



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 42 ✦ Number 8 ✦ August 2009

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 16, 2009

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: “What’s New at
Ancestry.com,” presented by Linda Ivers**

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

2:15 Business

**2:30 General SPEAKER: CAROLINE BRAXTON ROBER
Meeting ANALYZE—KEY TO FURTHER RESEARCH**

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: “Organizing Your Work,”
presented by Mike Powers**

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AUGUST MEETING

**SPEAKER:
CAROLINE BRAXTON ROBER**

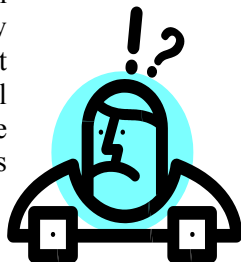
Our speaker became interested in genealogy over 45 years ago. She credits her grandmother for sparking that interest. She is a native Californian, a wife, mother and grandmother. She began her career by researching her own family, which she has done for over 35 years and is still actively pursuing the search.

Today Caroline is a Professional Genealogist, lecturer and teacher. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and Past President of the Southern California Chapter of APG. She is the Staff Trainer for the Regional Orange, California, Family History Center, as well as a member of many genealogical and historical societies—some of which include the National Genealogical Society, the New England Historical Genealogical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society. She has written CD Research Reviews for the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. Her area of research expertise is in the United States—particularly Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. She is also known for her organization skills in genealogy.

Caroline's e-mail address is:
carolinerober@ymail.com

**PROGRAM:
Analyze—Key to Further Research**

We family history seekers spend a lot of time looking for information about our ancestors—and usually find it in bits and pieces, here and there. Caroline Rober is going to talk about the next stage in the research process—analyzing how those bits and pieces fit (or not) together. She will discuss the steps in the process and the best ways to proceed.



REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our July hosts:

Laurie ANGEL Charlotte LLEWELLYN
Penny NUGENT Jeannie SUKOW
Cheryl TARDIF

Our August hosts will be:

Sandy BARRUS Terry HAMILTON
Cheryl TARDIF Connie WILLIAMS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

JULY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 41 Guests: 15

NEW MEMBER

Doris DRAGAN Individual 9/10

RENEWAL

Christine ELIA Individual 9/10

**NOTE: Submissions for
the September 2009
Newsletter are due by
August 28, 2009.**

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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.



CLIMBING YOUR FAMILY TREE

Researching Newspapers by Gena Philibert Ortega

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I think newspaper research is probably the one type of research least liked by genealogists. For some reason, newspapers are rarely indexed; so researching them can mean spending hours staring at the microfilm machine as you search page by page. While some newspaper research can be easier—like finding obituaries when you know an exact date—so much more can be found in the newspaper, but it requires hours of research time.

Newspapers chronicled our ancestors' lives, their neighbors and their community. Our ancestor may be mentioned in articles ranging from standard genealogical fare like birth, death and marriage announcements to writing letters to the editor or a letter home from war.

Different types of newspapers exist besides the city paper that we are more familiar with. There are county, religious, occupational, ethnic, military, and special interest newspapers. When seeking out newspapers to research, make sure you do a thorough inventory of what newspapers existed at the time your ancestor lived.

Newspapers offer genealogists a wealth of information. For a complete list of what can be found in a newspaper that will help a genealogist, see the chapter entitled "Research in Newspapers" in *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, ISBN#9781593312770. The following is just a small list of information that can be found in newspapers:

Obituaries, Anniversary Notices, Marriages, Births, Legal Notices, Probate Notices, Funeral Notices, Memorials, Trial Coverage, Advertisements, Passenger Lists, Runaway Slave Announcements, Marriage License Lists, Society Page Articles, Letters to the Editor, and Police/Fire Calls for Help.

One of the things I point out to other researchers is that, even if you consider an event that your ancestor experienced, namely death,

there can be many different types of articles or notices in a newspaper that document this event, besides an obituary. Examples include a death notice, funeral notice, probate notice, family thank you, and memorial. In addition, if the person died from an accident or a murder, there will be articles detailing the death and, in the case of a murder, there should be subsequent articles detailing the arrest and trial of the accused and the outcome of that trial.

In general, you can find newspaper collections at public libraries, state archives, state libraries, and historical societies. In at least one case, a state historical society has newspapers for places outside of its own state. I recommend that researchers check out the Kansas State Historical Society at <http://kshs.org/library/news.htm> and search through their list of available newspapers.

