

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

QHGS
50th Anniversary Celebration

The next QHGS meeting is
Sunday July 21, 2019 at 1:00 pm

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/](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.

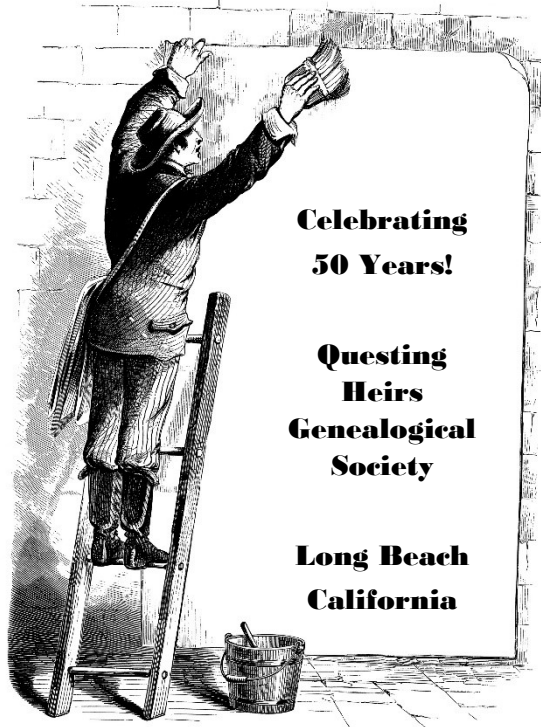
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• JULY QUOTE •

'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main....'

– John Donne



• July Meeting •

You don't want to miss Questing Heirs 50th Anniversary celebration on July 21. The 50th Committee has been working hard since last September to make it a special event.

Besides some yummy food, there will be multiple raffle drawings for gift baskets which will include an Ancestry DNA kit, three different online subscriptions, four items with the QHGS logo plus some jewelry, etc.

Do you know the oldest locations of your maternal and paternal lines? Be ready to locate them on a map.

Proceeds from the raffle will help support our speakers and other activities so please plan to buy some tickets for these great raffle items. Come and help us make this a great success!

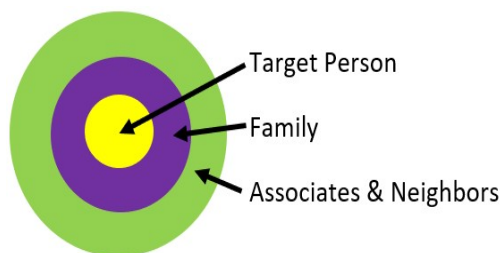


Questing Heirs Members
 Photograph taken at the May 2019 QHGS Meeting
 Photograph taken by Jeni Johnson

• Have You Found Your Ancestor's Fan Club? • Family, Associates and Neighbors

This past February we spent a week in Salt Lake City at Roots Tech. In many of the sessions, the speakers talked about the importance of identifying your ancestor's FAN club. What is a FAN club? Well known genealogist and author Elizabeth Shown Mills coined the genealogy phrase FAN club. This technique has also been referred to as 'cluster research' or 'collateral research'. Elizabeth points out the significance of not only searching records for an ancestor's surname, but also paying attention to documents within the ancestor's 'Fan Club'. This technique is very effective when you hit a brick wall in your research.

Who is in your FAN Club?



Family – In traditional research we might only look at our direct ancestors. You need to expand this group to brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, children and even step families.

Associates – Look at your target person's church, work and social organizations. There might be records of these groups, or newspaper articles you can search. Often witnesses and informant names will be the breakthrough lead you need.

Neighbors – Our ancestors often migrated, worked and lived with the same group of neighbors. Marriages between neighbors was common so look at those who lived near your ancestor.

No man is an island. Your ancestors did not live in a cave without interacting with other people. They went to school, worked, had children, attended events with family and friends and much more.

Think outside the box. If you keep your focus narrowed to just direct ancestors you may miss important clues and patterns. For each type of relationship in the FAN Club, what type of record should you look for? By expanding your research to your FAN club, you might locate records you would not find with traditional direct line research.

