



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 45 + Number 8 + August 2012

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 19, 2012

1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Military Service Records at the National Archives, by Kerry Bartels

2:00 Business

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Kerry Bartels
Meeting Military Service Records (cont.)**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: These classes will resume in September.

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>Reports</i> | 58 |
| <i>July Meeting in Review: Finding Images & Using Google</i> | 59 |
| <i>Questing Heirs News</i> | 60 |
| <i>Methods</i> | 61 |
| <i>On the Web</i> | 62 |
| <i>Of Interest</i> | 63 |
| <i>Calendar</i> | 64 |



R
E
P
O
R
T
S

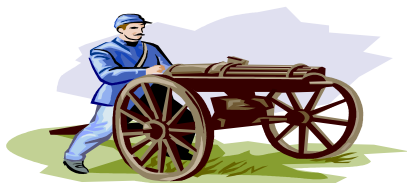
AUGUST MEETING
INTERMEDIATE AND MAIN
PRESENTATIONS

Military Service Records
at the National Archives

These sessions will discuss records of genealogical interest, documenting military service of individuals for the entire history of the United States. Distinction will be made between service as a volunteer or as a regular, and differences in records based on branch of service, enlisted men as opposed to officers, and time period of service. Some of the subjects to be covered include compiled military service records, pension files, bounty land applications, photographs, draft records, grave markers, field and unit reports, troopship manifests, court martial records, national homes for the disabled, prisoners of war, unit histories, and unit rosters.

SPEAKER:
KERRY BARTELS

Kerry Bartels is an Archives Specialist at The National Archives at Riverside in southern California. He has long experience as an archivist and genealogist. He has been a professional archivist since 1977 and has worked in historical societies, libraries, museums, universities, state archives, and now at the National Archives. He has extensive experience with county, state, and Federal records, as well as with private manuscripts of individuals and records of private organizations. Over the years, he has also done a great deal of oral history and has administered a state micrographics laboratory and a state conservation laboratory, among other specialties. He has been a genealogical practitioner since 1962 and has done extensive research in the United States and Canada, as well as many nations in Europe.



REFRESHMENTS
Penny NUGENT (562) 290-0416

Thanks to our July hosts:
Kathy AKAU Marilyn BRASHER
Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT Jeanette JONES

Our August hosts will be:
Terry HAMILTON Frances LEIBZEIT
Gerald LUNDERVILLE Maxine PITTS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

JULY MEETING ATTENDANCE
Members: 32 Guests: 6

FINANCIAL REPORT
David WERTS (562) 431-7790

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| June Income: | \$ 375.47 |
| June Expenses: | \$ 58.15 |
| F&M Bank balance: | \$ 3,469.71 |
| Operations balance: | -\$ 248.31 |
| Special Projects balance: | \$ 3,718.02 |
| U.S. Bank Balance | \$26,485.14 |

**Submissions for the
September Newsletter
are due by August 26.**

Copyright © 2012 Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc.
Permission to reprint original items from this publication is granted, provided that the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes, and that the following notice appears at the end of the article: Previously published in Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 45, No. 8, August 2012.
This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of Questing Heirs; it is not meant to be sold. In order to receive the monthly newsletter, one must be enrolled as a member of the Society. To join, please use the membership application on the outer cover of this newsletter.



W
E
-
V
E
R
-
N
-
G
I
N
-
T
H
E
M

FINDING IMAGES TO TELL THE STORY OF YOUR ANCESTOR

The bare vital statistics about an ancestor are not very interesting to other members of a person's family who aren't genealogical enthusiasts. In order to pique their interest, one needs to create context for that ancestor's life story by using photos and other ephemera.

If you are not fortunate enough to have these items available for the ancestor you're researching, our speaker, Gena Philibert-Ortega, suggested many sources you can use to fill in the gaps. Look for information about FANs (i.e., Friends, Acquaintances, and Neighbors) of your ancestor.

You can look for images that depict the time, event or place in which your ancestor lived—such as wars, homes, businesses, gravestones, etc. These images can be found on photographs, slides, stereoscopes, and postcards.

Some of the places Gena suggested you might start to look online are Google, eBay, LibCat <<http://www.librarysites.info>>, and Archive Grid <<http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid>>.

She also suggested a number of sites for specific types of images, such as Flickr: The Commons and Click Americana for photo collections; HistoryPin, Panoramio, or Old Maps Online for maps; and various area-specific sites for postcards of that region. Also, don't forget to make use of message boards and social networking sites to find what others may have that might help you.

Gena also cautioned about not infringing on anyone's copyright when using images other than for personal use. The copyright owner could be the person who produced the item, the publisher of the item, an attorney for the family of the person who created the item, or a repository. Sharon Carmack has written a book titled *Carmack's Guide to Copyright & Contracts: A Primer for Genealogists, Writers & Researchers* which can be helpful.

