

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 41 + Number 8 + August 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, AUGUST 17, 2008

1:15	Class	INTERMEDIATE: "Why Publish Your Family Genealogy?" presented by Loran Bures
1:45	Period	HERITAGE SOCIETY: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War presented by Thomas Chumley, Commander-Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: PAM WIEDENBECK Researching Your Catholic Ancestors

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Reports</i>	58
<i>You Can Never Have Enough Sources</i>	59
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	60
<i>Of Interest</i>	61
<i>Sources</i>	62
<i>On the Web</i>	63
<i>Calendar</i>	64

YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH SOURCES

By Rhonda R. McClure

Written for the Learning Center at Genealogy.com, 1 June 2000

A few years ago a discussion erupted on an online bulletin board about the method in which a particular genealogy program handled footnotes to display the source documentation. There were many complaints about the number of “ibids” that the program was generating, as one source had been used to document many different facts. This prompted me to write an article about how the particular genealogy program could print out a bibliography instead of footnotes.

In response to that article, a professional researcher wrote to me suggesting that perhaps the researchers should have been more concerned that they had relied so much on a single source. This got me thinking then, and a published genealogy that I was looking at recently reminded me of this issue.

There Are Never Too Many Sources

I confess: I belong to the school of thinking that says you can never have too many sources. Of course, the type of sources you rely on is extremely important, with primary documents generally the most reliable. However, there are times when all you will be able to work with will be secondary sources or those that imply the information indirectly. In such a case, it becomes imperative that you amass more than a single source to verify that the information is correct.

Even if a secondary source has been compiled by a well-known and highly respected genealogist, you should still do your best to look for additional resources to back up the suppositions and conclusions found in the secondary source. You just never know when a researcher’s conclusions may fall short. With those researchers that have proven themselves, this is often not a problem. However, few newcomers to genealogy know just who can be trusted. By routinely looking for other sources, you can

better assure yourself that you won’t get led down the wrong trail.

Where Did They Get the Information?

One issue that few researchers keep in mind when working with different published family histories is the sources those researchers relied on. Very often a researcher will justify a conclusion because they have found the same information in two different published family histories. Unfortunately, more often than not, the published family histories the researcher is relying on may both have gotten erroneous information from the same source originally.

That is why, whenever possible, it is important not to rely on published family histories alone. After all, if the published family history contains some information, they had to get it from somewhere. This means that in many instances you, as the present researcher, should be able to recreate the research. Just be sure to draw your own conclusions. Sometimes it is easy to fall into the trap of not viewing the evidence objectively, but instead, being swayed by the conclusions of the previous research found in the published genealogy.

The Ultimate Goal

While primary documentation is the ultimate goal, oftentimes such documents may not exist, at least not specifically for the event we are trying to prove. Sometimes, our only alternative is to rely on secondary documents. In that case, I often find myself not only citing one source, but also others. I find myself looking at the source documentation from the published genealogy. Or, if they haven’t included footnotes, a search of the bibliography to see what other resources I may not be aware of.

When dealing with fellow genealogists, we oftentimes will take what they share with us and

Continued on page 60

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can you believe that the summer is almost over? Did you get any extra research in? Well, there's always next year!

Our July meeting, with people sharing their discoveries, was interesting and informative. Thanks to John McCoy for setting it up. I don't know whether I have American Indians in my family, but Dan Bartosz's talk will sure make it easier if I do!

The August meeting will feature the President of the Southern California Genealogical Society as our guest speaker. She will be a good person to learn from!

Don't forget to carpool to our meetings—and visit one of the friendliest genealogy societies in California!

We welcomed several visitors recently, and they asked, "How do I start?"

Since our Beginners instructor, Rellen Owen, is traveling worldwide until our October meeting, **IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CLASS ON HOW AND WHERE TO BEGIN**, I am willing to get you started on the right track. However, **ONLY IF YOU CONTACT ME TO RESERVE A SPOT** for Sunday, August 17 (our regular meeting day) at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the church.