Reasons why you should consider identifying your ancestor's FAN club:

- You are not able to identify the next generation back
- You are trying to trace a female, or adopted family member
- Someone's identity is not clear. If we find a lot of similarities between person 1 and person 2 does that mean they are the same individual? They may even have the exact same name. If you do not find any overlap, is that decisive evidence that they are different people or do you need to look further?

Names

Scrutinize all of the documents related to a family for alternate names. It was not unusual for a man to be referred to by his initials rather than his name. Or he might go by his middle name or nick name. One of my ancestors added an 's' to the end of his last name and then it did not appear in other records.

I spent a half year unraveling another a great-grandmother's story. She married more than seven times. In each record she used a different last name. Sometimes she used her first husband's name, sometimes her maiden name, and sometimes it was her most recent husband's name. Name changes due to marriage can be confusing.

An ancestor may have never gone by their given name. In one instance a family member when by Wes, James, James W, Willie, J.W., and George. I may know why he went by George.

There was another ancestor who seemed to have disappeared between census years. I started to look at other family members and found him staying with an aunt and uncle with a different last name in the same town as his parents. In the census record he was enumerated with his Uncle's last name, not his own.

I am working on an adoption case and narrowing my list of candidates for the birth mother. In various records the potential birth mother is shown as Isabella, Izabell, Esibell, and Belle.

There can be different reasons for all these name variations. It could be the person recording the data or it could be the ancestor used different names during different periods of their life. It could also be that an ancestor had a nefarious past and might have changed his/her name. I'm sure each of us has hit a brick wall and unraveling name variations, and location changes can be a bit puzzling.



PHOTOS

Someone in a photo like this might be the key to your brick wall. Use FAN research to solve your mystery.

Set Up a Plan

You should create a research plan centered around a specific question. This will help you concentrate on the mission and not be distracted by BSOs (bright shiny objects) or facts that do not relate to your issue.

Is X the father of my ancestor or is it man Y?

Are X and Y actually different people or are they the same person?

Sadly, we may never sort out what happened to an ancestor in their lifetime. Setting up a research plan using FAN research may be the only way to overcome a brick wall, whether it be big or small. Remember to take electronic notes. Create them in some sort of document that is searchable. You might prefer to use a spreadsheet like Excel. Or using Word might be more comfortable for you. Keep track of names, source records, locations and dates among other facts.

Have you searched these records yet?

- Birth, marriage and death records
- Cemeteries
- Censuses
- Church registers
- City directories
- Court cases
- Deeds
- Employment records
- Family bibles
- Grants and surveys
- Immigration records
- Grants and surveys
- Immigration records
- Land and property records and maps
- Letters and diaries
- Military records and claims
- Newspaper articles and obituaries
- Petitions
- Photographs
- Social Security records
- Tax rolls
- Wills and Probate

Final Thoughts

We can often find when an ancestor was born or died. But what happened in between those years? Did they go to school with someone? Are they on any court records? Did they buy property? Did someone sponsor them for Naturalization or was listed as their nearest relative in a border crossing document?

Identify who is part of our ancestor's FAN club? Start making a list and record how they interacted with the ancestor. In a publication on the FAN principle, Elizabeth Shown Mills proposes these questions as a starting point.

- What (or how) did they interact? Did they attend events together or were they witnesses on documents?
- When was the time period that they interacted?
- Where was it that these individuals crossed paths in their lives?
- Why were they together? Were they associated by business, as neighbors or were they close family?
- How often did you find these individuals appear in the same record? Was it a long-time occurrence or one time only?

Additional reading and case studies

Reading examples of FAN or cluster research can be very helpful. Here are two articles.

- 'The Genealogy FAN Club Principle Overcomes Genealogy Brick Walls' by Lisa Cooke
<https://lialouisecooke.com/2016/10/29/genealogy-fan-club/>
- 'Group Thinking: Cluster Research' by Emily Anne Croom
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/group-thinking/>

•QHGS President's Message •

Hope you enjoyed our Ice Cream Social and sharing of genealogy brick walls. It was nice to hear members asking for help, members with advice and brick wall solve stories.

