



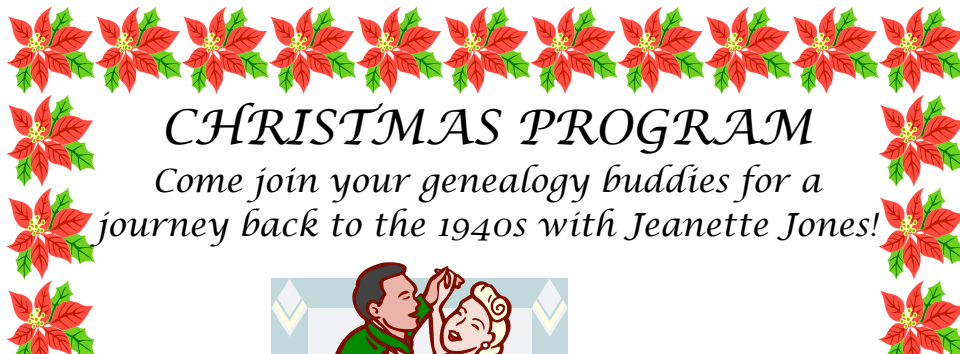
# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter* Volume 42 ♦ Number 12 ♦ December 2009

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, DECEMBER 20, 2009**



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*Come join your genealogy buddies for a journey back to the 1940s with Jeanette Jones!*



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS									
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940									
POPULATION SCHEDULE									
APRIL 1, 1940					PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER				
1. Name and surname of head of household	2. Name and surname of person	3. Sex	4. Race	5. Date of birth	6. Marital status	7. Place of birth	8. Place of birth of father	9. Place of birth of mother	10. Education
11. Occupation	12. Industry	13. Trade	14. Service	15. Unemployment	16. Unemployed	17. Unemployed	18. Unemployed	19. Unemployed	20. Unemployed



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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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## KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

by Connie Moretti

How did your ancestral family compare to their neighbors? The answers to this question will help you to better understand them and their position in their community.

Working back through the United States Federal Census can provide much of this information. In 1930, people reported whether they rented or owned their residence and the value of the property or the monthly rent. Attendance at school and literacy were also reported. Perhaps the most interesting question was whether they owned a radio. In 1930, when radio was still a fairly new phenomenon, this identifies them as being at the front of the crowd.



In 1920, although no dollar value was reported, residents were asked if their property was owned, mortgaged or rented; and literacy questions were included. The 1910 enumeration included literacy and home ownership questions and also asked if an individual had been out of work and, if so, for how long. Home ownership and education questions were also part of the 1900 census. Although the 1880 census did not include home ownership questions, literacy was a part of the questionnaire. In addition, columns 15 through 19 contain health questions.

Starting in 1850, reports included the value of real estate owned by the family. The 1860 and 1870 censuses added the value of personal



estate to that of real estate. This personal estate could include livestock, machinery and tools. The dollar amounts reported in these three censuses can be quite revealing. And, as with the other years, literacy questions were included.

It's important, if you want to fully understand your ancestors, to read a number of pages before and after their census entry. Ten plus ten is a good rule of thumb - ten pages before and ten after their listing. Careful reading of these twenty pages will show you where your family fits in the community. Are most other families wealthier, poorer, or about the same as yours? How do their property holdings compare? Are most of their neighbors renters or owners? What is the literacy and education level in the community? Do all the children attend school? Are the women as well as the men able to read and write?

What about the years before 1850 and from 1880 to 1920? Although those census records can give you a broad feeling for your ancestral community, personal wealth was not included. It is at this point that tax lists become extremely valuable. In many areas, detailed tax lists are available back to the late 1700's. At the very minimum, these lists include the number of acres owned. Sometimes the acreage is identified by quality - first, second or third rate land. Often the amount of livestock and certain other items, such as carriages or billiard tables, will be taxed. Just as with the census, it is possible to glimpse your family's community standing rather quickly.



Other lengthier documents such as deeds, wills, court minutes, and newspapers will provide more details about your family; but for a reasonably quick understanding of their status, census enumerations and tax lists cannot be equaled.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great meeting in November! Now it is time for our annual Christmas party! These are fun and relaxing times to visit with each other. If you are able to come, I know you will enjoy it. Details are in this newsletter.

We are going to have a planning meeting on January 9, 2010, at Terry Hamilton's house from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Any member is welcome to come and help set up our goals for next year.

