

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/>

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

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

MAY QHGS MEETING

Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Our May Speaker is Christine Elia

'Genealogy Software: Useful Features to Make Your (Genealogy) Life Easier'
and
'What Are GEDCOM Files and Why Do I Need to Know About Them'

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• MAY QUOTE •

'If we knew what it was we were doing,
it would not be called research, would it?'

- attributed to Albert Einstein.

• Our Speaker – Christine Elia •

Christine Elia retired as a programmer analyst in the aerospace field and IT department of a school district. She became interested in genealogy about 25 years ago when one of her kids had a school assignment to interview the oldest relatives they knew. At the end of the project, she was shown the finished assignment and was amazed at what she hadn't known about her parents and in-laws. She held onto the report and it became the first "round" of collecting information.

Since then, she has located and visited distant relatives her immediate family had never heard about, traveled to her ancestral villages and met more relatives, and exchanged information with them. To date, she has been to Poland, Italy, Greece, Lithuania, and Denmark to see relatives. Along the way, she has collected old letters written by relatives to each other, brought home tile pieces from her grandmother's kitchen, a brick from a textile mill, milk bottles (her dad was a Carnation milkman), a window frame from a Polish barn (really! -- it is soon to be a picture frame), and ethnic music records. Of course, many cemeteries have been photographed as well as the homes where relatives once lived. She has also become the family archivist since she seems to end up with boxes and suitcases full of photos and papers after elders die.

Besides researching her own family and that of her husband, she is interested in immigration history from any country to any other country and has collected 100s of books on this topic. She also is working on a chain migration project for the Polish towns two of her grandparents came from.

'Genealogy Software: Useful Features to Make Your (Genealogy) Life Easier'

This presentation will show you various features of genealogy software you probably aren't aware of and how to find out which programs have which features. Using three different programs as examples (Legacy, RootsMagic and Gramps), we will explore features that can help us organize our data, display it in various ways, and find out what data we are missing. There will be time for audience questions so bring your software questions with you and let's see if we can answer them.

'What Are GEDCOM Files and Why Do I Need to Know About Them'

If you will ever want to share your data (or part of it), change to a different software program, or upload some of your data to a DNA matching website, you will want to know about GEDCOM files. GEDCOM is the standard format used by genealogists and software developers for exporting and importing data into genealogy software. We will also see how data from one software program can be imported into another program and why some of the data can be lost along the way. Without understanding what may be lost, you could lose some bits and bytes of your long-sought data!



• Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Group Photo •

It has been several years since we took a Questing Heirs group photo. At the May meeting we would like to take a group photo during the break. A photo of the QHGS Board will also be taken.

We hope that you will join in the fun as the photographer tries to get us to look in the same direction and say 'cheese' at the same time. If you are camera shy, please know that participating in the photo is voluntary. We may use the photo on our updated website or another QHGS publication.

• QHGS President's Message •

Spring is here and the warmer weather brings ideas of Spring cleaning. Better yet - Spring cleaning of our genealogy clutter.

The general focus these days seems to be on scanning everything into our computers or even our cell phones. What will you do with the originals? Will you throw out items that can't be duplicated? I'm having a hard time with this one. On the other hand, will someone take over our collection of documents or memorabilia and/or even care about keeping these items?

Part of the attraction of online trees (whichever site you use) is that these scanned items can be uploaded to our tree. Hopefully they will remain there for longer than our lifetime. The bonus is that you are sharing with others who are likely distant family members. Most of them you may not have ever made contact with before the internet. Sometimes paying it forward brings something else back to us in the same way.

Remember that we are taking a group photo at our next meeting during our break.

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

• The Best Laid Plans and BSOs •

On a rainy Sunday about six months ago, I remember trying to track a great grandmother between the years 1900 and 1910. I found her in a news article that reported she was traveling to see relatives in another state. In truth, she was giving birth to a child at the age of 17. In the next news article, she was working at a hotel in Minneapolis. Instead of continuing to look at valid source records, I remember thinking – what was the hotel like? I did a couple of Google searches on the hotel. I found that it burned down. I had to find out why the hotel burned down. That wouldn't take long, would it?

I looked at historical photos of the area during that time on Pinterest. While on Pinterest, a new quilt pattern caught my eye and I pinned it to another folder. More than an hour later, I was happily paying for a purchase on eBay for a vintage postcard of that hotel in Minnesota. I'd had fun in that hour, but was I closer to finding Mabel? No. Have you ever become distracted while doing research? Maybe you found a new family member and wanted to find out as much as you could right away.

As I sat in a session at RootsTech this past February with Thomas MacEntee, I had an epiphany. I was not the only person distracted by 'BSOs'. How had I never heard this term before? But judging by the laughter in the audience, it appears to be a common phenomenon among genealogists. I am one of many who can easily be distracted by **B**right **S**hiny **O**bjects while doing genealogy research.