For more websites, click on "Links" at Gena's blog <<http://philibertfamily.blogspot.com>>.

USING GOOGLE IN YOUR GENEALOGY

In her second presentation, Gena described the many services at Google that will help with your research. Create a Google Account in order to use all its features.

Search Engine - When you type in a word, a series of words or a phrase and click the "Google Search" button, a list of links will be brought up that match what you typed in. If you place words within quotation marks, the results will show those words together. If you make your search through Advanced Search, you will have more options.

Google Maps - This tool permits you to find an address and view a picture of what is at that address. Google also purchased Panoramio <<http://www.panoramio.com>> where maps are combined with user-submitted pictures.

Google Books - All kinds of digitized books are in the collection. In some cases, you can read the whole book; in others, copyright restrictions limit your viewing. You can search for books about the local history and regions you're researching. With a Google Account you can save books to the My Library feature.

Google Documents - This program allows you to create documents, spreadsheets and online presentations for free. It is similar to Microsoft Word and Excel but doesn't have all their features. Its use requires a Google Account.

Picasa - This photo program has some of the same features as more expensive photo editing software. After you download it to your computer, Picasa allows you to organize your photos, rename them and write captions for them, as well as make some "fixes."

Blogger - With Blogger you can create your own blog to share your thoughts, photos, or family history with others. Using its interface, you don't need to know html or have other computer language skills.

To find out about all the other features Google provides, go to <<http://www.google.com/intl/en/about/products/index.html>>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By now I hope most of you have tried out some of the great tips/research tools that our July speaker, Gena Philibert-Ortega, introduced us to in her "Using Google for your Genealogy" presentation. I am a big-time Google user, but I had never had a Google Account. Per her instructions, the first thing I did was get a Google Account. Trying to select a name for my new email account was an interesting experience all in itself. That is a story for another day. I have not experimented with some of her information as much as I had planned to because something on Dick Eastman's blog caught my eye.

He wrote about a very, very new website called Genealogy Book Links <<http://genealogybooklinks.com>> that I know Gena will soon have on her Resources List under Books. I got so busy trying this site out that I didn't get back to more Google research. This site allows you to search for books under your subject; and then it takes you to many different libraries of digital books, which includes Google. Actually in one search I did, it took me to the Google Digital Books site.

This new site seems to be the equivalent of Cyndi's List but for digital genealogy and history books. I am going to bring a handout for everyone about this site to the August meeting because I think it is so important. So much exciting digital information is coming online—I just know that my ancestors who thought they were safe from my prying eyes are going to get digitally outed.

J.J.

CONGRATULATIONS
to long-time *Questing Heirs* members Bob and Marilyn Brasher on their 50th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on July 17, 2012.

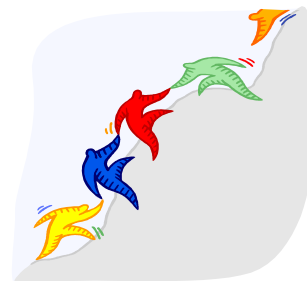
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As we move toward the end of the year, our society's Nominating Committee has to start work on filling the slate of officers to serve and guide the members of our club for the next year. The Nominating Committee is working hard on this and feels that there are a number of you who come faithfully to meetings and would be able and willing to share your time and talents by agreeing to serve in some way. During the August meeting, a sign-up sheet will be passed around asking which positions you are willing to fill in order to contribute to the running of the society. Looking ahead to the new year of 2013, we have openings for Directors-at-Large, Committee Chairmen, Committee Members, and Newsletter Editor. Immediately after the August meeting there will be a Recruitment Meeting, and we hope many of you will stay for that to get more information about what you can do to aid in keeping the society functioning and strong.

The Nominating Committee is feeling especially challenged in finding a Newsletter Editor. Our last two editors, Linda Artuso currently and Mike Powers before her, have set the "bar high". However, Linda and Mike are more than willing to share their knowledge and provide total start-up training and mentoring in computer newsletter skills, article layout and tips on developing and obtaining content.

We are reminded of the Maasai saying: "One hand cannot clap on its own because it needs the other hand to make a clap." The Nominating Committee needs you to volunteer your hand to make a loud clap to keep our society strong. We can't even make a clap if we don't have enough hands.

Liz Myers
(Nominating
Committee
Chairman) and
Jeanette Jones





M
E
T
H
O
D
S

TYPES OF MARRIAGE RECORDS

by George G. Morgan

Marriages can be cause for great joy and celebration with families. The binding of two families together provides the opportunity for closer familial ties and, in some cases, the combining of family fortunes. From a genealogist's perspective, a marriage provides another life event at which time documents were created. However, few researchers really examine the marriage documents and use them as clues to locate other records.