You can e-mail me at stookesberry@gmail.com or call 562-598-3027 by Friday, August 15 (before 8:00 p.m. in the evening, please).

Liz

RALPHS REWARDS CARD

As you've probably noticed, the Ralphs grocery chain is replacing its old club card with a new "Rewards" card. The first time you make a purchase using your new Rewards card, show both your old and new cards to the clerk. She will link the two numbers so that all the attributes of the old card will be transferred to the new one.

To be sure your plan for contributions to Questing Heirs is still effective, look at the bottom of your receipt. It should say: "At your request, Ralphs is donating to Questing Heirs Genealogical Society." If you don't see this statement, you can easily register your new card number just as you did the old one.

1. Go to www.ralphs.com.
2. Click on Community Contribution (at the lower left of your screen).
3. Click Sign Up Participant.
4. Click Agree.
5. Enter our NPO #84877 and fill in your information.
6. Click Submit.
7. Print the confirmation screen for your records.

NOTE: Submissions for the September 2008 Newsletter are due by August 24, 2008.

Continued from page 59

verify it for accuracy. I know that I am always thrilled when I receive information and they have cited a source that I either wasn't aware of or hadn't thought to check. However, when we are working with published materials, oftentimes we don't seem to be as diligent in verifying the accuracy of the information.

In Conclusion

So, if you are having trouble taking a particular line back further, you may want to step back and re-examine the conclusions you drew based on the source or sources you relied on. See if perhaps there are some other sources that may enhance your understanding of the family unit and those who associated with it.

*Down by the river
carved on a rock
are these three words:
forget me not.*

Another old autograph

OF INTEREST

UPDATE ON GINA

In our May newsletter, we reported on the progress of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). This act was designed to protect Americans against discrimination based on their genetic information with regard to health insurance and employment.

GINA had been debated in Congress for 13 years; but on April 24 it was unanimously passed by the Senate, on May 5 it was passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 414 to 1, and on May 21 President Bush signed the act into law.

The law will not be implemented immediately, however. The health insurance protections are expected to begin in about a year and the employment rules to take effect in about a year and a half.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS BOOK

Submitted by Dennis Northcott

A new book titled *Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska Civil War Veterans: Compilation of the Death Rolls of the Departments of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, 1883-1948* contains death records of more than 36,000 members of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), which was the largest association of Civil War Union veterans. This book is the third in my series of compilations of D.A.R. death rolls. The first two books are titled *Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois: Transcription of the Death Rolls, 1879-1947* and *Indiana Civil War Veterans: Transcription of the Death Rolls of the Department of Indiana, Grand Army of the Republic, 1882-1948*. To see if your ancestor is listed in one of these books, visit www.ngpublications.com. If you would like to order any of the books, send \$30 for each book plus \$4 shipping for the first book and \$1 for each additional book, and mail to: Dennis Northcott, P.O. Box 11801, St. Louis, MO 63105. Make checks payable to Dennis Northcott. Or you can print an order form from the website above. Coming next: Compilation of

the death rolls of the Department of Pennsylvania.

[Editor's Note: Order forms will also be available at our next meeting.]

FULLERTON BOY RECEIVES YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) has named the recipient of the first Young Professional Scholarship award as Michael Melendez of Fullerton, California.

Melendez, a senior at Troy Hill High School in Fullerton, already has a long resumé of genealogical achievements. He performed a 150-hour internship at the Orange Regional Family History Center in California. He completed the Staff Training Program and is currently a staff member at the center.

He is also a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies' Youth committee, as well as the Future Genealogists Society. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Melendez put on a Beginners Family History Jamboree.

APG provides the award as a scholarship opportunity for a young genealogist to attend its annual Professional Management Conference (PMC). Melendez will attend the PMC conference on September 3, 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The scholarship includes conference registration and a \$500 award toward travel and accommodations. The PMC is held in conjunction with the Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference.

Candidates for the 2008 award were required to be between the ages of 18 and 25 years as of 1 May 2008, be enrolled as a high school senior, undergraduate, post graduate or graduate within the last twelve months of an accredited university or college, and have at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average.