I have been trying to clean up my database with regard to identifying what county a given city is in. I tried using RootsWeb's "U.S. Town/County Database," but often I could not find the place. Then I went to Google and often discovered the name was misspelled! Also, Podunk or Wiki give helpful descriptions of an area, indicating that a city was mostly covered by such and such county. That really helped when the city was located in three or more counties.

I am also enjoying Randy Seaver's blog at [www.Genea-Musings.com](http://www.Genea-Musings.com). Each Saturday, he makes a suggestion of something a researcher can do that week to resolve a problem in his family tree. Randy is also informative on happenings in the genealogy community. He was one of our speakers last year, but I had to miss him because I was sick. He's a very nice gentleman from San Diego county.

I am on Facebook and have been able to link with several cousins from different parts of my family tree. Recently, a cousin wrote about a cousin being shot and killed; so, I looked up the event via Google newspapers>Georgia>Rome. I was able to get the details of the shooting and even learned more about my cousin's son. I felt better reading the articles rather than calling the family for information.



Have a wonderful Christmas, and start planning for next year!

*Liz*

## MEMBER UPDATE INFORMATION

We are planning to print an updated membership directory in January; so, we would very much appreciate knowing of any changes in your postal address, telephone number, or email address.

If you have a website, we can list that, too.

To help in your search for information on the various family lines in your pedigree, we would also like to publish the following information if you have not already provided it.

- ♦ The surnames you are researching.
- ♦ The localities you are researching
- ♦ The names of other genealogical societies that you belong to

Help make the upcoming directory as accurate and informative as possible by sending the above data to our Membership Chairman, Terry Hamilton, as soon as possible. Her telephone number and email address are listed on the blue page at the end of this newsletter, or you can send it to our society's post office box.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In case you didn't make it to the November meeting, the members who were to be elected or confirmed in various open officer positions were duly elected and confirmed. They are:

- 1st Vice President—Suzanne Boyles
- 2nd Vice President—Terry Hamilton
- Secretary—Sandra Hollandsworth
- Treasurer—David Werts
- Director at Large—Linda Artuso
- Director at Large—Tina Yanis

We still have three appointive positions to fill, though: Director at Large (for one year), Publicity & Public Relations, and Parliamentarian. If you can help out in any of these capacities, please let Liz Myers know.





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## ISOLATING THE PROBLEM WITH MISSING GENEALOGICAL DATA

by Diana Lynn Tibert

Some individuals are mysterious. For whatever reason, they leave scant evidence they existed. At times, it might feel as if they didn't want to leave a footprint in history and wanted only to escape into anonymity. Or maybe they simply lived by meager means.

The trouble finding information on these mysterious individuals can leave a hole in an otherwise perfect genealogy. Call them brick walls or elusive family members. Either way, the best method I have found to dig up data is to isolate the problem.

By focusing attention on a particular individual, avenues that haven't been utilized might be discovered. The key is to consider the possibilities.

The first step is to write down the person's name, various spellings of that name and names they might otherwise be known by. If as a child the person was orphaned or simply lived for a time in another household, note that surname. For some reason, they may have adopted it.

Next, add everything you know about the individual: date and place of birth, parents' and siblings' names, marriage information, children, occupation and date and place of death. Include the sources for this information. Then make a list of the information you don't have but would like to.

Before you go any further, ask yourself if this information makes sense. For example, if the person was born in 1876 and their mother died in 1875, there's a mistake somewhere. Or if the individual was born in 1856 and their brother died in 1865 at the age of 78, something is amiss.

Re-examine the information and prove to yourself once again that this person belongs

with this family and not in another family group.

Re-check the original sources of the data to see if additional information can be found that was overlooked the first time. Perhaps three lines away from where a marriage was entered in a church record, the person stood as a witness for a relative.

Analyze which records might hold the key pieces of information for unlocking the mystery.

It might be in a brother's will, nephew's obituary, sister's death certificate, mother's headstone, a story in the local paper about their success in a distant community or in a neighbour's land grant.

Unmarried individuals are more difficult to track than those who married. This might reduce their public records to two: birth and death.

If they didn't own land, they might be found living with family members or neighbours. If they were financially, physically or mentally challenged, they might have lived in a poor house or other facility.

Researchers must also consider the possibility that the individual was incarcerated or had abandoned their family for another life or spouse.

Next, start asking questions. Did they die young? Did they move from the community, province or country? What was going on in the world when they lived? Could they have participated in a war or succumbed to an epidemic?