Types of Marriage Documents. There are several types of documents that may have been generated by the announcement and consecration of a marriage. These may include an engagement announcement published in a newspaper, a pronouncement of marriage banns, the issuance of a marriage license, a record in a county marriage ledger, a marriage certificate, the records of a religious institution, or a newspaper marriage announcement. All of these provide opportunities for information to be recorded for posterity. Let's look at the types of information each might include.

Engagement Announcement. Newspapers today still publish a limited number of engagement announcements. In earlier times, though, when newspaper space was at less of a premium and less expensive, a couple or their families might publish a notice of engagement. The couple's names, the names of their parents and other family members, the couple's places of origin, their educational institutions, their religious affiliations, and other details might be included.

Marriage Banns. This is an announcement of a forthcoming marriage, proclaimed in the church of the engaged couple on three successive Sundays. There is usually a record of the banns in the church minutes, and sometimes you will find them listed in church bulletins.

Marriage License. The marriage license was typically issued by the county or parish clerk in which the marriage was to take place. It

always included the names of the bride and groom and the signature of the issuing clerk or ordinary. Sometimes the names of the couple's parents are listed. Often the couple's ages and their addresses are included. Other information varies, depending on the state and county and municipal laws in effect at the time. A space for the officiating person's signature and the date of the ceremony is also included.

Marriage Ledger. On completion of the ceremony, the signed license is returned to the clerk or ordinary for recording. The date and the name of the officiating clergy or other official are added to the license book, and entries are made in the bride and groom indexes of marriages. (These are often compiled at a later date in alphabetical sequence.)

Marriage Certificate. Some municipalities issued a marriage certificate on completion of the ceremony and when the marriage was recorded. Sometimes elaborate and complete with a ribbon and wax or metallic seal, these certificates were intended for framing or display. Sometimes the religious institution issued certificates on behalf of their church or regional organization. The amount of information on such a certificate varies but always includes the couple's names, marriage date, and location.

Newspaper Marriage Announcement. Newspaper announcements were not uncommon in earlier times. Some larger ones for more prominent society figures might include photographs and extensive details of the ceremony, names of family members and ceremony attendees, and announcements of the couple's plans for honeymoon and residence. Less prominent couple's marriage announcements might be smaller but can often contain details of the wedding; names of family members, attendees, and officiating clergy; and other pertinent facts.

Continued on page 63



**O
N
T
H
E
W
E
B**

OLD & INTERESTING

<http://www.oldandinteresting.com>

If you want to learn more about how your ancestors lived, this is a fascinating site. Lel Gretton, who hosts the site, says it “is about how people equipped their homes in previous centuries, and how they handled household tasks.”

She discusses and illustrates the history of such things as butter churns, featherbeds, and early washing and ironing methods, as well as baby walkers, bed warmers, candle snuffers, clothes horses, lye, sugar cutters, tinderboxes, and much more.

You’ll also find a list of relevant books, and you can sign up to hear about new articles via RSS or email.

WAR OF 1812

<http://www.thewarof1812.net>

All you ever wanted to know about the War of 1812 can be found in news, articles and videos at this website.

WELSH PARISH RECORDS

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk>

FindMyPast, working with the Welsh County Archivists Group and the National Library of Wales, now has complete Welsh parish baptisms (1538-1912), marriages (1539-1927), banns (1603-1927), and burials (1539-2007) online.

SCOTLAND DIRECTORIES

<http://digital.nls.uk/directories/index.html>

Over 700 digitized directories covering most of Scotland and dating from 1773 to 1911 are available for your use at the above website. With their alphabetical list of a location’s inhabitants and information on their profession and address, you can find out where people lived at a certain time and how they earned their living.

You can browse and search by place, year and resident’s name. You can download files for free within copyright regulations (i.e., for non-commercial use only).

THE INTERNET ARCHIVE

<http://archive.org>

“The Internet Archive, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is building a digital library of books, papers, recordings, movies, Internet sites, and much more. Like many other libraries, this digital library provides free access to researchers, historians, scholars, and the general public. This is a great resource for genealogists and many, many others.

“The Internet Archive is attempting to store more than just the Internet. In fact, the organization hopes to store either an original or a copy of every book ever published, every movie, every video, every newspaper, every sound recording..., old time radio shows, and even a broad range of software-related materials including shareware, freeware, video news releases about software titles, speed runs of actual software game play, previews and promos for software games, high-score and skill replays of various game genres, and the art of filmmaking with real-time computer game engines. Whew!

“In fact, The Internet Archive has thousands of documents of interest to genealogists, including every surviving page of the U.S. Census records from 1790 through 1940...The census records are not indexed, however, and can only be searched in The Internet Archive by manually going through the records, one page at a time. Thousands of other records of genealogy interest are also available, including many military records, local, state, and federal records, and much more. Many of these documents do not exist elsewhere online...these records are not indexed, and there is no central search capability. You find information in The Internet Archive in the same manner as most any other traditional library: you search the catalog of items available, find the item you seek, and then search through that item manually.”

