

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 40. ✦ Number 11 ✦ November 2007

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102
<http://www.qhgs.info/>

Questing Heirs is a member society of the California State Genealogical Alliance and the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

MONTHLY MEETING: third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p.m. Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2007

12:30	Class	BASIC: Beginning Family Research
	Period	conducted by Rellen Owen
1:15		INTERMEDIATE:
		Discussion of "What I Did This Summer"
		led by Liz Myers

2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
-------------	--------------	--

2:15	Business	Amendments to Bylaws and Election of Officers
		See page 84 for details.

2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: COLLEEN FITZPATRICK, Ph.D.
		THE DATABASE DETECTIVE

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Reports</i>	82
<i>"Along Those Lines..." by George G. Morgan</i>	83
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	84
<i>Of Interest</i>	85
<i>Methods</i>	86
<i>News</i>	87
<i>Calendar</i>	88

“ALONG THOSE LINES...” by GEORGE G. MORGAN

**Finding Clues in Property Tax Bills
Part Two – Examine the Contents of a Typical Tax Bill**

Types of Tax Records

Real estate and property tax records contain detailed information about the owner(s). There are a number of different types of records, and the information contained in each may vary.

However, there are some pieces of data which will always be present. These include the name(s) of the owner(s), the owner’s mailing address as recorded on file in the tax assessor’s office, the period for which taxes are being assessed, the tax rate, the due date, address to which the payment is to be remitted, address(es) where the tax can be paid in person, and information concerning early payment options and/or penalties that may be imposed for late payment.

In the case of real estate taxes, certain additional descriptive information is included, such as the address of the property, its legal description, reference numbers to relate it to governmental records, metes and bounds descriptors, assessed valuation, tax amount, any applicable discounts or homestead exemptions, and perhaps some other identifying details.

With personal property or intangible property tax listings, depending on the government involved, the type of property, the type of tax, and other factors, the records and their component descriptors may differ. However, the essential name, address, and other data will typically be included. Many of these informational items can be used as pointers to other records, some of which may provide you with details you never knew before.

Look for Tell-Tale Tax Exemption

A property owner may have been entitled to one or more tax exemptions.

In many places, persons who own and occupy their property are given some relief in the assessed valuation of their property. This usually

takes the form of an excluded or exempted fixed amount of property value when the assessed valuation is calculated.

In Florida today, persons [are] entitled to a homestead exemption in the amount of \$25,000. Additional relief offered in some places includes exemptions for widows or widowers, blind persons, persons with total and permanent disabilities, and even age-related exemptions.

If you locate tax records indicating any type of exemption, there will be other documentation associated with it.

For example, to qualify for a homestead exemption, one must document the date of permanent occupancy of the property, and there is usually a time period for this. Dates, locations, employment information, and other documentation may have been required. Widows and widowers had to provide proof of a spouse’s death.

Persons applying for tax relief or exemptions due to disabilities, military and otherwise, had to provide supporting documentation which might include medical records, military service records, letters, affidavits, and other documents that supported their applications.

As you can imagine, all of this material could be invaluable in filling in gaps or in locating other record types.

As you can see, a simple tax bill can take you on another new research path, one that many researchers never consider. Start looking for tax information in your own family tree. You never know where that next wonderful clue may come from. It may cometh from the taxman!

Happy Hunting!
George

©2006 Copyright George G. Morgan.
All rights reserved.

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Cathy ALBERTI	Sustaining	9/08
Terry ARGYROS	Individual	9/08
Martha BAXTER	Individual	9/08
Betty Jean BRANDT	Newsletter	9/08
Loran BURES	Family	9/08
Tricia BURES	Family	9/08
Evelyn COLES	Individual	9/08
John FOORD	Sustaining	9/08
Kathryn FOORD	Sustaining	9/08
Inga HARRIS	Family	9/08
Lowell HARRIS	Family	9/08
Harry HOLGATE	Family	9/08
Barbara LOURTIE	Contributing	9/08
Walter McNULTY	Contributing	9/08
Dagmar MULTHAMIA	Individual	9/08
Priscilla NIELSEN	Patron	9/08
Carole OWENS	Family	9/08
Michael OWENS	Family	9/08
Joycelyn PROUST	Contributing	9/08
Jo Nell ROOK	Family	9/08
Olas ROOK	Family	9/08
Helen SMITH	Individual	9/08
Mary Ellen SMITH	Individual	9/08
Cheryl TARDIF	Individual	9/08
Lizzie WHISNANT	Individual	9/08
Louise WORTHY	Individual	9/08

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

At our next meeting we will be voting on our revised Bylaws and the following slate of candidates:

- Director at Large (two-year term): Linda Artuso
- Director at Large (two-year term): Tina Yanis
- Director at Large (one-year term): Rellen Owen
- Secretary (two-year term): Sandra Hollandsworth
- Treasurer (two-year term): Dave Werts
- First Vice President (one-year term): Loran Bures

Remember that only members whose dues are current are eligible to vote.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our October meeting, Loran Bures and the Bylaws Committee presented their proposed revisions for updating our society's Bylaws. A copy of these Bylaws is included with this newsletter and also has been posted on our website for your review.

