



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 42 ✦ Number 10 ✦ October 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, OCTOBER 18, 2009

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: “Overcoming Dead Ends,”
presented by Nancy Carlberg**

2:00 Business

2:15 Break Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Nancy Carlberg
Meeting Beginning Scandinavian Research**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: presented by Mike Powers

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OCTOBER MEETING

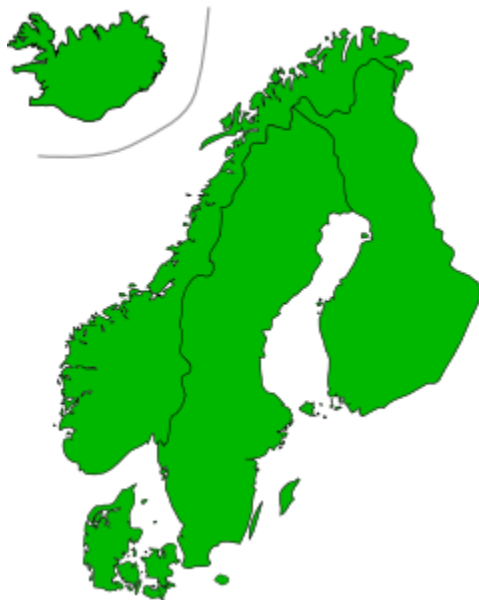
SPEAKER:

NANCY ELLEN CARLBERG

Nancy is a former librarian, the author of many books, and a lecturer and genealogy teacher throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties. After five years as a hobby genealogist, she became a serious professional and has now been working in the field for well over thirty years. She worked as a researcher for the Alex Haley "Roots" project. For several years, she led the Orange County Genealogical Society research trip to Salt Lake City, Utah. She has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Great Britain and Europe doing research for herself and others.

Our speaker will be doing a doubleheader for us this month. For the Intermediate Class she will be talking about "Overcoming Dead Ends." This presentation is intended to give us ideas for new directions in our research—after we've tried the standard sources such as census records, vital records, and so forth.

For the main program, Nancy's topic will be "Beginning Scandinavian Research." Since Scandinavian records are her specialty, this presentation should be very informative.



REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our September hosts:

Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT Linda IVERS
Jeanette JONES Penny NUGENT

Our October hosts will be:

Laurie ANGEL Suzanne BOYLES
Frances LIEBZEIT Cheryl TARDIF

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 39 Guests: 10

NEW MEMBERS—None

RENEWALS

Please see page 76 for this month's renewals.

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

August Income	\$ 387.19
August Expenses	\$ 545.64
Operating Balance	\$6,950.52
(Includes Priscilla Nielsen's \$5,000 gift.)	

NOTE: Submissions for the November 2009 Newsletter are due by October 25, 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.



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UNRECOGNIZED TREASURE IN HOSPITAL RECORDS by Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD

Medical records are some of the most underused resources in genealogy. While recent medical records are not available to the general public for privacy reasons, many older records are available on microfilm through the Family History Library. A keyword search on “medical records” on the Library website at www.familysearch.org, yields over 1800 hits, including English, Irish, Scottish, French, Danish, German, and American entries.

Hospital admissions are medical records similar to census records. Since a census is normally taken every ten years, it provides data on the more stable aspects of a population. Since hospital admissions are recorded continually as patients are checked in, they offer information on the more transient aspects of a group. If someone came to a town during a year that was not a census year, he would not appear in the census for that town. However, if he was admitted to the local hospital, he would appear in its daily admission records even if he were in town for only a few hours. Census records are relatively easy to search since many have been transcribed and indexed by popular genealogical websites such as Ancestry.com, but very few admission records are available in electronic format and must be searched manually on microfilm. Because of the large number of records this can involve, searching for the possible admission of a specific individual can be equivalent to looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack.

