

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 41 ✦ Number 4 ✦ April 2008

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, APRIL 20, 2008**

<b>12:30</b>	<b>Class Period</b>	<b>HELP TABLES:</b> "Recording and Documenting Your Research" by Rellen Owen (boardroom) & "Jumping the Pond" by John McCoy (parish hall)
<b>1:15</b>		<b>INTERMEDIATE:</b> "How to Help & Wishes Carried Out" by Rick Kagawa, CFP, CLU, ChFC, LUTCF
<b>2:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments</b>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>Business</b>	
<b>2:30</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>SPEAKER: TOM UNDERHILL</b> <b>RESEARCHING THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION</b>

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**APRIL MEETING**

**PROGRAM**

**Researching the Forgotten Generation**

If your first interaction with genealogy was a pedigree chart, then this is for you! You'll learn the importance of your generation's oral and situational history and how to transform it into a comprehensive, recorded story. This fun and exciting class covers methods and techniques to identify events in your lifetime and ways to fill in the blanks in your story, as well as dealing with sensitive issues such as privacy and the skeletons in your closet.

**SPEAKER: TOM UNDERHILL**

Tom is the publisher and senior designer at Creative Continuum, a book design and publishing company specializing in high-quality, short-run books. During the last several years, Tom and his company produced more than 375 family history heirloom books, printed more than 9.5 million pages and scanned more than 10,000 photographs. In 2007, Creative Continuum was nominated for the *Orange County Business Journal's* Family Owned Business Award.

His speaking experience includes most of Southern California's family history fairs and other major genealogical conventions. He has also presented at the Utah Genealogical Association's annual conferences, at the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Associations, and at the 2005 FGS annual convention in Salt Lake City.

Our speaker will have the following books available for purchase at our April meeting:

*Dead Men Tell No Tales: How to Record Your Family's Oral History* - \$15

*Make Your Photos Zing!* (black/white photo retouching) - \$15

*Make Your Photos Really Zing!* (color photo retouching) - \$25

*Lock the Boogie Man Out of Your Computer* (internet safety) - \$20

*My Life Story* - \$20

*My Life Story 20 Questions Interview Pak* - \$20

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Sally DAVIS (562) 429-7803

**MARCH MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Members: 36

Guests: 4

**RENEWAL**

Betty Bell FELDMAN

Sustaining 9/08

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

February Income \$ 63.37

February Expenses \$ 360.04

Checking Account Balance \$2,808.52

**REFRESHMENTS**

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our March hosts:

Tricia BURES

George JOHNSON

Barbara LOURTIE

Cheryl TARDIF

Our April hosts will be:

Terry HAMILTON

Liz MYERS

Mike OWENS

Nancy PERALDA

**NOTE: Submissions for the May 2008 Newsletter are due by April 27, 2008.**

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This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of *Questing Heirs*; it is not meant to be sold. Those who are unable to attend our meetings but wish to subscribe to the newsletter may purchase a newsletter-only membership for \$12.00 a year. To join, please use the membership application on the outer cover of this newsletter.

## AVOIDING ASSUMPTIONS

By Michael John Neill

There are times when we create our own genealogy “brick walls.” They are created unintentionally, in some cases slowly over time, but one brick at a time we have made them ourselves. There are several ways one can create a family history problem, one of the easiest ways is to make erroneous assumptions.

You know your ancestors lived. You know they reproduced at least once. You know the mother was present at the birth of any children and that (with potentially a few exceptions) your ancestors are deceased. Virtually everything else you know about your ancestors came from either a piece of paper, someone’s mind, or both.

The problem is that sometimes we might have gotten information about our long-deceased ancestors from our own mind. I’m not talking about channeling or talking to spirits. What I am talking about are assumptions we might have made about our ancestor’s life even though we never actually met the ancestor. Our assumptions may be completely correct, or they may be completely wrong. If they are completely wrong, they are hindering our research and may be why additional information cannot be located.

This week I am including some assumptions that could be hampering your research. Do not assume the list is complete. Assume that the suggestions listed here may need to be tweaked to fit your own family.

- The couple was married before the birth of a child.
- My ancestors never divorced.
- My ancestor only had one spouse.
- Great-grandpa knew when he was born.
- My ancestor cared about leaving behind accurate information on his overseas origins.
- The husband and wife in the census were the parents of all of the children in the household.