*This article appeared in a "Roots to the Past" column in the Kings Record on 4 August 2009. Copyright © 2009 by CanadaEast Interactive, Brunswick News, Inc. All rights reserved.*



ON THE WEB

### THE DAR GRS

The DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) is a combination of several databases created in recent years to organize the large quantity of information that the DAR has collected since its inception in 1890. This system of databases will continue to expand as new information is added.

You can access the GRS at [http://www.dar.org/library/online\\_research.cfm](http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm). Open the various databases by clicking on the tabs along the top of the search screen.

**Ancestor Tab**—This database was created by and is maintained by the staff of the DAR Registrar General's offices. With few exceptions, the data are taken from verified membership applications and supplemental applications. New records are added daily.

**Member Tab**—One may search for basic information on a member's ancestor record using national number, name and other fields using this tab.

**Descendants Tab**—This database is an index of the names found on the lineage page of DAR applications and supplementals. Its purpose is to help those looking for a DAR Patriot line to identify the best possible Record Copy to order.

**GRC Tab**—This tab provides a direct link to the "GRC National Index" and to the page explaining this project in more detail. The DAR's *Genealogical Records Committee Reports* began in 1913 and consist of typescript volumes of Bible record and cemetery record transcriptions along with many other types of transcribed or abstracted genealogical sources.

**Resources Tab**—This tab provides links to other resources, particularly The DAR Library Analytical Card Index and The Revolutionary War Pension Index.

**Library Catalog Tab**—This section provides a direct link to the DAR Library's online catalog, which lists subject, title, author, and other access to the books, microforms, manuscripts, maps, genealogical charts, and other sources in the collections of the DAR Library.

### NARA BLOG

NARAtions is the name of a new blog created by the U.S. National Archives located at <http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access>.

The following explanation is located at the About NARAtions tab. "We began this blog because we are hoping to talk with you about online public access to the records held by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). We care about improving your researcher experience.

"NARA has custody of more than 9 billion pages of records. How do we provide online access to it all? It's a big challenge. Everyone would love to see all of the records available online as high-resolution scans with full-text searchability and a variety of ways to tag, search, browse, and discover the documents, photographs, maps, and films. And how about we get this completed by yesterday?"

Much interesting information is available on this blog, and Friday posts are particularly related to family history and genealogy research. You can submit suggestions for questions to [socialmedia@nara.gov](mailto:socialmedia@nara.gov).

### [www.GenQueries.com](http://www.GenQueries.com)

Dick Eastman has introduced a new online database of genealogy queries. The service is FREE and provides for genealogy queries by individuals as well as advertisements for societies, professional and amateur genealogy researchers, authors, publishers, genealogy web sites, adoptee searches, and more.

He points out that these queries will be visible to anyone on the World Wide Web for at least 365 days, they can be as much as several pages in length, anyone with possible answers may contact the poster by one click on a link in each ad and entering the information, and the person posting a query has the option of not revealing any contact information if he doesn't want to. And you don't even have to create an account in order to post.

*From Dick Eastman's blog of 3 Nov 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.*





## NEW NARA ARCHIVIST

On 6 Nov 2009, the Senate confirmed David Ferriero as the 10th Archivist of the United States, succeeding Professor Allen Weinstein who resigned in December 2008 for health reasons.

Mr. Ferriero earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English literature from Northeastern University in Boston and a master's degree from the Simmons College of Library and Information Science, also in Boston.

He worked for 31 years in the humanities library at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before moving to Duke University, where he served as University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs from 1996-2004. Since then he has been the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the New York Public Libraries, helping to integrate four research libraries and 87 branch libraries into one seamless system. He was in charge of collection strategy, conservation, digital experience, reference and research services, and education programming and exhibitions.

*From a Press Release by NARA dated 6 Nov 2009.*

### DiamonDisc

"CD and DVD disks you record on your computer will last an average of two to five years. If you would like to record your family photographs and videos for preservation, you'll want something that lasts longer. A startup company in Ferndale, Washington, claims to have the answer.

"Cranberry says its DiamonDisc product, which can be played in any standard DVD player, is not subject to deterioration from heat, ultraviolet rays, or material rot due to humidity or other elements. The DiamonDisc has no dyes, adhesives or reflective materials like standard DVD discs, and its discs are made from a vastly more durable synthetic stone. That's right: stone.

"NOTE: Prerecorded disks manufactured in a factory will last quite a bit longer than the disks you record at home, perhaps 10 to 25 years...