Nevertheless, hospital admission records can be a much better source of information about a person than census records. For one thing, they provide much more data. Admission records give the name, age, gender, marital status, occupation and place of birth of an individual, but they may also provide his dates of admission, discharge or death, his location before he came to town, how long he had been in town, his disease, how long he had been sick, and the hour of his admission. While

census records are notorious for mistakes with misspelled names, wrong ages, and missing family members, hospital admissions are surprisingly accurate because they were recorded by a doctor or educated clerk, familiar with local accents, and who could cross reference a new admission to a previous entry. When a census taker appeared at a residence, a person might not be present to give his own information, but upon admission to a hospital, you can bet he was there!

Sometimes an admission will include an important note. On April 6, 1857, at 5:15 pm, my great-great-grandfather Peter Fitzpatrick checked into Charity Hospital, New Orleans with a “contusion of the knee”. His admission record told me that he had previously lived in New York before arriving in town in 1849, and that he was a widower born in Co. Louth, Ireland in 1826. This confirmed the only prior source we had of this information, his obituary fifty years later.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD is an award-winning author of three of the best-selling books in genealogy: Forensic Genealogy, DNA & Genealogy, and The Dead Horse Investigation: Forensic Photo Analysis for Everyone.

**SOME THINGS TO DO FOR
FAMILY HISTORY MONTH**

- ◆ Write a biographical sketch and share it with your family.
- ◆ Share someone else’s life story.
- ◆ Share a story from your youth with a child.
- ◆ Record the history of your family heirlooms.
- ◆ Take photos of items and make a scrapbook.
- ◆ Cook up some family recipes.
- ◆ Make copies of family photos.
- ◆ Pass out copies of family trees.



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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello again!

We are making a couple of adjustments to our schedule. Please note them as listed on the first page.

Here is news from the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS). They are 50 years old and, until 31 December 2009, one full price membership entitles you to purchase a half-price membership for a friend or relative who is not currently a member of OGS.

A new lineage group has just been approved—Century Families of Ohio—that will honor ancestors first in Ohio from 1861 to 100 years prior to the current year, or year of application. In 2009, your ancestors would have had to be in Ohio by the end of 1909—in 2010, by 1910.

Contact OGS at ogs.org, 713 S. Main St., Mansfield, Ohio 44907-1644 or 419-756-7294

Help Wanted! We need a second person to collect Questing Heirs material in case one of them becomes ill, etc. Let me know if you are a collector!!

Those of you who were here at the last meeting heard Dave Werts, our Treasurer, speak of “sponsoring companies.” Go to our website to see the opportunities companies provide to help fill our society’s kitty. I just noticed that E-Scrip now includes Safeway, Von’s and Von’s Pavillions. Isn’t that great!

I have the paper you need in order to sign up (or re-sign) for the Ralph’s program if you don’t have a computer. Give me a call, and I’ll send it to you so you can take it to a cashier at the store.

We plan to have a new membership booklet the first of the year, BUT we need updates on e-mail addresses and the list of names and places you’re researching. You’ll be hearing more about this, but in the meantime, you can give the information to Terry Hamilton or John McCoy.

Liz

THIS MONTH’S RENEWALS

Dawn Alvarez	Individual	9/10
Linda Artuso	Contributing	9/10
Suzanne Boyles	LIFE	—
Robert Collins	Individual	9/10
Howard Davis	Family	9/10
Sally Davis	Family	9/10
Aaron Day	Contributing	9/10
Cynthia Day-Elliott	Individual	9/10
Linda Donaldson	Individual	9/10
Jeri Everett	Contributing	9/10
Terry Hamilton	Family	9/10
MaryEmma Hargrave	Individual	9/10
Marie Hegwer	Individual	9/10
Harry Holgate	Individual	9/10
Sandra Hollandsworth	Individual	9/10
Jeanette Jones	Sustaining	9/10
Donald Krokus	Contributing	9/10
Barbara Lourtie	Contributing	9/10
Christina McKillip	Individual	9/10
Sandra Nissenson	Individual	9/10
Rellen Owen	Individual	9/10
Michael Owens	Family	9/10
Carole Owens	Family	9/10
Rose Plesek	Individual	9/10
Gary Reid	Individual	9/10
Liz Reidy	Individual	9/10
Linda Ryan	Individual	9/10
Susan Studebaker	Individual	9/10
Cheryl Tardif	Individual	9/10
David Werts	Sustaining	9/10
Maybelle West	Individual	9/10
Connie Williams	Individual	9/10
Louise Worthy	Individual	9/10
Christina Yanis	Individual	9/10