- My ancestor was alive at the time of the census.
- My immigrant ancestor immediately settled in the place where he died. He didn’t live anywhere else.
- Grandma would never have moved after Grandpa died.
- A couple in their sixties would never have migrated or immigrated.
- Great-grandpa cared about giving correct and precise information to the records clerk.
- The adults in the household actually answered the census taker’s questions.
- My ancestor understood the questions the census taker was asking.
- My ancestor wanted to become a naturalized citizen.
- My ancestor never lied on a government record.
- My transcription of a record is correct.
- I have a copy of the complete record.
- My ancestor never traveled back to his homeland.
- My ancestors were married near where their first child was born.
- I know how to spell my great-grandmother’s maiden name.
- I know how my great-great-grandfather pronounced his name.
- I know where my ancestors were living at the time of the 1850 census.
- I am certain my family had enough money to require an estate settlement.
- The census enumeration, birth certificate, etc. is completely correct.
- The family immigrated together.
- No other family members moved “out west.”
- The family tradition is correct.
- The family tradition is incorrect.

*Continued on page 30*

## QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good News! We are getting checks totaling nearly \$100 from the Food 4 Less and Ralphs nonprofit organization programs. As many of you know, by signing in with your Food 4 Less or Ralphs cards when you shop, a percentage of your purchase price goes into our Questing Heirs treasury. It is so wonderful that these companies let us earn extra money this way! If you need help signing up, please let me know.

Twelve people joined us for the tour of the Long Beach Main Library on March 22. Now I'm looking forward to the May 10 tour at the Iacoboni Library, located near the Lakewood Mall. And don't forget to save May 31 for a tour of the Long Beach Historical Society. Both facilities have items that may help us in our research.

The Cemetery Committee will meet at 12:30 p.m. before our next meeting on April 20. Current members on this committee are Jeanette Jones, George and Polly Johnson, Tina Yanis, Laurie Angel, and me. We still have openings for a couple more people; so, join us at that time if you're interested.

Tina Yanis needs help in the kitchen, especially before our meetings. Can you help her? She has been doing a lot on her own.

Do you belong to the DAR or another lineage society? Our society wants to contact the local lineage chapters in the Long Beach area; so, we are asking our members and friends to tell us where they meet and give us a contact name. If you can provide this information, please give me a call.

Happy Hunting!

*Liz Myers*



### VOLUNTEER MONTH

by Paula Stuart Warren

April is National Volunteer Month and...I hope that by April many of us have agreed to begin or continue a volunteer job within a genealogical society. Look at your society's website or newsletter for someone to contact. Societies do not run themselves; many volunteers make them run smoothly. If you don't know what help is needed, just ask. Let me know what volunteer job you have agreed to do, and during April I will let readers know about some of these jobs. Tell me your name, city of residence, and for what society (and locality) you are volunteering. You can e-mail them to me at:

[PaulaStuartWarren@gmail.com](mailto:PaulaStuartWarren@gmail.com).

To get you started, think about offering your services for these jobs:

- Check to see if they need a proofreader.
- The editor might welcome an article on your genealogical quest or about a library or archive that you have visited.
- Offer to bring the refreshments for a meeting.
- Don't live close to a historical or genealogical library? Offer to do indexing from home.
- Society's publications not completely indexed? Another job that can be done from home.
- Schedule a time to teach a class on using Ancestry.
- Promise to be the greeter at monthly meetings for the next six months.
- Any one of 1,255 other jobs!

*The above was a Tip from the Pros that appeared in The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 10 March 2008. Copyright 2008. The Generations Network, Inc.*

## METHODS

### NEW BEGINNERS MAGAZINE

<http://www.discoveringfamilyhistory.com>

Halvor Moorshead, publisher and editor of *Family Chronicle*, *Internet Genealogy*, and *History Magazine*, is initiating a new magazine targeted toward genealogical newbies or others who need a refresher course in some particular aspect of genealogy.

Titled *Discovering Family History*, it will be a bi-monthly magazine—the first issue to be May/June 2008. You can obtain a \$20 special introductory price and download a 56-page preview issue at the website above.

### NEED A DAR LOOKUP?

by Glenda Thompson

DAR Vice Chairperson VIS Committee

Need a DAR Lookup? Do you think you might have an ancestor who served in the American Revolutionary War (1775-83)? Would you like to know whether your ancestor is listed with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) in the “Patriot Index”?

A helpful group of organized DAR VIS Volunteers monitor the RootsWeb DAR message board every day and welcome lookup requests or any query. Include your Revolutionary War-era ancestor’s first and last name, spouse’s name (if known), dates of birth, death, and state of residence when posting your lookup request. You need not be interested in joining the NSDAR to request a lookup. Let us help!

[The DAR message board may be found at] <http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=rw&p=topics.organizations.dar>.