Many archives and libraries, including the Kansas State Historical Society, offer micro-filmed copies of newspapers through inter-library loan. Through the interlibrary loan program, you request the item from your local library and pay a small fee that covers the shipping charge; they then request the item and notify you when it has arrived. You can then view the microfilm at the library and make whatever copies you need.

"Clipping files," that include clippings of articles featuring community members, can be found through libraries, archives, genealogical and historical societies. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, www.familysearch.org, includes books that are indexes of various records from newspapers. By conducting a catalog subject search for the word "newspaper" or by conducting a place search and looking for the category newspapers, you will be able to see what the Library has in the way of newspapers for your ancestral home.

Continued on page 62

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone!

We had a wonderful 40th anniversary party! It included an interesting program by Jean Hibben. Jeanette Jones presented awards based on past attendance records and service to our Society. We had a surprise award for John McCoy, who deserved it for all his hard work during six years as President. Doris Dragan won the drawing for a free year’s membership in Questing Heirs. Penny Nugent ordered a beautiful cake from Rossmoor Bakery that was decorated with the design Mike Powers created for our Café Press items. All in all it was a very nice affair!

The winners in the drawing we held at the Restoration Fair were Kelly Dessecker and Jill Ann Black, both of Long Beach, who will be receiving their books soon via UPS.

Summer is almost over. With this heat, it is time to go to the libraries and conduct research. At least, that’s what I plan on doing. I will also be working on AB 130 on behalf of all of us genealogists in California. (See the update on page 63.) *Liz*

OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

At our July meeting, besides having an outstanding speaker, we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Questing Heirs Genealogical Society of Long Beach.

The following certificates were awarded :

- Longest Dues-Paying Member:
Jackie Riley—1975
- Longest Attending Member:
Walton McNulty—1977
- Certificates of Attendance:
Walton McNulty—1977
Robert E. Brasher—1978
Marilyn Brasher—1978
Georgie Lyons—1978
- Thank You Certificates :
Kathryn Foord
Robert E. Brasher
Marilyn Brasher
Georgie Lyons

Past Presidents in attendance were:

- Liz Myers 2007-
- John McCoy 2001-2006
- Richard Hoover 1999-2000
- Chuck Horton 1995-1998

As the longest serving President, John McCoy received a Distinguished Service Award from the California State Genealogical Alliance, presented by its President, Susan M. Roe. Among John’s accomplishments during his six years as President, besides the hard work and innovative ideas he put into that job, were the many programs he personally presented at meetings, his page-long contributions to the monthly newsletter, his planning our annual Christmas Party for several years, and spearheading the Betty Marie Marr Memorial Lecture which featured Hank Jones as speaker on May 21, 2006.

We all continue to value his participation on the Board as Director—Past President and his technical help with the electronic equipment at meetings.

RALPHS CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are enrolled in Ralphs Community Contribution Program, designating Questing Heirs to receive a contribution based on your store purchases, remember that you have to re-submit this choice each year on SEPTEMBER 1st!

Just log in to www.ralphs.com and sign in with your e-mail address and password. Then click on ‘My Account’ (toward the upper right) to view and edit your information as necessary.

Click on ‘Edit Community Contribution Program Information.’ Enter the Questing Heirs name or number (84877) as your choice. Then click on ‘Save Changes.’ When finished with all changes, ‘Logout’ at the top of the page.

If you shop at Ralphs, this is an easy way to create income for our Society. If you haven’t signed up yet, instructions will be available at our August meeting.



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THE MEDIA CORNER

by Penny Nugent

At last month's meeting we were urged to write a family history for our descendants, and the idea of a time line showing current events next to family events was demonstrated. This is a wonderful idea, but what if historians have ignored the area where your ancestors came from? What if you have no idea what was going on when your ancestors were being born, marrying, and dying? For many years I had that problem. Finding out anything about the southern part of Italy was next to impossible because general histories of the Italian peninsula concentrated almost exclusively on Rome and the northern principalities, leaving the south to an unrecorded fate.

This lack of information has finally been addressed by historian Tommaso Astarita in his book *Between Salt Water and Holy Water: A History of Southern Italy*. It is a volume of invaluable information for genealogists everywhere whose ancestors came from the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Mr. Astarita begins his history in the first century B.C. and takes the reader up to the present—using maps, population tables, genealogical charts of the ruling families, and many illustrations. Although his primary focus is on the city of Naples, he includes a wealth of information about the eastern coast of the peninsula as well as the island of Sicily. Have you been puzzled by the seemingly never-ending death records of 1836-1837 in your southern Italian town? Mr. Astarita describes the cholera epidemic which struck during those years, killing some 14,000 people in Naples, over 20,000 residents in Palermo and 100,000 throughout the area as a whole. Was your ancestor a "contadino," a peasant farmer? Mr. Astarita describes the problems of feudal land tenancies and the medieval cast of mind that kept the south from achieving full equality with the north for centuries.