RESEARCH REQUESTS

Let Liz know if you have information on any of these people.

- Scott Seymour of Illinois is looking for Elizabeth Laura Brennan Howe, 1912-1997.
- Richard Spacer of Hawaii is looking for Mary, the wife of Waldo Pierce Decker, who died in Long Beach in 1964.
- Barbie Mienier of Texas is looking for John E. Haney (aka Grover Jones).



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FINDING AND CITING GENEALOGICAL REFERENCES

by Mary Harrell-Sesniak

So you finally finished your family history and realize, oops, you were remiss in specifying sources.

Perhaps you used shortcuts such as citing a book with just a summary of the title, *History of Fairfield Co., Ohio*, instead of *History of Fairfield County, Ohio and representative citizens*. And most likely, if you did this, you also require the author and publishing data.

What should you do?

An easy solution is to search a library catalog. It doesn't have to be local—since larger ones have more resources. Here are some favorites:

- Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Daughter's of the American Revolution, Washington, DC
- Clayton Library, Houston, Texas
- Family History [Library] Catalog, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, California
- New York Public Library, New York, NY
- The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Cincinnati, Ohio

You can also use Google Books to locate publication data. Or you could utilize WorldCat—a catalog website which locates resources in participating libraries, and also formats citations. You'll need to register, but it is free.

After searching, select the Cite/Export option at the upper right, and when the resulting window opens, select your desired style from APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA or Turabian. Or, if you prefer, export the citation to RefWorks or an EndNote.

Make sure to add your favorite library catalog and WorldCat to your browser favorites.

Another tip for bibliophiles who love owning rare genealogy books is to set up a favorite search in online auction sites, but you can also

locate them using a book bot (an automated Web robot). Bots, such as Alibris or Bookfinder, search a variety of other book sites and locate the best deals!

This Genealogy Tip previously appeared in the Rootsweb Review of 9 Sep 2009, Vol. 12, No. 9.

AVOID THE NEEDLESS LOSS OF FAMILY TREASURES

by Rev. Charles Stanley, Retired

How often do priceless family treasures end up on the trash heap or selling for fifty cents at a yard sale, all because none of the younger generation knew the beautiful family stories associated with them? A grandparent dies and the youngsters come in to clean out the house. Who could have known that the lamp had been a fiftieth wedding anniversary gift from a great-grandmother, or that the inexpensive looking bric-a-brac had been a treasured wedding gift, lovingly carried from one residence to another for the past eighty years? Who would have guessed that grandmother remembered the day in 1923 when her father brought home the Alcoa Aluminum pot with lid, as a gift for her mother, and the special meals her mother had prepared in it when she was a little girl—it was just another pot the kids found in the kitchen cabinet.

In this age of computers and digital cameras, such heartbreaking stories are insanely unnecessary. While there is still time:

1. Ask older members of your family if they have items that are special to them. Find out why they are special (make notes). Who bought them? Where? Who has owned them? When and how did you come to have them? If possible, go from room to room, jogging memory by asking whether there are such items.
2. Open a "Family Inventory" file in your computer, with sub-folders for father and mother's side of the family.
3. Create a page to display a photo of each item and the story of its family history.