The Urban Dictionary defines 'shiny object' as 'The distracting item, person, or activity that keeps you from doing what you should be doing.*' In business, the Shiny Object Syndrome is characterized by beginning a new project at the detriment of another project that you are already working on, because the new project offers some level of instant gratification.

It is human nature to want to delve into new discoveries as you research an ancestor. Try to stay focused on your original research plan. It might help to write down that plan. You also might write down your target source

records. When you find a BSO, add it to your to do list so that you don't forget about it. Do not start off on a tangent and forget your initial focus.

• Some Thoughts to Keep You on Track •

1. Create a research plan. It can be an informal plan – even a few sentences.
2. Schedule breaks in your research time. Taking a break often spurs creative thinking and can refresh your approach to a problem.
3. If you stay organized, it can help you stay focused. How you stay organized is a personal choice. You may prefer a pen and paper, a Microsoft Word document, a list in Microsoft Excel or a program like Evernote.
4. Don't ever say that you will get back to something and hope to remember it or put it on a scrap of paper. Always put it on a list. Once you put it on a list, you can forget about it until you come back to it.
5. Don't ever say that you will get back to something and hope to remember it or put it on a scrap of paper. Always put it on a list. Once you put it on a list, you can forget about it until you come back to it.
6. Schedule time dedicated to following up on the BSOs you found on another day. A few days later, these random thoughts may not even interest you. Your notes and lists will help you sort out which items are BSOs and what information needs attention later.



In that hour session with Thomas MacEntee I took away that 'A good to do list is your first line of defense against BSOs'. Conversely if you want to have a carefree day following bright shiny objects along the way, do so. It is all about the journey.

* Retrieved from <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Shiny%20Object>.

• What Kind of Genealogist Are You? •

This month, I came across an article written in 2017, that described the many characteristics of genealogists. The title is 'Are You a Genealogist or a Family Historian?'. The author describes genealogist's behavior as it relates to their research methods. I enjoyed reading this article and we can all relate to one or more of the genealogist types she defines. Which ones describe you? What about your genealogy friends? Can you see them in any of these categories?

Here are just a few of her genealogist categories:

- 'The Bright Shiny Object Researcher'
- 'The Colour-Coder'
- 'The Die-Hard Family Historian'
- 'The Name Collector'
- 'The Floor-Pile Researcher'
- 'The DNA Tester'

To read the full article please see: <https://www.lonetester.com/2017/03/are-you-a-genealogist-or-a-family-historian/>

• QHGS 50th Anniversary in July •

The 50th anniversary of the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society is right around the corner. The 50th committee has planned a great 50th celebration. We are looking forward to great food provided by members of the QHGS Board and the 50th Anniversary Committee and some amazing raffle items. Proceeds from this event will help support our speakers and other activities. Help us make this a great success!

• Mother's Day •



In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Monday in May. Celebrations of mothers go back as far as ancient Greeks and Romans. In modern times, Anna Jarvis created Mother's Day in honor of her mother who died in 1905. In 1907 Anna organized the first Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in West Virginia with the hope of recognizing the important role mothers play in the family and community. In 1912 Ann Jarvis trademarked 'Mother's Day' and 'Second Sunday in May'.

In 1914 the U.S. Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first national Mother's Day and encouraged citizens to display the United State flag 'as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country'.

There is so much more about this day than we can publish in the newsletter. I would encourage you to read an interesting article at <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>

• This Month's Cup of Coffee Question •

In the Mother's Day segment this page is a photograph of four generations of a family. Sandy McDonald shared this portrait from her collection. The great grandmother sitting on the left was born in Vermont in 1827. By the 1900 census she was living in South Dakota.



Using what you learned about cabinet cards from past newsletters and other articles you've read, when do you think this photograph was taken? Your choices are: 1890-1895, 1896-1900, or 1901-1905. One lucky member will receive a Sees gift card donated by Janice Miller. The drawing will be made from the correct answers submitted. Check for the box on the front table at our next meeting and submit your guess to our May question.

REFRESHMENT REPORT by Sandy Hollandsworth

May hosts are: Sandy McDonald, Sue Tisdall, Frances Liebrezeit and Jerry Hardison

TREASURER QUARTERLY REPORT January-March 2019 by Christine Elia

Income: \$862.95

Expenses: \$960.31

F&M Checking Balance is \$4,450.52 of which \$734.006 is restricted to educational expenses. We withdrew \$10,000 from the F&M CD leaving \$11,063.10 in it at an interest rate of 0.25%. The withdrawal was put into a Money Market account at Fidelity with an interest rate just over 2%.

Thank you to those who did their Christmas shopping on Amazon using the link on our website. We received just under \$80 from them during the first quarter. Every bit helps!

• Learning Opportunities •

• Family Tree Webinars •

May 15 – ‘The 10 Most Useful Databases for Eastern European Research’ with Lisa Alzo.