Originally published in UpFront with NGS, The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society, Vol. 8, No. 7, 1 July 2008.

SOURCES

STATE RESOURCES

The federal government provides a web page at http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_Family/State_Genealogy.shtml that lists genealogy resources by state. There you will find links for all 50 states plus Washington D.C.

The content on each link varies from state to state. Some take you to the state's library or archives. Some sites provide introductory information on the state's history or on genealogical research methods. Some provide links to electronic databases of that state's records.

Content varies too much to describe here, but take a look at the website and see what resources are listed for the states you're interested in. This source will be particularly helpful when you're beginning research in a state that you haven't worked in before.

ARPHAX PUBLISHING

The first three books in the Texas Land Survey Maps series are now available, starting with Cooke, Lavaca, and Rusk Counties. Plans are to publish one new Texas book each week. At that pace, it will take five years to complete all 254 counties in Texas.

The company asks that Texas researchers be sure and let Arphax Publishing know which counties they prefer to be published first. Requests can either be directed by email to info@arphax.com, via the "Contact" form available from its web-site at www.arphax.com, by phone at 1-800-681-5298, or by mail at 2210 Research Park Blvd., Norman, OK 73069.

Texas is different from other states that entered the Union in and after the 19th century because Texas retained its public lands and distributed them by its own methods. It did not follow the same township and section method native to the "public land" states. While parcels may be of just about any shape and size, they are at least discernible and precise. Greg Boyd, creator of the series, feels he has devised a map-size and

scale that perfectly presents original Texas land-ownership to interested researchers.

The information above was taken from an Arphax Press Release dated 14 May 2008 and printed in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter.

STATE E-BOOKS BY NGS

E-books on the following states are available from the National Genealogical Society, Research in the States Series at the NGS web site at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

- *Genealogical Research in Arkansas, 2008
- *Genealogical Research in Illinois, 2007
- *Genealogical Research in Maryland, 2007
- *Genealogical Research in Michigan, 2008
- *Genealogical Research in Missouri, 2007
- *Genealogical Research in Nebraska, 2008
- *Genealogical Research in North Carolina, 2008
- *Genealogical Research in Ohio, 2008
- *Genealogical Research in Oregon, 2007
- *Genealogical Research in Pennsylvania, 2007
- *Genealogical Research in Virginia, 2007
- *Genealogical Research in West Virginia, 2007

Each publication includes a section on archives, libraries, societies, and other research facilities in the respective state, as well as a discussion of the major family history resources available, such as maps, cemetery records, census, city directories, newspapers, military records, tax records, and vital records. In addition, each state includes a discussion of which records are available at the local, county, and state level.

Each publication is 8½"x11" and an average length of 42 pages. Each is currently available as a PDF file, an "e-book" that you can download from the NGS web site. Prices are \$8 for NGS members and \$10 for non-members. [To order a book, go to the NGS web site, choose NGS Publications, then choose Bookstore, and then Research in the States from the Browse by Category menu.]

The above information was published in UpFront with NGS, Vol. 8, No. 7, 1 July 2008.

ON THE WEB

TRANSCRIPT 2.3

This is an interesting program created by Jacob Boerema of the Netherlands. It is free for private non-commercial use and may be downloaded from www.jacobboerema.nl/en/Freeware.htm.

Mr. Boerema explains his program as follows:

“Transcript came into being because of my dissatisfaction with using a separate editor and picture viewer when transcribing digital images of old documents. I always had to switch between the editor and my image viewer when I needed to move the image so the next part would be visible.

“I thought that it should be easier when this could be done from within one program. I couldn’t find a program that did this though; so I decided that I would try to write such a program myself, and here is the result.

“The basic idea is very simple. Divide the screen in two parts. In the upper half the image is shown and in the lower half you can edit the text. (As this is not an OCR program, the program does not convert the text. You have to do the transcription yourself.) The size of those windows can be changed as you wish.

