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**QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

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**Hybrid meeting: April 21, 2024 beginning at 2:00 PM**

**St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
or attend via Zoom**

**Masks are recommended and if you're not feeling well,  
please join the meeting via Zoom.**

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**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Our monthly meetings are held on  
the third Sunday of the month at  
2:00 p.m.

**St. Thomas of Canterbury  
Episcopal Church  
5306 E. Arbor Road  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
Between Bellflower Blvd. and  
Clark next to Pan American  
Park or via Zoom**

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**Our Guest Speaker is Kitty Cooper**

PRESENTING: TOOLS FOR DNA COUSIN MATCHING

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**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

Dues are \$30 per year  
for an individual or  
\$45 per year for a family.

Look for us on the Web:

<http://www.qhgs.info/>

or on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/)

[QuestingHeirs/](https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/)

E-mail: [questingheirs@gmail.com](mailto:questingheirs@gmail.com)

QHGS is an IRS recognized  
501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.  
Donations are tax-deductible.



## QHGS President's Message

### Bob Prager



Wasn't listening to Michelle fun at our March meeting? Even though I have no Scottish ancestry whatsoever, her clever use of wildcards to search the indices of various data repositories (forced upon her by uncertain spelling in the original records and transcription errors in creating an index even when the original record was absolutely clear) reminded me of what I should be doing. Good wildcard use will certainly improve my success rate when searching!

At the moment, I'm a member of three family name societies: Risley, Dalton, and Griswold. These can be either open to descendants of a particular ancestor of that name (sometimes with rigorous proof required), or open to anyone with that name (or a variant) or descended from someone with that name. Such societies usually possess records and maintain genealogies, and can provide information – or at least hints -- about descent. These can help get through some of the fuzzier portions of one's ancestry!

The Risleys are my link to early New England (Richard Risley died in Connecticut in 1648 and his name is on the monument to the founders of Hartford); my Daltons came from the border of Counties Limerick and Kerry (there are other clusters elsewhere in Ireland and England), and the Griswolds also arrived in Connecticut very early.

If anyone else in QH has joined such a society, it'd be interesting to know. Finding out if a society exists and contacting them could lead to busting a brick wall or two!



### Kitty Cooper presenting:

#### Tools for DNA Cousin Matching

In the late 90s I got the genealogy/family history bug after a beloved Aunt died with too many of her stories unrecorded. What happened was that I met a second cousin who was a genealogist at her funeral. So I started a family history web site for my family with the pictures and stories that I collected.

Then in 2012 I did the several DNA tests and found many cousins on the Norwegian side who helped break a few brick walls.

I wrote my first program in 1966 and went to work as a programmer after I graduated from college. I fell in love with computers along the way and saw a way to combine my artistic bent with programming and quit my corporate job to develop web sites as a free lancer.

## Member Contribution

For those who missed the last meeting, belated Happy St Paddy's Day. We had another wonderful talk from another world, Scotland. In addition to all the great Scottish records we heard about, some big takeaways were the tips/hints/reminders that will help us all in our searches, no matter what country we are looking in.

1) Using wildcards in our searches can be very helpful. Oftentimes a name has many different spellings or it might be spelled incorrectly in the record or the transcriber may have made a typo or the handwriting being transcribed may have been difficult to read. Using wildcards can help find all these different spellings and find records we've been hunting for. Michelle suggested using wildcards especially for vowels (most common spelling errors). For example, to search for Prager, try Pr\*g\*r or Pr\*g\* (useful if the last letter is missing). I'd also suggest a wildcard for names with a d or t (sounds the same sometimes, like Saturday sounds like sadurday) or other letters that sound alike.

2) Another tip from Michelle was to search for less common names in a family group. There are a lot less Gertrudes or Alphonses than there are Johns and Marys. This is especially useful in a census record where the whole family group is together - if you find one, you find them all. I remember one time where the surname I was looking for was so badly transcribed that even wildcards wouldn't have helped. I was looking for Dandeneau and it was transcribed Gerdimer!! Thank God the Dandeneaus had unusual first names, Ovila & Loyola, or I never would have found them.