Continued on page 78



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L.A. PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Los Angeles Public Library has upgraded the availability of the Access Newspaper Archive database. It is now available to library users at home with their library card at the Los Angeles Public Library. The card is available free to all residents of California. According to their website, the database “contains tens of millions of searchable newspaper pages, dating as far back as the 1700s.” This includes the Van Nuys News under its many title changes, as well as Long Beach, Pasadena and other local newspapers.

From <http://www.lapl.org>, one can click on Access the Databases in the center part of the page, which will lead to <http://databases.lapl.org>. The databases themselves are in alphabetical order and can be found by scrolling down the page.

Readers can also check out the Genealogy & Local History Index database. It is available to all even without a library card. We have been doing all the in-depth indexing that used to be typed on cards for our Family History Index and Local History Index here for the last decade. In addition, we have begun transferring the indexing from the two card catalogs to this online database. It has doubled in size in less than two years.

The above information was received from Michael Kirley, Genealogy Librarian at the LAPL.

WELSH WILLS & PROBATES

The National Library of Wales (<http://www.llgc.org.uk>) has made its collection of wills and administrations freely available online.

The following is from their website.

Wills, which were proved in the Welsh ecclesiastical courts before the introduction of Civil Probate on 11 January 1858, have been deposited in the Library. The old indexes produced by the courts themselves have now been replaced by a new online index. Free access is now available to digital images of the wills. At the moment no digital images are

available for Hawarden, Brecon or St Asaph pre 1660.

The covering dates of the surviving probate records are:

- Bangor: 1635-1858
- Brecon: 1543-1858
- Chester (Welsh wills): 1557-1858
- Hawarden: 1554-1858
- Llandaf: 1568-1857
- St Asaph: 1565-1857
- St David’s: 1556-1858

For the period after 1858 the Library has custody of register copy wills from 5 registries, covering all but one (Montgomeryshire) of the Welsh counties, and a full set of the annual index of all wills and administrations granted in England and Wales, known as the *Calendar of Grants*, from 1858 to 1972.

In addition to the official probate records, some wills and inventories and other papers associated with probate can be found in the consistory court papers filed with the diocesan records of the Church in Wales. Thousands of wills occur in the Library’s collections of family, estate and personal papers; some of these may not survive in the official probate records, or may never have been proved, or may have been proved outside Wales. These can be searched through the online Archives and Manuscripts catalogue.



Continued from page 77...

4. Include a line specifying who you wish the item to go to upon your demise, and make sure that both the owner and designee receive a copy of the page.

For the sake of your family’s children for generations to come, don’t allow your parents and grandparents to take their memories of treasured items into eternity with them.

This article previously appeared in the Rootsweb Review of 9 Sep 2009, Vol. 12, No. 9.



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DROUIN COLLECTION

Joseph Drouin founded the Drouin Genealogical Institute in 1899 and began publishing family books based on Canadian vital records. Eventually his son Gabriel took over for him. This collection represents the largest and most valuable French-Canadian family history resource available, including fifteen million records that record the history of Quebec families over three centuries.

In an agreement with the Drouin Genealogical Institute, Ancestry.com was granted a license to put the Collection online. However, in August the Institute took Ancestry.com into arbitration for not preparing a full and proper indexation of the Collection, and it had to be taken off-line. Fortunately for those doing French-Canadian research, the two parties have resolved their dispute, and Ancestry.com put the digital images back online Sept. 21.

O.C. CIVIL WAR VETS

Questing Heirs' member Floyd Farrar has called our attention to a new book written by former Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1770 Orange County Commander, Gordon Bricken.

If you like Civil War history or would like to know where Orange County got a lot of its early leaders, you'll be fascinated by *Pioneers in Blue and Gray—Civil War Veterans in Orange County*. Bricken, former Mayor of Santa Ana and currently President of the Santa Ana North Rotary Club, is an excellent writer who objectively shows just how the OC became tied to the Civil War through its Civil War soldiers.