“From within the editor you can move the visible part of the image in many ways using shortcuts. You can also use keys to move to the previous or next image in the same directory. Besides that, it is of course possible to use most of the common editor functions also found in other editors...

“By default the program remembers the exact position in the text and image where you were last time and goes back to that position when you start the program.

“Transcript has an extensive help file containing context sensitive help. Use F1 to view this help file. It is advisable to read at least the most important items in this help file before you start using the program.”

BRITISH SLAVE RECORDS ONLINE

Ancestry.co.uk has posted 3 million names of slaves held across the British Empire in the early 19th century, putting hundreds of thousands of pages of searchable information online to help slaves’ descendants research their past. The project uses registers that the British government created between 1813 and 1834 in an effort to stamp out the slave trade by ensuring plantation owners did not buy new slaves...

Records from about 700 registers from 23 British territories and dependencies include name of owner, parish of residence, name, gender, age, and nationality of the slave.

Colonies were required to conduct censuses of slaves and their owners every three years. Records were kept on site and copies submitted to the Office for the Registry of Colonial Slaves. After the office was disbanded, some 200,000 pages of names were placed in the National Archives in Kew, in west London.

Although estimates vary, researchers say tens of millions of African men, women and children were enslaved and shipped to the Caribbean and the Americas. Many of these were sent to British-controlled islands such as Barbados, Jamaica and the Bahamas, where they were forced to work in plantations.

In 1807 The Abolition of Slave Trade Act came into force... To combat illicit transportation following this act many of the British Colonies began keeping registers of black slaves who had been so-called “lawfully enslaved.” In 1819 the Office for the Registry of Colonial Slaves was established in London and copies of the slave registers kept by the colonies were sent to this office. Registration generally occurred once every three years. The registers continue through to 1834 when slavery was officially abolished.

This information is excerpted from an article in Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter of 8 Apr 2008 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2008 by Richard W. Eastman.

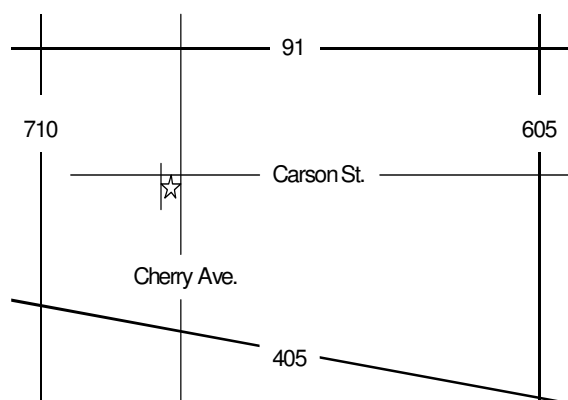
CALENDAR

Saturday, August 9, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. This month will be a special Kids' Only Scrapbooking Class: "All About My Family and Me" conducted by Laurie Schlichter. A \$30 fee includes a scrapbook, decorative pages, stickers, and 3-D embellishments. Advance registration is needed. Contact Charlotte Bocage for details at rubymoon01@yahoo.com.

Sunday, August 10, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "Deduction vs. Induction in Genealogical Research: Applying Logic to Family History" by Jean Wilcox Hibben.

Saturday, August 16, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: "Researching Institutional Records" by Gena Philibert Ortega.

Sunday, August 17, 1:15–3:30 p.m. 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 58.



Wednesday, August 20, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting at the Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Highway & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: "Dating of Photos & Uses of Digital Cameras in Genealogical Research" by Chris Hansen.

Wednesday, August 20, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: Library Series, Part 2. "If It's There, We Can Find It: The Power of Interlibrary Loan" by Marjeanne Blinn.

Saturday, September 6, 11:00 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C&D): "The Lives of Pioneer Women" by Gena Philibert Ortega. Other classes available include Special Interest Groups in Scots/Irish (9:00 a.m., Maddy Room by Carol Tackett), Catholic Church Records (12:30 p.m., Room C by Gena Ortega), and New England Records (12:30 p.m., Room D by Marcia Mahoney).

*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.