"Data is recorded on the DiamonDisc platter in much the same way as a standard DVD disc, but with DiamonDisc the burner etches much deeper pits. The DiamonDisc product holds a standard 4.7 gigabytes of data (the same as standard DVD disks), which amount to approximately 2,000 photos, 1,200 songs, or three hours of video.

"While the DiamonDisc can be played back on any standard DVD player, recording the disks requires special hardware\*...The burner plugs into any standard USB port and uses any standard Windows or Macintosh DVD burning software.

"...anyone may upload photos, videos or other content directly to Cranberry's Web site or mail them to the company. Cranberry will then write that data to a DiamonDisc and mail the disk to the customer. A single DiamonDisc costs \$34.95, two or more individual discs go for \$29.95, and a five-pack is \$149.75.

"The DiamonDisc technology was invented by researchers at Brigham Young University and was first brought to market by Springville, Utah, startup Millenniata. While Millenniata performs the R&D on the product, Cranberry does the sales and marketing...

"You can read more about the DiamonDisc product and the services available at <http://cranberry.com>.

"All this begs one question: who will have the hardware to read these disks a thousand years from now?"

*Dick Eastman posted this article on his blog at <http://blog.eogn.com> on 13 Nov 2009. Copyright © 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.*

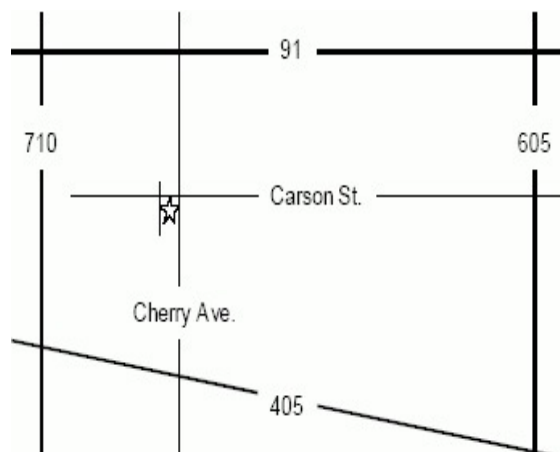
\*Joe Beaulaurier, of Cranberry, wrote in that the DiamonDisc Writer costs \$1,499. For details, see <http://bit.ly/191OWf>.

[Your editor got a chuckle out of a comment posted by Jason Presley in response to Eastman's article. He said, "So in thousands of years, we've gone from clay tablets to stone discs. Now that's what I call a technological advance!"]



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Sunday, December 20, 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 90.



Saturday, January 2, 2010, 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): Dr. Lloyd Budwig on "Block Walls."

\*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.

## Upcoming Events

**RANCHO LOS CERRITOS**  
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach  
562-570-1755

Christmas Open House, December 6, 1-4 p.m.  
Guests can explore the adobe home, decorated  
for the season and discover 19th century  
Mexican and American holiday traditions.

Christmas Candlelight Tours, Dec. 12 & 13  
Tours begin every 10 minutes starting at 6:30  
p.m.—\$10 per person. Advance reservations  
required.

**THE BANNING MUSEUM**  
401 East M Street, Wilmington  
310-548-7777

Victorian Christmas Exhibition, Dec. 5-Jan. 3  
Regular Tour Hours:

Tues-Thurs 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 p.m.  
Sat-Sun 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 p.m.

Suggested donations for the house tour are \$5  
for adults and \$1 for children.

**MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**  
26801 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano  
Saturday, Dec. 5, 5:30-8:00 p.m.  
For information, call 949-234-1300.

The official City ceremony and lighting of the  
San Juan Capistrano Christmas tree begins in  
Historic Towne Center Park at 4:30 p.m. At  
5:30, visitors are invited to walk over to the  
Christmas at the Mission festival. Guests of  
the Mission are invited to attend for a reduced  
admission of just \$2.00 per person (kids 3 and  
under Free). Tickets are limited and may be  
purchased in advance at:  
[http://www.mtn.museumtix.com/venue/  
venueinfo.aspx?vid=818&tab=E](http://www.mtn.museumtix.com/venue/venueinfo.aspx?vid=818&tab=E).

This year's Christmas at the Mission event  
includes: dance, choir and mariachi perfor-  
mances, photos with Santa Claus, and two free  
Santa's Workshop craft activities. In addition,  
refreshments will be offered for sale, including  
Champurrado (Mexican Hot Chocolate), cocoa  
and coffee. Bring your camera and a canned  
food donation for Serra's Pantry, and dress  
warmly in your holiday best.