

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

• **Our November Speaker** •
Linda Serna

‘Hints for Maximizing Results Using Family Search’
‘Polonia: Polish Research’

Sunday November 17, 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/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.....	78
October Program.....	78
About Our Speaker.....	79
QHGS President’s Message.....	79
Scanning Your Ancestor Photos.....	80
Coffee Question.....	82
October Meeting Panelists.....	82
Nominees for QHGS Board.....	83
Did you Attend Any of These Events?.....	83
Refreshment and Membership Reports.....	83
Learning Opportunities.....	84
QHGS Membership Renewal.....	84
QHGS Membership Form.....	85
QHGS Board and Volunteers.....	86
Newsletter Sources & Meeting Map.....	86

• NOVEMBER QUOTE •

‘There is a fine line between a packrat and a serious family historian.’

-Genealogybank.com

• Our November Speaker is Linda Serna •

Biography—Linda Serna Posted on GSG Website

I have been involved with genealogy in researching and writing family stories for over 35 years. In addition, I was privileged to work as a genealogist for the first season of the PBS Genealogy Roadshow program. Currently, I am a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (past Treasurer for the Southern California group), Genealogical Speakers Guild, the Polish Genealogical Society, and the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America and am past Vice President of Programs for the Orange County California Genealogical Society. Over the last 10 years, I've written and given several presentations on various topics for different groups in California, New Mexico, Colorado and Michigan. I am always in the process of writing new presentations. My loves, in addition to public speaking, include history, writing, and traveling. I especially like seeing how individual family stories fit in and make up the fabric of history.



'Hints for Maximizing Results Using Family Search' talks about what's available on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) as well as on the Wiki. It then gives ideas on how to best use the site to achieve better results.

'Polonia: Polish Research' shows how understanding history, including migration and cultural patterns can lead to records. Dispels the myth that most records were lost and includes sources, examples, and other things to consider to be successful with this research.

•QHGS President's Message •

A big thank you to the SCCAPG panelists Jean Wilcox Hibben, Kimberlie Guerrieri and Cynthia Richardson for giving of their time (for free) to speak to our society in October. All three drove a long distance and we appreciate it very much.

We now have information on becoming a paid researcher and how the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (SCCAPG) can help. We also learned that we can use the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) site to contact and hire a professional genealogist for our own genealogy research.

As we near the end of the year, it is time for nominations. We really need to have someone take on the First Vice President position (Programs). Anyone interested in being Terry Hamilton's assistant to learn the job in hopes of taking it over? We need new members to join the board to help this society survive in this world of armchair genealogy.

Don't forget to send in your membership dues or bring to our November meeting.

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

Christina "Tina" McKillip

• Scanning Your Ancestor Photos •

Where are your family and ancestor photos? Are they neatly organized and digitized **OR** are they thrown in plastic containers waiting for when you might have some extra time to go through them?

Have you finally decided to tackle scanning your ancestor photographs? Where do you begin? In this article, I wanted to share a few things I learned as I went through our own ancestor and family photos and documents. You may choose to do things in a completely different way.

I'd scanned the occasional photo over the last decade. I had about 300 digital photos scanned on my computer at home. I decided five years ago to scan all my photos. In part, it was because I was putting together scrapbooks detailing family ancestry for holiday gifts for all of my family. I started this task one day in October. What was I thinking? I spent many the sleepless night worrying over this daunting task and thinking about large containers of photos and how to best preserve them.

TIP:

It is easy to put off scanning photos and documents. Reserve time on your calendar to scan several times a week. You will be much closer to your goal if you set up a schedule.

A few thoughts:

- ✓ Scanning photos and documents isn't a complicated task but it is time consuming. You'll find as you do more of it, it becomes easier and takes less time.
- ✓ It is okay if you don't scan everything. You probably took 36 photos of your son's first few birthday parties. Pick few of the best images that you want to remember and scan those.
- ✓ It is okay to purge photos from your collection. How about those five photos of a cactus that you took on vacation? Do you still need them? Probably not. Will your children want all your photos forty years from now? Don't assume they won't want them. Before you throw any original photos away, ask if there anyone in your family who might want them.