Your Board of Directors voted unanimously for their approval. A huge amount of time and thought went into their preparation. The committee looked at some of the kinks we have experienced in the past and addressed them in the revisions. So, give them careful consideration; and if you have any questions, please contact Loran Bures before November 18.

Tina Yanis mentioned that the microfilm machines at the Main Long Beach Library were not working; so I talked to someone at the library and learned that three machines are now functioning and ready to use in your research!

The speaker for our November meeting, Colleen Fitzpatrick, is very knowledgeable. Although she has spoken to us before, she has a different kind of presentation for us this month. I know you will enjoy and learn from Colleen. We look forward to having you join us on the 18th.

HELP NEEDED!

Hazele Johnson, a long-time member of Questing Heirs, has been making the coffee that we enjoy at meetings for many years. She is ready to retire from that duty; so we are looking for someone to replace her. If you are able to come to meetings about an hour early, please let Tina Yanis or Hazele know that you would be willing to take over for her.

Also, our annual Christmas celebration is fast approaching. John McCoy is coordinating preparations for this event and would really appreciate help with the organization of the party—planning, decorations, etc. Leave a message with John or contact Sandra Hollandsworth (562-494-3071 or at the November meeting) if you can help.

OF INTEREST

KATHY CLIFTON'S OFFER

When we were still living in Long Beach, I was a member of Questing Heirs. We are now living in West Tennessee, and I work at the Tipton County Public Library. We have an extensive amount of information on Tennessee genealogy in our library on microfilm, and many books have been written by the families in most of the Tennessee Counties. If anyone is looking for information in this area, they can e-mail me at rekcac@aol.com, and I'll see what I can find.

"Hi" to everyone at Questing Heirs.

WWI & WWII RECORDS

Recently Ancestry.com made available most military records for WWI and WWII through the National Archives and Records Administration. I ran a search for my father who served in the Army during WWII—to no avail. I then wrote to the National Archives requesting information on my father's records, such as DD-214.

I received a letter from them informing me that most of the records concerning that time period were lost in the St. Louis fire. They also asked me to provide them with any and all information that I had, and they would do their best to find or re-create the records I needed.

I did so and, in a little over a week, I received in the mail two copies each of my father's Certification of Military Service and his Honorable Discharge. So, don't give up; just try making a request for records.

Submitted by Connie L. Williams

E-MAIL FROM ROBYN GREENLUND

I am a local historian from the Coos county area of Oregon. One of the gentlemen I have been researching is Thomas Barklow (1853-1928). "Uncle Tommy," as he was known, was a Brethren minister who settled in the Coquille Valley in 1873. In 1922 he married a southern Californian named Ada (Goldsborough) Curren and traveled to Southern California in 1924-1925. During his trip, he wrote twelve letters to the people back home in Oregon telling them of

his trip, which were published in the local newspaper. I have been working on embellishing his stories with postcards and photographs of the areas he visited and making them available to others interested in the history of both Oregon and California. The pages are *almost* complete. I am finishing work on the indexes to the materials and am still collecting and researching the last two letters he wrote. You can see this project in its present state at:

<http://tommy.coquillevalley.org>

I would be very interested in any additional information your group might have on the areas Tommy wrote about, especially the Happy Valley development. I can find nothing on it; and while it appears to have been closer to Riverside, I would love to know if anyone has heard of it in your group. I have not started work on the San Bernardino Orange Show but, again, would love any information your group might know about the event.

I hope you enjoy the stories. I lived in Southern California for many years and loved each of the stories. I hope to hear from you and your group.

Robyn Greenlund
rgreenlund61@yahoo.com

The Mayflower did not land at Plymouth Rock. The Pilgrims landed the *Mayflower* at Provincetown on Cape Cod on November 25, 1620, but deemed the spot unsuitable. Leaving the *Mayflower* anchored at Provincetown, Captain Miles Standish led a scouting party in a small open boat and landed at...Plymouth on December 21. The *Mayflower* reached Plymouth on December 26. The Pilgrims who landed in 1620 never mentioned Plymouth Rock in any of their diaries. In 1741, when the town planned to cover the granite rock with a wharf, Thomas Faunce, born 26 years after the landing, insisted his father (who had arrived three years after the landing) told him the Pilgrims set foot at Plymouth using the rock as a stepping-stone.

