

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

**Our next meeting will be
September 20th on Zoom!**

12: 30 Social Time (See President’s message)

1:00 Speaker Presentation

‘Who Needed it Anyway?

Getting Around the Missing 1890 Census’

With Sara Cochran

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.

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SEPTEMBER QUOTE

‘I wish I had realized that family history is a perishable commodity. It disappears with time, as memories fade, and as loved ones pass on. I wish I had known that the most important aspect of family history is preserving a record of the present for the future’

- Guy Black

• September Presenter Sara Cochran • Who Needed it Anyway? Getting Around the Missing 1890 Census.

Sara Cochran has been conducting genealogical research for 25 years, and her research has taken her into nearly every state in the USA as well as Ireland, Italy, Austria, and Britain. She holds a Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate, a Bachelor Degree in Library Science, and is an alumnus of the ProGen Study Group. She especially enjoys breaking down brick walls for her clients, discovering the stories of black sheep ancestors, and helping individuals preserve their photographic legacy.



About the Presentation

The loss of the 1890 Federal census is a source of great frustration for American Genealogists, but all hope is not lost! Learn strategies and gather tips for success in locating your family in other records between the 1880 and 1900 Federal censuses.

• QHGS President's Message •

Our Zoom meeting included 43 genealogy interested people. Most were our members with a few visitors. It was suggested that we meet a half hour before the meeting to visit with each other just like our refreshment time at regular meetings. So, our Social Time will start at 12:30 pm followed by our announcements at 1:00 pm and then our speaker.

It was also suggested that we turn off our video during the presentation as it helps free up the internet connection and bandwidth. After the presentation, the Board has their meeting. At this time you are welcome to leave the meeting or stay if you like.

We still need a member to take over the newsletter duties. If you are willing to do this, please contact me or Janice Miller.

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



[How to Take a Heritage Tour Without Leaving Your House](#) from **My Heritage**. It's true that there's nothing like the experience of standing on the same ground where your ancestors once stood. But this article will show you how modern technology can still help you explore and learn a great deal about the places your ancestors once lived from the comfort of your home. Click the link in blue to read this article.

Did you read your September edition of **Ancestry Newsletter**? It was emailed out to QHGS members on August 30th.

Newsletter Editor Opening Beginning in 2021

Share your talents with other QHGS members!

In 2021 we have one opening on the QHGS Board for Newsletter Editor. Our current editor, Janice Miller, can help you with the first issue and will provide a procedure book. The newsletter needs to primarily include our monthly speaker information and QHGS announcements.

If you are interested in learning more about this open position, please contact our nomination chair, Sandy McDonald. Sandy's email is sandymcdonald02@aol.com

Will 2021 be the year that you'll be our next board member?



• Searching for Ancestors in Mexico •

Do you have a family member with Mexican ancestry? I've recently started researching a family line with roots in Mexico and knew very little about the available records. The following pages include some information that I found helpful. I found that the best online sources for me were Ancestry and FamilySearch.

Structure of Mexico

The country of Mexico is divided into thirty-one estados, plus the Distrito Federal of Mexico City. Mexico City is the capital city and is sometimes just referred to as Mexico. In order to know where to look for your ancestor's records you must first determine the state, municipality, capital city of the state and the local church diocese.

All the members of one family I was researching were born in Santa Rosalia, Mulegé, Baja California Sur. I didn't think I would find one sibling until I came across his border crossing card. It turned out that he had actually been born about 616 km away in Angostura, Sinaloa, Mexico. Be prepared to look for the different record types if you can not find a record where you think it might be.

Maps

Maps will be helpful to understand boundary changes, parish locations, and vicinity to neighboring towns. You can look for them in published books, gazetteers, local histories and encyclopedias among other places. The name of the parish, municipio and state will help you locate the town on a map. Check church records or nearby towns where other ancestors lived.

Map source: United States Central Intelligence Agency. (1997) Mexico. [Washington, D.C.: Central Intelligence Agency] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011586145/>.



Each state in Mexico is divided into municipios. These perform the same functions as cities in the United States. Many places have the same or similar names. And names have changed over time.

The University of Texas has full page of links to maps of Mexico at <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/mexico.html>

Gazetteer

A gazetteer is a geographical index or dictionary. It can be used in combination with a map. Gazetteers may list or describe towns, villages, municipios, states, populations and more. You might find information about the major religions in the area, the schools and universities, and major industries and transportation methods. Use a gazetteer to locate where your family lived and what judicial or parish jurisdictions were associated with those places.