Get organized

Before you start pulling out boxes of loose photos, find a nice flat surface to sort your photos before scanning. Take a quick inventory of the what you want to scan. If you have a lot to do, divide it into sections. Save the digital photos in file folders by group so that they will be easier to find later. What makes sense? Organize by family, year or event.

Scanner settings

In most cases, you should scan your photos in color. This is true for sepia and black & white photos as well. Many sources will tell you that 600 DPI (dots per inch) is the best resolution for photos. You can save disk space by scanning at 300 DPI and that will probably be okay. But if you enlarge the photos later, they will not look as sharp as a 600 DPI image. Some people use the term PPI, meaning pixels per inch rather than DPI. I save my images as JPEG files.

What's in a (file) name?

Once you've scanned your photos and saved them to folders, will you be able to find them again? A good file name is crucial. It helps to organize large volumes of images and records and helps you find that them later. I have found that if I scan a few dozen photos at a time and then name them, it is more efficient. This may not work for you. You might prefer to scan and name the image before scanning the next image. There are many articles that suggest methods to name files.

Overall, try to be consistent. If you are consistent, your files will sort by person and by date. At the bare minimum, you should include name, date (yyyymmdd) and description. If you have a robust family tree, there may be ancestors with same name in different generations. If this is the case, you might want to also include the date of birth and middle initial. Here are some examples:

- ✓ Bush George HW b 1924 1924-6-12 birth certificate
- ✓ Bush George HW b 1924 1945-1-6 marriage certificate
- ✓ Bush George HW b 1924 1989 inauguration photo
- ✓ Bush George HW b 1924 2018-11-30 New York Times-obituary

If you are scanning family snapshots you may decide to go with a simpler naming convention.

Scanners

What do you use as a scanner? I had a dedicated Epson scanner several years ago. It was able to scan photographs, slides and negatives. After I had scanned all my slides and negatives that I wanted to convert, I switched to scanning everything on my all-in-one printer. This is my main scanner and I use it daily.

Auto feed or flatbed scanner

I never use the auto feed on my printer/scanner when scanning original documents. Even though it might take longer to use the glass flatbed to scan photos, auto feeders have been known to damage documents. That said, I know several people who only use the auto feed function.

Smartphones and other digital devices

What about smartphones, tablets and digital cameras? If you only have one chance to capture an image and don't have a scanner, by all means use a one of these. But remember that proper light and shadows can be a problem with this method. Try to make sure the photo is laying flat as you take a photo of it.

Flip Pal portable scanner

A few months ago, I finally bought in a Flip Pal scanner. It is battery-operated and its flatbed is 4" by 6". The scanner is small and a great tool to take with you as you visit family or do research away from home. If you happen to be visiting a relative and they show you ancestor photos but are not willing to loan them, you can quickly make you own high-quality digital copy in a matter of seconds.

The flat bed lid comes off and you can copy book pages or photos in vintage albums. You can see what you are scanning because it has a glass window on the back of the scanner. A lot of genealogists use the Flip Pal at home or while traveling.

What if your photo or document is larger than 4" x 6"? You can take a set of overlapping scans and 'stitch' them back together with software that comes with the Flip Pal. An example of stitching together multiple photos is shown below.

Take overlapping scans of larger photos



Then 'stitch' the photo back together in a matter of seconds.



Easy to use software to enhance your photos.

You can also buy the program called **Vivid-Pix Restore**. It can be used on any photos or documents that you have scanned. It can restore scanned prints, slides, documents and digital images in seconds. The results vary based on the original image. There are many other programs that you can use to enhance photos. This is just the one I use.

The portrait on the left is the original faded photo. The photo on the right has been enhanced with the software. I used a preset correction to demonstrate how easy it is to use. It took less than one minute to make this change.