Although somewhat dry reading at times, this is a book that belongs in every southern Italian genealogist's library. When you've finished

page 317, you will know more than you ever thought possible about the area of Italy where your roots were nurtured.



PINPOINTING TIME OF DAY

by Paula Stuart Warren, CG

Genealogists strive to find the exact day that an event occurred, such as for a birth, death, arrival in town, marriage, or christening. For some of these events it is possible to find an exact time of the day. Twentieth century (and some nineteenth) civilly recorded death and birth records usually give an exact time.

Did Grandpa's diary state that they arrived at their new home in Greentown in the early morning? What trains ran then and at what times? A railroad schedule in a newspaper or perhaps the original schedule in a museum or archive may yield a time of arrival.

If your ancestor didn't keep a journal or diary, maybe a neighbor did and commented on the events related to neighbors. An obituary in a small town newspaper may give the time of death. A coroner's record generally states a time of death. Some Civil War pension files actually include a time of a battle beginning or ending and a time of injury. A letter from your grand-aunt Mabel to your grandmother might say that their mother passed away "at 3:55 this morning."

A very dedicated clergyman or church secretary may list a time of a christening or wedding in the record book. Civil and criminal court records sometimes include an exact time of an event as do newspapers. One old settlers group's minutes include the time of death for members.

Noting the time of day of important events can add interest to your family story. Have you recorded exact times of events in your life? Your marriage, your first kiss, a daughter or nephew's birth, when you began your new job, or any other moment in your life?

A Tip from the Pros, Ancestry Daily News, 22 Jun 2007. Copyright © The Generations Network, Inc.



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ST. LOUIS OPENS CIVIL WAR ERA COURT DOCUMENTS

by Heather Ratcliffe

“White-gloved archivists digging through brittle pages inside metal file drawers at the St. Louis circuit clerk’s office have unlocked never-before told stories of looting, betrayal and slavery in the years following the Civil War.

“Now these rare documents, unearthed during a 10-year preservation project, will be available to anyone who wants to read about how Missourians attempted to bring law and order after the chaos of war...

“More than 11,200 court cases, from 1866 to 1868, were preserved and archived with the help of a \$330,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities...

“Most of the lawsuits were filed by people who were trying to recover money or property lost during the fighting...”

[Note that these documents are now available for review at the state archives’ St. Louis office, but they will later be scanned and uploaded to the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative website. They should be available by 2011.]

Excerpts from an article that appeared on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch website (STLtoday.com) on 28 May 2009.

CANADIAN NATURALIZATIONS

“Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is pleased to announce the release of a new version of the Canadian Naturalization 1915-1932 online database. It now includes the names of 206,731 individuals who applied for and received status as naturalized Canadians from 1915 to 1932. This database is one of the few Canadian genealogical resources specifically designed to benefit those researchers with roots outside of the British Commonwealth. References located in the database can be used to request copies of the actual naturalization records, which are held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

“The database is available at: www.collections.canada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization-1915-1932/index-e.html.”

This announcement was reprinted in Eastman’s blog on 22 Jul 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.



Continued from page 59...

Many of the larger online genealogical databases have newspaper collections you can search. Each site differs in what it offers, so it’s best to check each one for newspapers that can be of assistance to you. These providers include Godfrey Memorial Library (<http://www.godfrey.org>); Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com>); World Vital Records (<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com>); and Genealogy Bank (<http://www.genealogybank.com>). While all of these are subscription sites, you can look at their indexes and conduct a name search for free; you just won’t be able to look at relevant hits. Remember that, in the case of Godfrey Memorial Library, World Vital Records and Genealogy Bank, these are available through the LDS Family History Centers.

Many states have newspaper projects as part of the U.S. Newspaper Project. This project works towards digitizing historic newspapers. Some statewide examples include California State Newspaper Project, the Utah Digital Archives and the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection. For a complete list of state projects, see the U.S. Newspaper Project web site at <http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html>.

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There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his.
Helen Keller, 1880-1968



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USCIS BEGINS TRANSFER OF HISTORICAL A-FILES TO NATIONAL ARCHIVES

On June 3 the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a news release announcing the transfer of alien registration files (A-files) to the National Archives and Records Administration.