May 24 – ‘Compiling a Military Service Record’ with Craig R. Scott.

May 29 – ‘Tools for Translating and Transcribing Records’ with Thomas MacEntee.

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

• FamilySearch Webinars •

May 6 – ‘Are You Your Own Brick Wall?’

May 7 – ‘Attaching Sources to Family Tree’

May 21 – ‘Merging and Correcting Relationships on Family Tree’

For more information: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

• Southern California Genealogical Society Webinar •

May 15 – ‘The Marriage of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Opening of the Midwest’ with Annette Burke Lyttle.

For more information: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>

• Conferences and Events •

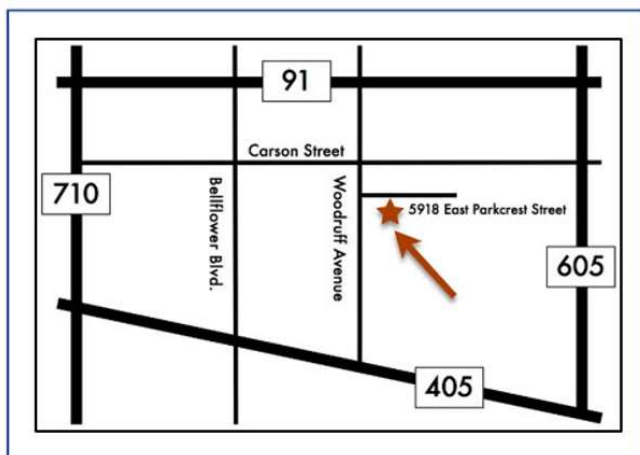
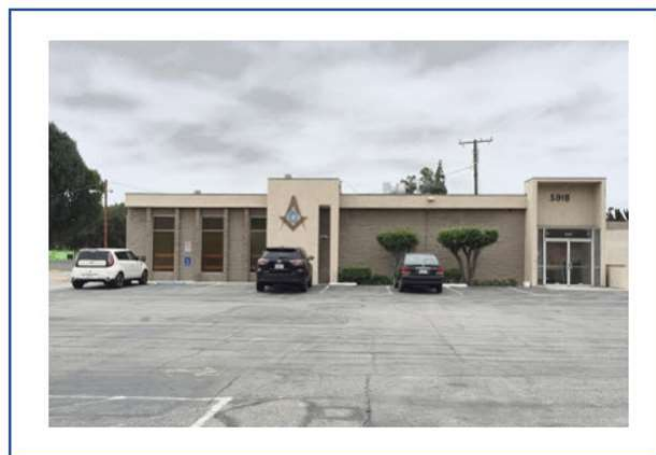
- ✓ Genealogy Jamboree 2019: May 30 – June 2, 2019, Burbank, California <http://genealogyjamboree.com/>
For more information see: <https://wagswhittier.org/cpage.php?pt=7>
- ✓ Genealogical Society of North Orange County: A special one day genealogy seminar with Dr. Thomas W. Jones on August 3, 2019. His four presentations are:
 - ‘Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was (Some Reliable and Others Not Reliable)’
 - ‘Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor’
 - ‘The Jones Jinx: Tracing Common Surnames’
 - ‘Solutions for Missing and Scarce Sources’For more information see <http://www.gsnocc.org/seminar.html>
- ✓ Orange County FamilySearch Library Family History Expo: Save this date on your calendar - Saturday, October 12, 2019. More information see <http://www.ocfamilyhistory.org/VWebsite/index.html>
- ✓ Orange County California Genealogical Society: Save the date, Saturday, March 7, 2020 for ‘A Day with Paul Woodbury’. Details will be available in December 2019 at www.occg.com

• Blog Articles to Read This Month •

- ✓ Are You My Cousin blog by Lisa Lisson: ‘Where to Find Free Genealogy Courses It’s Easier Than You Think!’ <https://lialisson.com/2019/03/24/free-genealogy-courses/>
- ✓ Family History Daily blog: ‘How a Family Group Sheet Could Become Your Secret Research Weapon’ <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/family-group-sheet/>

• Podcasts •

- ✓ Genealogy Gems Episode 228: Hear from Crista Cowan, Michael Strauss, and Joy Neighbors and other topics at <http://genealogygemspodcast.com/genealogy-gems-podcast-episode-228>.
- ✓ Extreme Genes Episode 276: Name and family changes with DNA test results, natural disasters and the loss of family photos at <https://extremegenes.com/2019/03/31/episode-276-name-and-family-changes-with-dna-test-results-natural-disasters-the-loss-of-family-photos/>.



Lakewood Masonic Center • 5918 Parkcrest Street Long Beach, CA

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Director – Newsletter	Janice Miller.....	(2019-2020)
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Past President	Sandy McDonald.....	(2019-2020)

QHGS Volunteer Positions

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

Submissions for the June 2019 Newsletter
Must be received by noon on May 22, 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 35 courtesy of Sandy McDonald. 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