Contrary {to Popular Belief}, by Joey Green, p. 51.

METHODS

NOT THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

We used to have a saying when I first worked for a newspaper, an alternative weekly in Pasadena, California. "We are not the newspaper of record," we'd say. There was a daily paper in town that carried that responsibility. This freed us up to write more quirky and colorful stories.

You are not the newspaper of record, either. Remember that. It is not your duty to recreate World War II on the page, or sum up the Great Depression. What your readers want to know, the story only you can tell, is what you felt in those days, what you saw, and how you were affected.

Are you particularly careful with your money because of your family's experiences in the 1929 stock market crash? Do your children or your children's children agree with you about the value of a dollar? Do they buy designer clothes when you think store brand would do? Do you have military clothing stashed away? Is it your father's, your brother's, your sister's, or your own? When you get together to tell war stories, what stories do you tell?

Do not feel that you must recount the history of the world. If you put down your own experiences, you are adding your individual voice to humanity's ambitious goal of getting the story told.

Get more tips on preserving your memories on [The RememberingSite.org](http://TheRememberingSite.org).

A Tip from the Pros by D. G. Fulford, 24/7 Family History Circle, 14 Oct 2007. Copyright © 2007, The Generations Network, Inc.

FLASH DRIVE CAVEAT

I'm an IT director. When we hand out flash drives (which we hand out like candy), we have a little "talk" that goes with them. It goes like this. "Flash drives are very handy for carrying files from place to place and computer to computer. However, they are relatively volatile storage, so you should never consider them a primary backup for your files. They fail much,

much, much more quickly than CDs or hard drives."

Back up your files on CDs or hard drives. Check them after you back up to make sure the backup works. Check them once in a while to make sure they are still working. Every few years, transfer them to a new CD or hard drive. How many years depends on the conditions in which they are stored. If you have air conditioning, low humidity, and clean air, they will probably last longer than they will in a more humid or dusty environment.

A Quick Tip by Rae Williams, 24/7 Family History Circle, 2 Jun 2007. Copyright © 2007, The Generations Network, Inc.

PERMANENT E-MAIL ADDRESSES

by Bill Buchanan

...Too often I have found an interesting posting, or a scrap of information that some contact of mine was looking for, only to have my message "bounce" into oblivion.

E-mail address books and contact lists quickly go out of date, stopping the flow of genealogical information...The usual reason why e-mail addresses get outdated is because many people still post with e-mail addresses from their ISP (Internet Service Provider).

Instead, may I suggest you use one of the free web-based e-mail accounts from places like Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, or Excite. These are independent of your ISP and provide a permanent e-mail address (so long as you continue to actively use the web-based account).

They have the additional advantage of being accessible anywhere, without needing to reconfigure your host's computer. They also have generous-sized inboxes (handy for off-site storage of your genealogy databases), and when you change computers or reinstall Windows, you don't lose your e-mail archives or address book.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review, Vol. 10, No. 29, 25 Jul 2007. Copyright © 1998-2007 RootsWeb.com, Inc.

NEWS

Genealogy News as reported at the October Meeting

The best place to find news of interest to genealogists is Eastman's On-line Genealogical Newsletter, http://eogn.typepad.com/eostmans_online_genealogy. Among other items recently reported there, we found the sale of The Generations Network (of which Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker, Genforum, and RootsWeb are some of the parts) to Spectrum Equity Investors for \$300 million. No changes were announced in the day-to-day operations of any of these businesses. In Illinois, the Cook County Clerk's office has announced that birth, marriage, and death certificates have been digitized and will be available on the internet about the end of January 2008. A similar project for Missouri death certificates has been a great success. Other organizations are making similar announcements: Kansas Historical Society, New York Times, and others. The Cook County Court Archives has begun digitizing naturalization applications, but the project is a long way from completion.

Eastman's newsletter has also announced a number of public-private collaborations. Several of them involve footnote.com, which has already indexed almost all the Revolutionary War Pension Applications (88% complete at last report). Now footnote.com has announced a collaboration with the Allen County Public Library (city directories and local newspapers were prominently mentioned), and another with FamilySearch.org and the National Archives, this time for digitizing the Civil War pension files and probably other related records. It will probably be a couple years before we see results.

Rumor control: the National Archives branch at Laguna Niguel has not moved! It is still open to the public 8 AM – 4:30 PM Monday-Friday, plus the first Saturday of each month (microfilm research only). The only change is that some of the voluminous bankruptcy and/or criminal records have been moved to off-site storage.

Eastman also announced that more software will be available for public use at the Family History Centers. Check with the one nearest you for the latest information. The Los Angeles Regional Family History Center maintains a web page listing the web sites and software that you can access on their computers. See www.larfhc.org/onlinedatabases.htm for more details!