“The A-file is a series of records consisting of numbered files used to document the complete history of the interaction between an alien and the U.S. government. The file is unique in that it not only contains routine demographic information, but may also include photographs, foreign birth certificates, marriage licenses, interview transcripts or actual recordings, and more. Currently, USCIS maintains approximately 53 million A-files; of these, about 21 million have been retired to a Federal Records Center.

“Previously, the A-file was considered a ‘temporary record’ and could possibly have been disposed of 75 years from the date the file was retired to a Federal Records Center or 75 years from the date of last action. Now, the A-file becomes a permanent record which will transfer to the National Archives custody 100 years from the individual’s date of birth. Newly-eligible files will be transferred to the National Archives every five years.

“After transfer to the National Archives, the majority of files will be housed at the National Archives in Kansas City. Files on immigration through the port of San Francisco will be housed at the National Archives in San Francisco. Once these records have been transferred, they will be available in the research rooms at these two National Archives facilities. Copies will also be available through the mail.

“Additional immigration-related information and links to resources geared specifically for genealogical research is available online at www.uscis.gov/genealogy or www.archives.gov/immigration.”

UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 130

In last month’s newsletter, we alerted our readers to proposed changes in the handling of California marriage records. I was just told that AB 130 will go before the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17. This gives us time to work with Representative Kevin Jeffries and his staff on adjustments we would like to have made.

According to www.IAJGS.org, AB 130 would make marriage records be treated just like birth and death records. It also states that an index and informational copies cannot include mothers’ maiden names. This means that, if posted on an Internet database, the mother’s maiden name would be removed. How can genealogists and others determine which marriage record we need to pursue?

Right now, contacting your elected representative in the State Assembly and in the Senate is **important**. Each house will have to re-vote on the adjusted bill before sending it to the Governor. If and when it goes to Governor Schwarzenegger, we will need to plaster him with our concerns. Hopefully, that might not happen if we get on the bandwagon now!

Liz Myers

YOUTH GENEALOGISTS ASSOC. <http://fgsyouthsociety.wordpress.com>

Do you have a teenager in your family who is interested in learning more about his/her family history? Have them take a look at the URL above.



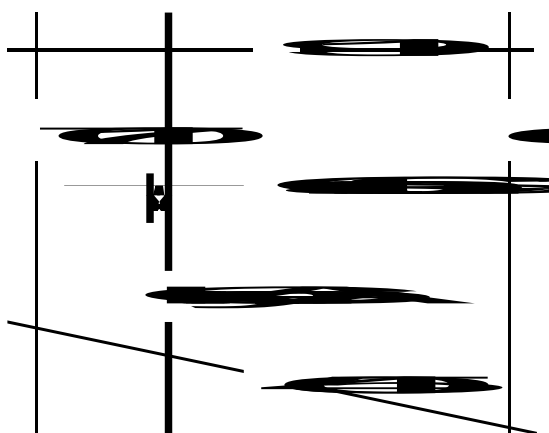
This website was developed by the Federation of Genealogical Societies to provide opportunities and information to youths interested in their family history. Teenagers will find a newsletter and blog on the website and can contribute to a personal page of genealogical adventures. They can also join a genealogical group on Facebook or GenealogyWise.com.



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Sunday, August 9, Noon-5:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society workshop at 1310B Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. “How to Use the IGS Library—Foreign Sources.”

Sunday, August 16, 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 19, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting at the Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Hwy. & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: “Getting the Most Out of Local Research” by Joan Rambo.

Sunday, August 23, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting: a tour of the Southern California Genealogical Society’s Library at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. (The BIFHS is exploring other libraries in the Los Angeles area while the LARFHC is closed for renovation.)

Saturday, September 5, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave, Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C & D): Lloyd Budwig on “Jumping the Block Wall.”

Upcoming Events

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family History Seminar
Saturday, August 22, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Weingart Senior Center
5220 Oliva Avenue
Lakewood, CA

Guest Speaker, **Stephen J. Danko**, PhD, PLCGS, will lecture on the following topics:

1. Genealogy and the Changing Map of Eastern Europe
2. A New Look at Immigrant Passenger Manifests
3. Using DNA and Indirect Evidence to Establish Family Relationships
4. Genealogy Blogs: New Ways to Disseminate Genealogy

Registration for non-members before August 8 is \$40 and includes a morning snack and delicious Polish luncheon. More information and a registration form may be found at www.pgsc.org. Or you can e-mail President@pgsca.org or call 310-378-0877.

*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.