Reading Handwritten Records

Reading records in a language that you are not fluent can be challenging. Adding to that challenge is reading old handwriting which will differ a bit from the 21st century version. 'The Spanish Records Extraction Manual' listed at the end of this article is a great resource for handwriting and translations.

Federal Census Records

The Federal census record for Mexico for 1930 is available online. You can view it on FamilySearch and Ancestry.

Names

One of the first things I had to understand before starting my research was the naming elements of families in Mexico. In Spanish, the last name is called an apellido. Since there are two of them, they are called apellidos. Traditional Mexican naming customs mean that a child's first apellido is the father's first surname, and the second apellido is the mother's first surname.

Father: Miguel Garcia Gutierrez

Mother: Antonia Clemente Chavez



Child: Teresa Garcia Clemente or Teresa Garcia-Clemente

What happens when Teresa marries? Her first apellido, Garcia, stays the same but her second one may change to her husband's (ex. Rodriguez). Are you as confused as I was the first time it was explained? Her name after marriage becomes Teresa Garcia de Rodriguez or Teresa Garcia Clemente de Rodriguez.

Children can also be given a baptismal name (nombre de pila). It might be the name of a saint whose feast was closest to their baptism day. This name may never be used but appears in the baptism record. The priest might also add Jose or Maria to a boy's or girl's name. Jose (Joseph) was for the Father of Christ and Maria was for the Mother of Christ. It is a superfluous name and you might disregard it in your search for other records.

Civil Registration and Church Records

Church records are probably the most important genealogy records used for ancestor research. The majority of the population in Mexico was Catholic so look for baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials in church records. Some records include as many as three generations in a record.

In 1859 Mexican authorities started to record births (nacimientos), marriages (matrimonios), and deaths (defunciones). For those events before 1859, check for church records. Many vital records were never recorded by civil authorities, so you must use church records to find information. If you are looking for British citizens

living in Mexico between 1827-1927, the British government kept civil registration records. Most civil registration records are kept by the states on a municipio level.

As with vital records in the United States, the information that was recorded varied over time. Births were recorded by the father's family or a neighbor within a few days of birth. The first marriage records had the names of the bride and groom. Over time, more information was included. Check for both the civil record and the church record to gather as much information about the family as possible.

Upon the separation of church and state in 1917, civil authorities declared that couples could only be legally married by the state. Some followed this mandate and were married in the church after a civil ceremony. While others still only married in a church ceremony. In 1917 with the new constitution, divorce was legalized. Divorces were recorded with municipal courts not with civil registration. To find these records, you may need to contact the court of the town where the divorce took place.

Death records may be the first record you will see for an ancestor. It might provide birth information, spouse, and the names of parents. As with other death records around world, you can only be certain about the death information on the record. Other information on the death record was reported by an informant. That information will only be as accurate as the first-hand knowledge of the informant.

Cemeteries

You can search gravestones and written information recorded by officials of the cemetery or parish. The later may be recorded by civil authorities. If lucky, you may find information about their religion, occupation, residence or military service. Many people could not afford a gravestone so you will need to search for written records. Look for extended family of your ancestor as they may be buried in the same cemetery. The Mexican civil government was given control over cemeteries and burials.

Notarial Records

Many legal records were recorded by notarios. Notarios in Mexico performed many of the same duties of attorneys in other countries. They could draft wills, prenuptials, guardianships, dowry records, land sale contracts and other documents. Up until the late 18th century, documents were kept together by year. After that time there were found in bound volumes containing the documents drafted by a single notario during a period of years. Notary records will be more difficult to find and there are not many that have been microfilmed. You can try looking at the Mexican national archives or local/state archives.

U.S. Records of Mexican Ancestors

If your ancestor became a citizen before 1906 the Naturalization documents were processed in the city or county where they lived. In 1906 the process was handled by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the records can be requested from regional offices of the USCIS. Border crossing records between the U.S. and Mexico began in 1903, first in El Paso and then to other major crossing points. If you are lucky, a photo will be attached to the record as was the case of a great grandfather on one of my trees.