You'll learn about more than 1,000 Civil War veterans, including 741 Union and 97 Confederate, with roots to the OC. The book contains more than 280 biographies, many accompanied by photographs, as well as charts listing veterans' names, ranks, ages, military units and burial locations.

The above comments are from a book review by Craig MacDonald, an Historian, Author and Army Veteran.

SWEDISH CHURCH RECORDS

FamilySearch and Svensk Arkivinformation (SVAR), a division of the National Archives of Sweden, have launched an online indexing initiative to engage Swedish volunteers throughout the world to help create a highly searchable, free online index to the historic parish registers of Sweden—200 years of recorded Swedish history as documented in the Sweden church records—comprising over 400 million names.

For this project, FamilySearch will create digital images of the Sweden church records provided by SVAR. Volunteers worldwide will then use FamilySearch's web-based indexing tool to view the digital images and extract the desired information. That data will then be processed and published online in searchable indexes linked to the digital images. SVAR may charge a nominal fee to view or print the images.

For more information, see Dick Eastman's blog of 21 Aug 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.

CHEROKEE RECORDS

Documents describing tribal life among the Cherokee in their original homeland are being translated from an archaic German script thanks to funding from the tribe.

Hundreds of diaries, letters and other papers that recorded about 100 years of history between the Moravian missionaries and their Cherokee hosts are the only known account of daily life in the Indian nation before the U.S. government uprooted the tribe in 1838 from what is now North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia.

"They're telling the story from within the Cherokee mission," said Jack Baker, a Cherokee Nation tribal council member, who added such detail is available nowhere else. "It's their viewpoint, but it's an eyewitness account to what's happening with the Nation."

This article in Dick Eastman's blog of 8 Sep 2009 referenced one in the Ledger-Enquirer, Winston-Salem, NC.



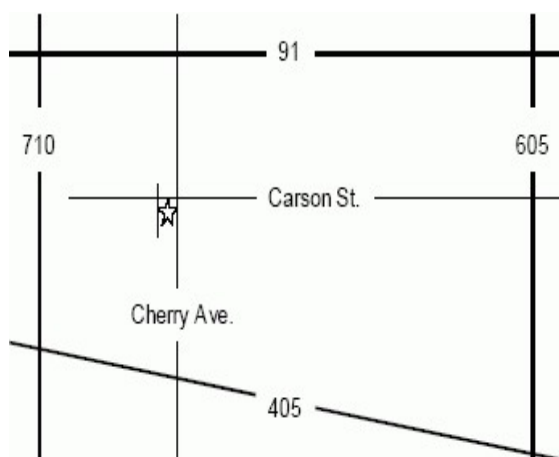
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Saturday, October 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: “How to Write a Fascinating Family History” by Dawn Parrett Thurston.

Sunday, October 11, Noon-5:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310B Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: “Slavic Peoples Who Settled Pomerania” by George Unrine.

Saturday, October 17, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Program: “Online: How You Get There Does Make a Difference” by Barbara Renick

Sunday, October 18, 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 74.



Saturday, November 7, 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): Caroline Rober on “New Family Search—the New Website for all Researchers.”

Upcoming Events

VENTURA COUNTY GEN. SOC.

Saturday, October 17, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Church of Latter Day Saints
3501 Loma Vista Road, Ventura

The featured presenter will be **Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck**. The \$40 registration fee includes lunch and a syllabus. A Registration Form is available at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cavcgs/Sem09Form.htm>.

WHITTIER AREA GEN. SOC.

Saturday, February 27, 2010
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Masonic Lodge
7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier

Paula Stuart-Warren will be the featured speaker. Registration before Feb. 20 is \$32 with lunch provided for \$8. For information you can call Roger Mount at (562) 693-2674 or e-mail him at wags.seminar@gmail.com. WAGS website is <http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>.

*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. [Note that this facility is currently closed for renovation. We will notify you when it re-opens.] There are smaller FHCs nearby—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. We recommend calling the local centers before you visit, as their hours may change from time to time.