*The above article previously appeared in RootsWeb Review: 19 Sep 2007, Vol. 10, No. 38.*

### GUIDE FOR FINLAND RESEARCH

On 21 February FamilySearch announced the release of a free new research tool that will help those with Finnish roots to find their ancestors. The research guide, *Finding Records of Your*

*Ancestors, Finland, Before 1900*, features easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions, colorful graphics, and tear-out worksheets.

In an inviting workbook style, the guide will show users which records to search, what to look for, and what tools to use. It colorfully outlines the steps and tools needed to navigate Finnish records to find ancestors. Users will learn where to start, how to find and use Finnish records, and what unique elements to look for in the records.

This guide is the latest addition to the popular series of free online publications and completes the set of guides for the Nordic countries. Other guides available include African American, France, Iceland, Italy, Jewish, and Mexico.

*Finding Records of Your Ancestors, Finland*, can be viewed and printed for free online at FamilySearch.org.

*To read the entire announcement, go to the Family Search website, click on Site Map and then “What’s New.”*

### SCAN CENSUS ENTRIES BY AGE OR BIRTHPLACE

by Elsie Kay

If you have an index entry for someone in the census, and the entry lists his age, you may find him most quickly by looking down the “age” column. If you look for him in the “name” column, you will have to decipher the names of up to 100 people. But if you look in the “age” column, you probably will find only a few matches, and can then check the names to find the right individual. The same is true if you know that the man for whom you are searching was born in a state or country that most people in his neighborhood were not—for example, a man born in Minnesota but living in Iowa. You may be able to find him fastest by looking at the “Place of birth” column to find him. This is also a useful tactic if you have no option but to go through an entire county looking for someone.

*A Quick Tip from The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 14 Jan 2008. Copyright 2008. The Generations Network.*

**OF INTEREST**

**ORANGE RFHC ON THE WEB**

<http://www.orangefhc.info>

The Orange Regional Family History Center now has a website that allows you to:

- Check its hours,
- Find directions to the Center,
- Search its collections,
- Check schedules of upcoming classes,
- Determine available physical resources,
- See a list of executive staff members.

In order to search for the availability of a particular microfilm or microfiche at the Center, you must first know its number in the Family History Library Catalog. You can find the number at [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) and then return to the Orange RFHC's site.

**NARA PASSENGER LISTS**

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/index.jsp>

The National Archives and Records Administration has made available at the above website 5.2 million records of some passengers who arrived at the ports of Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The data files relate to Germans immigrating from 1850-1897, Italians from 1855-1900, and Russians from 1834-1897.

To search:

1. Click on "passenger lists."
2. Then search in the ethnic group you're interested in.
3. First search the "Passenger Data File" for the name you're seeking. (Clicking on the page icon at the left of the listing will give you more information about that passenger.)
4. Then click on the "Manifest Header Data File" to find information on the ship, port of departure and date of arrival.

Steve Morse (<http://stevemorse.org>) has already created tools to make searching these passenger lists easier.

**NEW 1900 CENSUS INDEX**

The 1900 census index created by volunteers has been completed and will soon be available for searching free at the [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) website. In preparing this index, two people worked on each page. Then if there were any disagreements in their interpretations of the data, an arbitrator did a third reading and made the final decision.

So, if you haven't been able to locate some of your ancestors with the help of the indexes already online, perhaps you'll have better luck with this one when it becomes available.



**Avoiding Assumptions** – *Continued from p. 27*

It is necessary to make assumptions in genealogical research, if for no other reason than to give our research a place from which to start. However, we need to make sure that our assumptions stay in the "land of assumptions" and do not cross over into the "land of fact." Once an assumption becomes a fact it is difficult to go back.

Ask yourself the question: "What do I think I know that I cannot prove?"

What you cannot prove may be correct, but it should not run counter to the facts. If it violates common practices and tendencies, make sure you make a note of the cause for that deviation. And remember, if the laws of physics or biology have to be violated for the details to fit, something is wrong somewhere.

Your assumptions may be tying you up. Cut a few loose and see where your research goes.

*This article appeared in The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 31 Dec 2007. Copyright 2007 by The Generations Network, Inc.*

**Our Aging Nation** - People 65 and older.

2005: 36.8 million

1967: 19.1 million

1915: 4.5 million

*U. S. Census Bureau, Special Edition*

## ACTION ITEMS

### SAVE GINA

GINA is an acronym for “The Genetic Information and Non-Discrimination Act.” This bill protects individuals against discrimination based on their genetic information when it comes to health insurance and employment. It was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 5, 2008; however, Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma has placed a “hold” on the bill to stall it from being voted on in the Senate.