3-2-1 Protecting your photos

Now that you have scanned your photos, what should you do? Is one digital copy of your photos enough? Absolutely not! Ideally you should have three copies of your digital files. You can keep two of them in separate places at your home. Perhaps keep a copy on your main computer and the second copy on an external drive or USB flash drive? Try to keep a third copy offsite in case of a fire, flood or other disaster. What does this mean? You might ask a friend to keep a copy, keep it on your cloud storage or use Drop Box.

Digital images have many advantages. You can share them, create scrapbooks, or make your own physical prints. If you name them correctly, they will be easier to find. And remember that technology changes and computer drives can fail so it always important to back up important documents and update your storage methods.

There are lots of great articles on scanning on the web, if you'd like to find out more. Good luck on your scanning journey!

• Cup of Coffee Question •

Read the following article 'Why didn't people smile in old photos?' on the website **Old Photo Archive** to uncover the real reason and debunk the myths. To read the article, follow this link: <http://oldphotoarchive.com/stories/why-didnt-people-smile-in-old-photos>



According to this article, what is the real reason your ancestor did not smile? A winning entry will be picked from the correct answers at the next meeting. Win a \$10 gift card for courtesy of Janice Miller.

- _____ Life was hard
- _____ People had bad teeth
- _____ They thought smiling made them look silly
- _____ Long exposure times



Photo courtesy of Sandy McDonald

At our October meeting we heard a panel discussion from members of the South California Chapter of Association of Professional Genealogists.

Nominees for QHGS Board Election of Officers at the November Meeting

The bylaws of Questing Heirs Genealogical Society state that a list of nominees shall be published in the November QHGS newsletter and voted upon at the November meeting. The following people have been nominated for office:

- 1st Vice President – Programs.. Open (2020-2021)
- Treasurer..... Bob Prager (2020-2021)
- Secretary..... Diana Transue..... (2020-2021)
- Director– Publicity..... Jerry Hardison..... (2020-2021)

Nominations are still being accepted for the position of First Vice President. Terry Hamilton is our current First VP and her term ends in December 2019. She has already set up six months of programs for 2020. This position is responsible for picking speakers for the monthly meetings and Terry will help the new VP get started!

Please let our nominating chair Sandy McDonald know by the November meeting if you are interested in this position by sending an email message to her at questingheirs@gmail.com.

Did you attend any of these events in October?



Photo courtesy of Jerry Hardison

Orange County FamilySearch Library - Family History Expo

Were you able to attend on October 12? Pictured here are Tina McKillip and Terry Hamilton at the QHGS information table.



Terry Hamilton won three raffle prizes at the family history seminar in Mission Viejo October 19th.



Pictured here are Sue Tisdall, Janice Miller, Terry Hamilton and Tina McKillip

Four of our QHGS members attended the South Orange County CA Genealogical Society Seminar October 19 in Mission Viejo. We heard Dr. Fritz Juengling and learned a lot of new information. His topics were:

- ‘Names: Their Origins, Meanings, and Peculiarities’
- ‘Calendars and Feast Days in the U.S. and European Research’
- ‘Historical Events: How they Affect your Genealogy Research’ and
- ‘Using the Family Search Wiki to Enhance your Foreign Research’

REFRESHMENT REPORT by Sandy Hollandsworth

Snacks for November meeting: Frances Liebzeit, Pat & Bob Prager, Maxine Pitts and Linda Ryan

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Cynthia Day-Elliott

At the October meeting there were 26 members and 4 visitors in attendance.