More News Since the Meeting

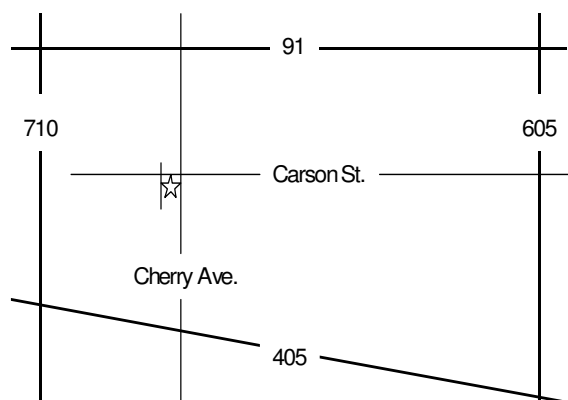
Eastman, 22 Oct – The New England Historic Genealogical Society is pleased to announce the launch of the NEGHS & Ancestry.com collaboration, making available for the first time special pricing and other member benefits. All current NEHGS members can purchase Ancestry.com's U.S. Deluxe membership, normally priced at \$155.40, for only \$99.95! Additionally, if your NEHGS membership has lapsed, or if you've been putting off joining the NEHGS family... You can purchase both an NEHGS annual Research membership and a U.S. Deluxe Ancestry.com membership together for one low price of \$155.40.

Eastman, 24 Oct – The National Personnel Records Center will open for the first time all of the individual Official Military Personnel Files of Army, Army Air Corps, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard military personnel who served and were discharged, retired or died while in the service, prior to 1946. More records will be made public through 2067 until the entire collection is opened.

Eastman, 24 Oct – The Sorenson Foundation is well known as a major DNA testing organization that is interested in genealogy. Now the same foundation is branching out by starting a brand-new, DNA-enabled social networking site at www.genetree.com. Besides connecting with family and friends to preserve their family histories, users can choose to have their DNA tested (mtDNA tests \$99-\$149) and then map those results with the Web site's worldwide genetic genealogy collection.

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 18, 1:15–3:30 pm. **Questing Heirs Genealogical Society** monthly meeting. Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach. Parking and entrance on Gardenia Avenue, one block west of Cherry Avenue. See map below. For meeting information, please see page 82.



NOTE: Submissions for the December Newsletter are due by November 25, 2007.

*FHC stands for Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. FHCs are open free of charge to members of the general public interested in doing genealogical research. Volunteers are on hand and will gladly give you assistance. Regular hours for the Los Angeles Regional FHC are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LARFHC is located on the grounds of the Los Angeles Temple, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Los Angeles; their phone number is (310) 474-9990. Their web page at <<http://www.larfhc.org>> provides details of their extensive collection. There are smaller FHCs locally, in Long Beach at 3701 Elm Avenue in Bixby Knolls, phone (562) 988-0509, in Los Alamitos, phone (714) 821-6914, and in Cerritos, phone (562) 924-3676. It is advisable to call ahead to the local centers, as their hours may change from time to time.

**2008 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy
7-11 January 2008**

This is a week-long educational experience led by nationally known genealogists. The following eight courses are still available, at an early-rate charge of \$320.00 each.

1. “American Records & Resources: Focusing on Families” led by Paula Stuart Warren.
2. “Western U.S. Research” led by Chuck Knuthson
3. “Welsh Research” led by Marianne Crump
4. “France and Her Former Colonies” led by Thomas McGill
5. “Archives, Libraries, Societies: Serving Genealogists” led by Anne Wuehler
6. “Multimedia Publishing” led by Anne Roach
7. “Scandinavian Research” led by Ruth Maness
8. “Producing a Quality Family Narrative” led by John Philip Colletta

If you prefer to research on your own at the Family History Library during the day, the following evening classes are available for \$10.

Tuesday, January 8

Computers, Alan Mann
Organizing Large Projects, Elissa Scalise Powell
Wednesday, January 9

How to Evaluate Evidence, John Philip Colletta
Organizing in a Computer Day and Age, Parts 1 and 1, Mary Hill

How to conduct, Record, Edit and Use Oral and Audiovisual Interviews, Barry J. Ewell

Thursday, January 10

Writing for Scholarly Journals, Patricia Hatcher
Rubik’s Cube Genealogy: A New Twist on Your Data, Elissa Scalise Powell

Techniques to Help Good Genealogists Become Even Better, Patricia Law Hatcher
Discovering the Stories of Your Immigrant Ancestors, John Philip Colletta

To register or obtain more details, visit:

<http://www.infouga.org>
or phone 1-888-463-6842