You can help move the bill along by writing to your state senators (either by e-mail or snail-mail) requesting that the hold be removed and that they support GINA. You can also contact Harry Reid, the Senate Majority Leader, asking that he force the bill to the floor for a vote. You might even let Senator Coburn know what you think of his hold.

Locate senators’ contact information at:  
[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

Sample scripts are at:  
<http://www.geneticalliance.org/alert7>

### RECORD ACCESS PROBLEMS

The Freedom of Information concept is slowly being eroded, and it is having a huge impact on finding ancestors and living cousins.

Associated Press writer Robert Tanner wrote “that states have steadily limited the public’s access to government information since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. A new Associated Press analysis of laws in all 50 states has found Legislatures have passed more than 1,000 laws changing access to information, approving more than twice as many measures that restrict information as laws that open government books.

In statehouse battles, the issue has pitted advocates of government openness—including journalists and civil liberties groups—against lawmakers and others who worry that public information could be misused, whether it’s by terrorists or by computer hackers hoping to use

your credit cards. Security concerns typically won out.

While fear of another terrorist attack drove many new proposals, it wasn’t the only motivator. Concerns about identity theft, medical privacy and the vulnerability of computerized records have sparked many pieces of legislation, too.”

That is why the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) is so important to all of us looking for relatives. We must be aware of what is going on, and contact the legislatures and tell them how important this information is to all of us!!!

### Pennsylvania

On February 14 Governor Rendell signed into law a bill overhauling the state’s existing open records law. Although this is an improvement, there are still two dozen categories of information that remain restricted for privacy or safety purposes. They include the death records discussed in last month’s newsletter.

Please contact Governor Rendell to let him know that it is important to make death records that are more than 50 years old available to the public. See our February issue for contact info.

### Vermont

House Bill H397 and Senate Bill S319 call for the redaction of Social Security numbers and causes of death from Vermont death certificates. You can see a letter from RPAC to Rep. William J. Lippert, Chair of the Judiciary Committee at <http://www.fgs.org/rpac/pdf/VermontHB397-RPAC-31Jan2008.pdf>. Representative Lippert’s address is given in the letter.

### California

Senate Bill 471 requires an authorized person requesting a certified copy of a birth or death record to provide valid identification (Driver’s License, ID card or passport). Currently it is only necessary to swear under penalty of perjury that you are authorized to receive the record.

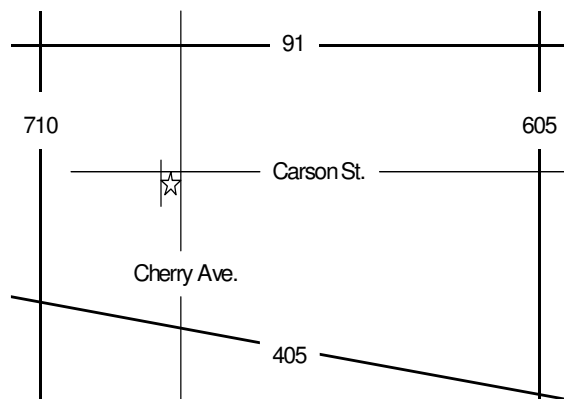
*Information above forwarded by Liz Myers from a Federation of Genealogical Societies posting.*

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 12, 1:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: "The Link between Genealogy and Memoir" by Alice Rene.

Sunday, April 13, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting. 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "A History of Pomerania—The Land by the Sea" by George Unrine.

Sunday, April 20, 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 26.



Sunday, April 27, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* Program: "Organizing Your Genealogy on Your Computer" by Lisa Schumacher.

Saturday, May 3, 12:30 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. The main speaker (in Rooms C&D) is Kathleen Roe Trevena on "California Migration."

**FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2008**

LDS ORANGE STAKE CENTER

674 S. Yorba St., Orange, CA

Saturday, April 26, 2008 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Seven classes to choose from in each of five sessions. No charge for the classes. A Syllabus (\$10) and box lunch (\$7.75) provided if pre-ordered by April 16.

For more information, call 714-997-7710. Flyers will be available at our April meeting that include the class schedule and order form.



**BRITISH ISLES FHS SEMINAR**

"Sail Into Your Past Aboard the Queen Mary!"

Thursday thru Saturday, August 7-9, 2008

Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, CA

Registration fee includes Continental Breakfast (Thu.), 3 Lunches, 39 Lectures, and a printed Syllabus. The fee for non-members before May 10 is \$300; after May 10 it is \$350. You may view the schedule and register online at [www.rootsweb.com!/bifhsusa/seminar](http://www.rootsweb.com!/bifhsusa/seminar). For a printed brochure, write to Lydia Jeffrey, 2008 Seminar Committee, 131 North Ivy Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016 or pick up at our meeting.

\*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.