• Learning Opportunities •

Family Tree Webinars

November 19 – ‘Native American Research: Things You May Not Know’ by Paula Stuart-Warren

Nov 22 – ‘No Will? No Problem!’ by Sharon Monson

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

Southern California Genealogical Society Webinars

November 20 – ‘Immigration and Naturalization’ by Seema Kenney

December 7 – ‘European Surnames and How They Can Help in Genealogical Research’ by Julie Goucher

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

Conferences and Events

- ✓ Judy G. Russell: ‘Evidence Essentials’. North San Diego County Genealogical Society 2019 Fall Seminar on Saturday, November 9, 2019. For more information see <https://nsdcgs.org/fallseminar/>
- ✓ Joel Weintraub: ‘Crowdsourcing the Path to the 1950 Census’ at the Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society on November 24, 2019. For more information see <http://www.ocjgs.org> or contact Michelle Sandler at infor@ocjgs.org
- ✓ Pat Richley-Erickson: ‘Dear MYRTLE’ at the Whittier Area Genealogical Society’s 37th Annual Seminar on January 25, 2020. For more information see <https://wagswhittier.org/eventListings.php?nm=34>
- ✓ RootsTech 2020 in Salt Lake City runs February 26 to February 29. Conference registration and hotel reservations have already begun. For more information see <https://www.rootstech.org/salt-lake>

Gena Philibert-Ortega’s Cruises

- ✓ Great Alaska Gold: Pioneers and Family History. August 23-30, 2020: Seattle, Victoria, Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway
- ✓ Viva Mexico: Sun and Fun on Land, Genealogy at Sea! February 6-11, 2021: Los Angeles to Cabo San Lucas

For more information see www.GenealogyCruises.com or www.oconnelltravel.com/rw/view/85944 (for Mexico) or <https://www.oconnelltravel.com/rw/view/84648> (for Alaska)

Blogs to Read

- ✓ ‘Simple Steps to Get Started on Your Ancestry® Family History Journey’ <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/>
- ✓ ‘5 Easy Steps to Preserving Newspaper Clippings’ <https://blog.myheritage.com/2019/09/5-easy-steps-to-preserving-newspaper-clippings/>
- ✓ ‘How To Find and Use Land Records for Genealogy’ <https://lialouisecooke.com/2019/10/04/using-land-records-genealogy/>
- ✓ ‘Everything You Need to Know about US Census Records’ <https://www.findmypast.com/blog/family-records/search-guide-us-census>

• QHGS Membership Renewal •

The Questing Heirs Genealogical Society membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st. Your membership fee helps fund speakers and other activities throughout the year.

Please renew by completing the form on page 85 and return it at the next meeting to Cynthia Day-Elliott or to the address at the bottom of the newsletter page. If you do not renew by December 15, the December newsletter will be the last edition you receive.

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBER APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

I am a New member
 Current member renewing

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone () _____

E-Mail Address _____

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

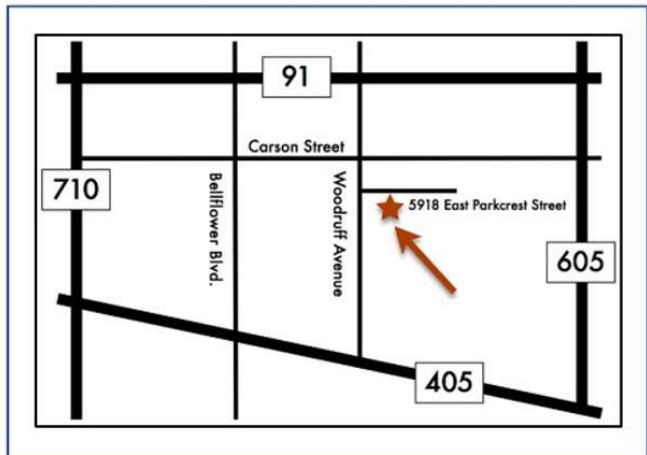
The membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st.

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 • 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 December 2019 Newsletter
 Must be received by noon on November 24, 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 and photo on page 79 courtesy of Linda Serna. Photos on pages 81-83 courtesy of Janice Miller except as noted under a photo. 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.

Copyright © 2019
 Questing Heirs
 Genealogical Society, Inc.

Permission to reprint original items from this publication is granted, provided that the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes, and that the following notice appears at the end of the article: “Previously published in Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 52, No.11, November 2019.”

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