This month we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our society. I remember Myrtelle (Molly) Wheeler Molyneaux, one of the founding members and first president of Questing Heirs who was still attending meetings when I joined in the early 1990's. I was new to genealogy and learned a lot listening to the various speakers and attending Molly's beginner classes. I enjoyed the fellowship too.

The anniversary committee has planned a great time. Join us in celebrating our roots as a society.

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

Chronicling America • Historical American Newspapers

Chronicling America provides access to select newspaper pages. The collection includes newspapers from the United States between 1789 and 1963. This site is sponsored by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

A feature of this website is that it has a link for 'US Newspaper Directory, 1692-Present'. For example, you can search for Long Beach, California and find that there were 20 newspapers published with details about each publication.

If you are interested in exploring this collection, please follow this link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

• Newsletter Survey •

At the June meeting a survey was given out to members so that we might publish articles that best suit your interests. Only eighteen people participated in the survey. If you did not get an opportunity to fill out one of the anonymous surveys please see Janice Miller at the next meeting for a copy of it. The larger the sampling group, the better the survey represents our group as a whole.

For the question 'How long have you been doing genealogy research?' the responses were:

11% Less than 5 years
 11% 5-10 years
 28% 10-20 years
 50% More than 20 years

For the question 'Would you consider yourself?' the responses were:

6% a beginner – I am just getting started
 63% an intermediate – I still have a few things to learn
 31% considered themselves advanced or experienced

• Learning Opportunities •

Family Tree Webinars

July 12 – 'DNA, Genealogy, and Privacy: Handling the Double-Edged Sword' by Thomas MacEntee

July 23 - 'Introducing the MyHeritage DNA Health and Ancestry Test' by MyHeritage Webinars

July 26 – 'Census Hurdles: How to Jump Over or Go Around' by Cari Taplin

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

Southern California Genealogical Society Webinars

July 17 – 'More Power: Genetic Genealogy Apps and Extensions' by Shannon S. Christmas

August 3- 'Successful Railroad Records Research in Today's World' by Paula Stuart-Warren

August 21 – 'How Do I Know That's My Ancestor?' by Amy John Crow

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

Conferences and Events

- ✓ Genealogical Society of North Orange County: A special one day genealogy seminar with Dr. Thomas W. Jones on August 3, 2019. For more information see <http://www.gsnocc.org/seminar.html>
- ✓ Southern California Genealogical Society's Open House on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Tour the SCGS Family Research Library, connect with Interest Group members, meet the Board of Directors, Officers and Librarians. Enjoy light refreshments and door prizes. Plus you can stay to enjoy Lunch and Learn lecture featuring Hal Bookbinder on naturalization. You must either RSVP by phone 818-843-7247 or email at events@scgsgenealogy.com. For more information see <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/>
- ✓ Orange County FamilySearch Library Family History Expo: Save this date on your calendar - Saturday, October 12, 2019. More information see <http://www.ocfamilyhistory.org/Website/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
- ✓ Ventura Count Genealogical Society: Two presentations by Gena Philibert-Ortega on Saturday, July 20, 2019. For more information see <https://www.venturacogensoc.org>

- ✓ South Orange County California Genealogical Society: Four presentations by Dr. Fritz Juengling on Saturday, October 19, 2019. For more information see: <http://www.socccgs.info/2019-Seminar-Flyer.pdf>

The Orange County FamilySearch Library will be closed the following days: Monday, July 15 to Saturday, July 27th.

- ✓ July 11 – 11 am 'Finding the Origins of Your German Ancestors' with Doug Ayer
- ✓ July 13 – 10 am Society of Hispanic & Historica' Ancestral Research 'My Journey to Malpaso, Zacatecas' with Mary Garcia

For class information see: <http://ocfamilyhistory.org/Website/calender.html>

FREE! JAMBOREE LIVE STREAMING REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Thanks to the generous underwriting by Ancestry, Jamboree Live Streaming is *free* to all subscribers.