3) When searching vital records (especially when you have an unknown maiden name) for someone you can't find, try searching for their parents' or children's names - other family members are usually mentioned in vital records. I was just looking at a newspaper obit that popped up as a hint - the obit was actually for the person's father, but his name was incorrectly transcribed (they doubled the surname and skipped the first name!) so the hint came up for his son (a junior).

Anyone else have helpful hints to share - would love to hear what works for you. Pat

## April Historical Moments

April 15, 1912: The Titanic sank.

April 18, 1906: A magnitude 8.3 (Richter Scale) earthquake struck San Francisco at 5:12 a.m.

April 19, 1775: The Revolutionary War in America began.

## Free On-Line Lectures in April from American Ancestors (NEHGS)

April 11 Noon to 1 PM

Planning a Trip to Ancestral Homelands

<https://www.americanancestors.org/events/planning-trip-ancestral-homelands>

April 18 Noon to 1 PM

Using Tax Records in Your Family History Research

<https://www.americanancestors.org/events/using-tax-records-your-family-history-research>

## **Upcoming 2024 Free Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

**Go to <https://familytreewebinars.com/>**

**to register for these and other monthly free live webinars**

### **Silent Storytellers: A Genealogist's Guide to Cemetery Photography**

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL - Thu, Apr 11, 2024: 2:00 PM PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/silent-storytellers-a-genealogists-guide-to-cemetery-photography/>

They stand there behind those gates: marble and granite memorials to those who went before. The stones in those cemeteries and the stories they tell for our families are of crucial importance to genealogists. How can we best get access to the land where they stand, and photograph them to capture the stories they tell?

### **Exciting Discoveries - Organising Your Family History**

Fiona Brooker - Thu, Apr 11, 2024: 10:00 PM PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/exciting-discoveries-organising-your-family-history/>

Are you wanting to get your family history research organised? Join Fiona as she takes you step by step the process of setting up a system that works for both physical and digital records including your DNA records. Explore other material that you may have also hoarded... whoops I mean collected... and get some tips on staying organised.

For additional free webinars, go to: <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>

**If the link doesn't work, copy and paste into your browser.**

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## Upcoming Questing Heirs Presentations

May 2024 - Alistair McGowan - Reasons Why Your Research May Be Going Nowhere

### **Newsletter Editor Needed!**

Most of the content is already set up in WORD format. It needs to be updated and articles inserted.

Please contact us at [questingheirs@gmail.com](mailto:questingheirs@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society • P.O. Box 15102 • Long Beach CA 90815-0102



**St. Thomas of  
Canterbury  
5306 E. Arbor Rd.  
Long Beach, CA**



**Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board**

- President.....Bob Prager.....(2024-2024)
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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Membership ..Sandy McDonald.....(2024-2024)
- Secretary.....Bridget Dole.....(2024-2025)
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**QHGS Volunteer Positions**

- Digital Archivist.....Christina "Tina" McKillip
- Research/Historian.....Tina Yanis
- Social Media/Facebook Coordinator.....Jerry Hardison
- Webmaster.....Mike Powers

**Submissions for the May newsletter  
must be received by noon on April 25, 2024.**

The newsletter has been published since 1969 by Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc. Submissions, including queries, corrections, or any questions regarding the newsletter should be sent to Newsletter Editor, QHGS, P.O. Box 15102, Long Beach, CA 90815-0102, or emailed to [Questingheirs@gmail.com](mailto:Questingheirs@gmail.com). We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published but will gladly print corrections. Newsletter illustrations: QHGS logo designed by Mike Powers. Photos on page 2 with permission from Bob Prager and Kitty Cooper. All other illustrations are in the public domain and come from New York Public Library, Library of Congress, Wikimedia Commons, Dover Royalty Free Clip Art, with permission from Twisted Twiggs or through a subscription to Clip Art.com as cited.

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In order to receive the monthly newsletter, one must be enrolled as a member of the Society.

To join, please contact Membership Chairman at:

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