolidated chronology of state and county boundaries
- ✓ View individual county chronologies

Take a moment and try out this wonderful website at <https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>

• What is Soundex and How Does It Work? •

Soundex is the name given to a system for coding and indexing family names based on the phonetic spelling of the name. It was developed and patented in 1918 and 1922 by Robert C. Russell and Margaret King Odell. It uses an algorithm that codes and indexes names based on the phonetic spelling of the name.

The code consists of the first letter of the family name, followed by 3 digits representing the first three phonetic sounds found in the name. Vowels are not encoded unless they are the first letter of the name. There is an interesting article on the site 'Genealogy in Time' that explains the details of Soundex including the coding rules, exceptions and coding limitations.

For the complete article please follow this link:

http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/what_is_soundex_and_how_does_soundex_work_page1.html

I have been researching the birth family of a woman born in the late 1800s. In various records, the name has been reported as Corcoran and Cochrane. In a Soundex search, the last names would be coded C626 and C265 respectively.

For a list of online Soundex converter programs recommended by FamilySearch, follow this link:

<https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Soundex>

• Learning Opportunities •

Family Tree Webinars

January 15 – 'Visualizing Information for Genealogists' by Margaret R. Fortier.

January 25 – 'Patriot or Not? Using the Genealogical Proof Standard on a Closed DAR Line' by Elissa Scalise Powell.

January 30 – 'You Can Do This: Photo Organizing and Preservation' by Thomas McEntee.

February 5 & 6 – 'Six Feet Under Down Under – Cemetery Records in Australia' by Jill Ball.

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

FamilySearch Webinars

January 22 – ‘Tips and Tricks for Finding Elusive Records on FamilySearch’

January 29 – Research Help and Search Records on Family Tree’

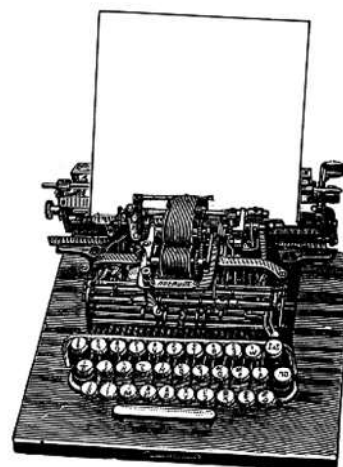
For more information: https://s3.amazonaws.com/ps-services-us-east-1-914248642252/s3/research-wiki-elasticsearch-prod-s3bucket/images/0/0d/1-Jan_2019.pdf

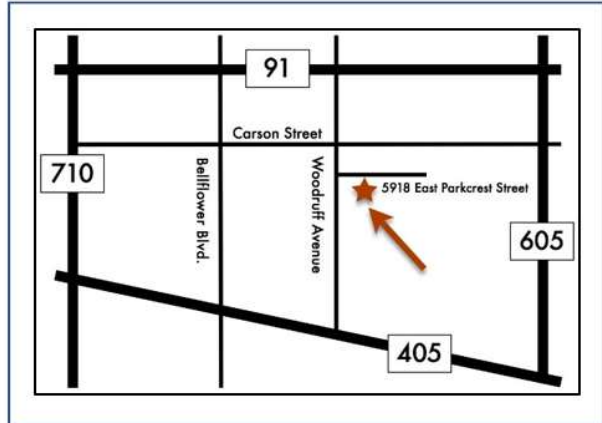
Conferences and Events

- ✓ 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/>
- ✓ 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>
- ✓ Orange County California Genealogical Society Genealogy Bash and Book Faire: March 9, 2019 in Huntington Beach. The event is entitled ‘A Day with Crista Cowan’. Four topics include:
 - DNA and Ancestry – How to Utilize It
 - Ancestry Search Tips and Tricks
 - Finding and Sharing the Stories in Your Family Tree
 - Introduction to the Genealogical Professional Standards
 For more information see: http://www.ocgs.com/mtg_event/bash/bash.html

Blogs and Articles to Read This Month

- ✓ Amy Johnson Crow Blog: ‘52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks’. Read about her 52 ancestors in 52 weeks challenge at: <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/52-ancestors-in-52-weeks/#more-3982>
- ✓ Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter: ‘How to Easily Convert Old Cassette Tapes to Modern MP3Files’. <https://blog.eogn.com/2019/01/04/how-to-easily-convert-old-cassette-tapes-to-modern-mp3-files/#more-26397>
- ✓ Lisa Louise Cooke’s Blog: ‘Military Ephemera Treasures Online’. <https://lisalouisecooke.com/2019/01/02/military-ephemera-online/>
- ✓ Genealogy Bank Blog by Gena Philibert-Ortega: ‘Happy New Year! Let’s Start Again in 2019!’ <https://blog.genealogybank.com/happy-new-year-lets-start-again-in-2019.html>





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Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board of Directors

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QHGS Volunteer Positions

- Digital Archivist.....Vacant
- Research/Historian.....Tina Yanis
- RefreshmentsSandy Hollandsworth
- Social Media/Facebook Coordinator.....Laurie Angel
- Webmaster.....John McCoy

Submissions for the February 2019 Newsletter
 Must be received by January 25, 2019

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 2 from Hal Horrocks, page 4 from the collection of Sandy McDonald and images on page 5 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.

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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