SUBSCRIBERS HAVE ACCESS TO ALL 12 LIVE STREAMED PRESENTATIONS!

Can't watch it Live? Watch at your convenience through July 31, 2019.

Click here to register: <https://webcastandbeyond.com/streaming/jamboree/>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Cynthia Day-Elliott

At the June meeting there were 28 members in attendance.

• Books Donated to QHGS •

The following books were donated to the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society. If you are interested in either of these publications please send an email to our president Tina McKillip at questingheirs@gmail.com.

1. *An American Family and Its Ancestor Predecessors* by Vivian Higgins Morse. Families: Higgins and Hardy Families
2. *From Whence We Came. A Genealogy* by Carl C. Burdick, Sr. Families: Burdick, Clark and Other Allied Families

If you would like to make a small contribution to QHGS, it helps us to continue to provide great education programs to our group.

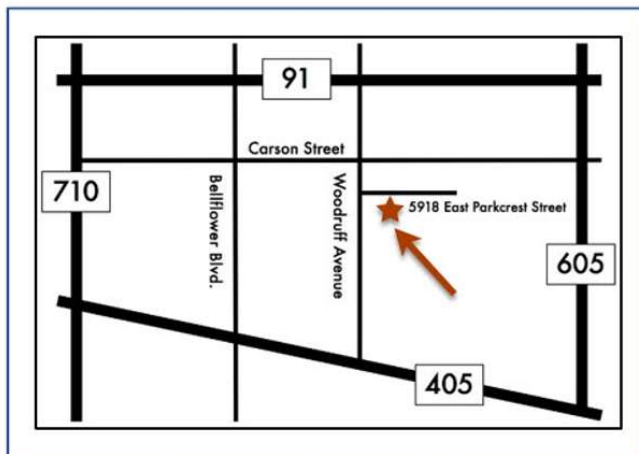
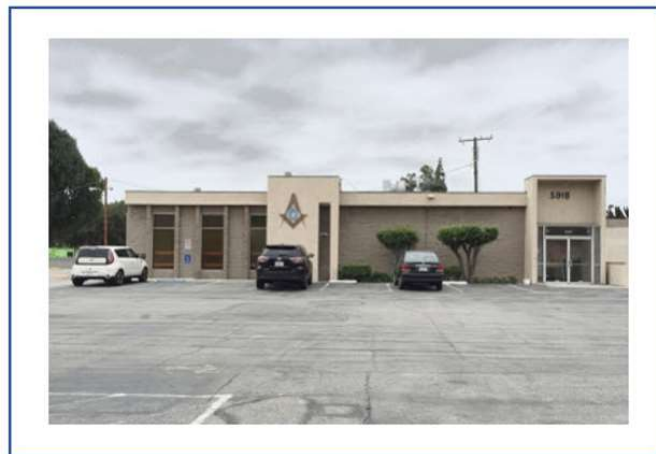


• 2019 QHGS Board •

Left to Right:

Jerry Hardison, Janice Miller, Terry Hamilton, Diana Transue, Sandy McDonald, Tina Yanis, Cynthia Day-Elliott, Christine Elia and Christina McKillip

Photograph taken by Jeni Johnson
at the May 2019 QHGS Meeting



Lakewood Masonic Center • 5918 Parkcrest Street Long Beach, CA

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board

- President..... Christina McKillip.....(2019-2020)
- 1st Vice President – Programs Terry Hamilton.....(2018-2019)
- 2nd Vice President – Membership..... Cynthia Day-Elliott.....(2019-2020)
- Secretary Diana Transue.....(2019)
- Treasurer Christine Elia(2018-2019)
- Director – Hospitality Tina Yanis(2019-2020)
- Director – Newsletter Janice Miller.....(2019-2020)
- Director– Publicity Jerry Hardison.....(2019)
- 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 August 2019 Newsletter
 Must be received by noon on July 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, graphic page 48 by Janice Miller and photo on page 49 from collection of 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