Military draft registration cards for WWI might exist for your ancestor. All men between the ages of 17 and 45 living in the United States in 1917 or 1918 had to register for the draft regardless of their citizenship status. In the early 1940s the United States began to register all aliens (person living in a country in which he is not a citizen). At that time, they did it with the threat of another world war. Copies are available at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service

U.S. Catholic Church parish records could potentially be a source of places and names in other countries for your ancestor. Remember to check out U.S. census records, military records and railroad pension records.

Where to Start

It would be impossible to list all the resources and records that are available for genealogy research in Mexico in this short article. The top three resources I recommend if you are just starting out your research in Mexico are:

- ✓ Finding Your Mexican Ancestors – A Beginner’s Guide by George & Peggy Ryskamp. The paperback version of this book can be found on Amazon.com for under fourteen dollars.
- ✓ ‘Family History Library Research Outline for Mexico’ (125 pages) at <http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/LatinAmerica/Mexico.pdf>
- ✓ ‘The Spanish Records Extraction Manual’ is a must have resource for reading records and handwriting at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Spanish_Records_Extraction_Manual



• Change to Membership Dues for 2020 Only •

The QHGS Board met on 8/16/2020 after the Zoom meeting. It was decided that we would extend our current membership through December 31, 2020 due to missed meetings because of Covid-19. The new membership cycle will be January – December beginning in 2021 and dues will remain the same. We will send out reminders of membership renewals in January 2021.

• Learning Opportunities •

FamilySearch Webinars

- ✓ Sept 21: ‘Where There’s a Will, There’s a Probate: U.S. Probate Records’
- ✓ Sept 21: ‘Perches and Rods: Introducing U.S. Land Records’
- ✓ Sept 22: ‘The Tired, the Poor and the Huddled Masses: U.S. Immigration’
- ✓ September 25: ‘When the Pandemic’s Over: How to Do On-Site Research’

For More information see https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img_auth.php/8/89/September_Classes.pdf

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

- ✓ Sept 9,10: ‘Cyndi’s List in Practice’ by Cyndi Ingle
- ✓ Sept 18: ‘Your DNA Questions Answered Live’ by Diahan Southard
- ✓ Sept 23: ‘Introduction to VPN’s’ by Thomas MacEntee
- ✓ Oct 6,7: ‘Advanced DNA Techniques: Deductive Chromosome Mapping’ by Blaine Bettinger
- ✓ Oct 14,15: ‘Dealing with Endogamy’ by Paul Woodbury

For more information on all of their upcoming webinars see <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

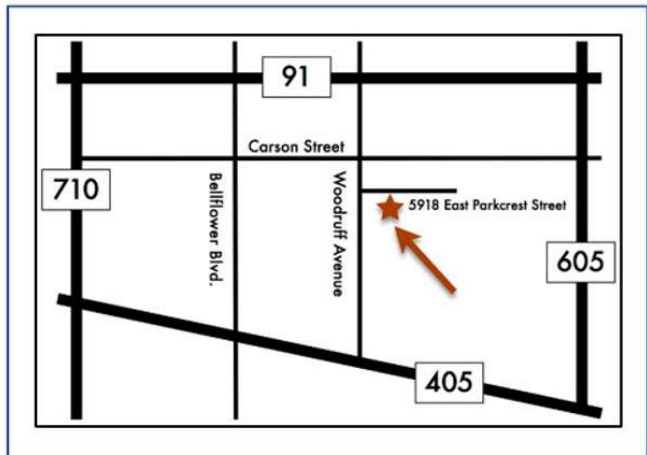
Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society

September 13, 2020 - Stanley Diamond

‘Jewish Records Indexing – Poland: 25 Years and the Next 25’. The virtual meeting is free to members and only \$5 for non-members. For a description of this event, see their site at <https://www.ocjgs.org/>

Register in advance for the virtual meeting by clicking this link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwlcOivqDgtHNahGmbF5ifX3sy2IUjr9QZ>



Lakewood Masonic Center • 5918 Parkcrest Street Long Beach, CA

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board

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2 nd Vice President – Membership	Cynthia Day-Elliott.....	(2019-2020)
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Director – Newsletter.....	Janice Miller	(2019-2020)
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QHGS Volunteer Positions

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

Submissions for the October 2020 newsletter must be received by noon September 25, 2020.

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 53 from Sara Cochran. Photograph on page 54 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