The above extracts are from Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter of 20 Jun 2012, copyright by Richard W. Eastman. The full article is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.



O
F
I
N
T
E
R
E
S
T

VIRGINIA VITAL RECORDS

Two new laws will improve access to vital records in Virginia.

One reduces the period during which marriage and death records held by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) are closed to the public from 50 years down to 25 years, effective 1 July 2012.

The other bill provides that once the “closed” period ends for births, marriages, or deaths, the original VDH records must be turned over to the Library of Virginia for public access. VDH is also directed to enter into a contract with a genealogical indexing company to create public online indexes of all birth, marriage and death records, with links to the underlying images.

This information from Peter Broadbent, former President of the Virginia Genealogical Society, was posted on Dick Eastman’s blog 6 Apr 2012.

Continued from page 61...

Finding Clues

If you have not examined marriage records such as the ones described above, take some time to go back and look at them. Newspaper announcements of engagements and weddings, like obituaries and death notices, can be filled with little details that can point you to other record sources.

A completed marriage license can contain the name of the person who officiated at the ceremony. If you find a name succeeded with the initials J.P., you know that person was a Justice of the Peace. If you find a name succeeded by the initials M.G., you can be certain this represents a Minister of the Gospel. Even if the signature is followed by no initials, the person could have been a minister. I was pleased to have seen the M.G. following the name on the marriage license for one set of my great-grandparents. I had little information about them, but, when I saw the M.G., I decided to try another research avenue. I contacted the library in the town where they lived and asked that they search the city directories on and before the date of the marriage for the minister’s name. The

librarian found him listed, along with the name of his church. I then contacted the church and the secretary there was able to search the church records and found membership, baptism, wedding, and service records for both my great-grandparents. Their names also appeared in a small published history of the church. What a bonanza!

If you are researching your African American ancestors, don’t be surprised to find that their marriage licenses and the resultant bride and groom index records are maintained in separate books. The segregation of races even extended to record keeping. However, this can be a bonus in that it can help narrow your search to specific records, particularly when the given name and surname might have been common in an area.

Re-examining the Obvious

We often take marriage licenses for granted. We look at names and dates and simply record the data. We assume that all the information on them is correct, but that is not always the case. (One license I have shows the surname of SWORDS spelled as SANDERS.) We also always expect to find a license when, in fact, some were not recorded until after the ceremony—sometimes months or years after the ceremony.

The point here is that you should take the time to re-examine the marriage records you have. If you have a marriage license, look at the name (and initials) of the officiating person and trace him or her to their religious institution—where you may just find more records concerning your ancestor. In the absence of a license, look for alternative records in the form of newspaper announcements, religious records, census records, and city directories showing the couple listed as man and wife. Re-examine the obvious for facts that may not be so readily apparent and really think about what the data means. You may find clues right under your nose that you overlooked before.

This article was published in The Ancestry Weekly Journal on 7 Jul 2008. Copyright © The Generations Network, Inc.

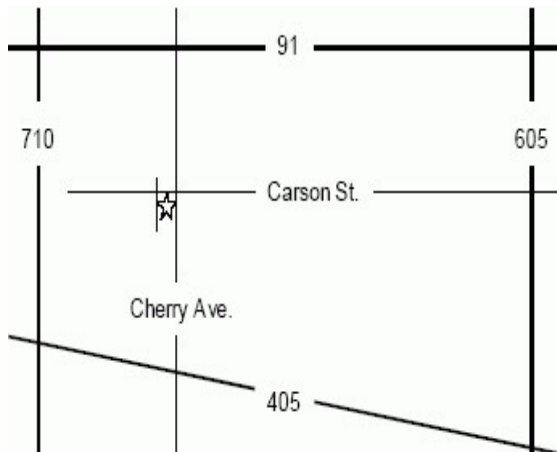


C
A
L
E
N
D
A
R

Wednesday, August 15, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: "Genealogy Software," by Cheri Mello.

Wednesday, August 15, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County California meeting at the Yorba Linda Community Center, Imperial Hwy & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: "Civil War, 1861-1865, Records and Photos," by Chris Hansen.

Sunday, August 19 1:15-4:00 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.



Sunday, August 26, 1:00-5:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Family History Library, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles. Two Programs: "The Living Legacy Project," by L. A. "Butch" Hibben & "Hidden Sources for British Research: Using Smith's Inventories," by Beth McCarty.

Saturday, September 1, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C&D): Donie Nelson on "Family Stories: Secrets, Lies, and Surprises."

Upcoming Events

South Bay Cities Gen. Soc.
Presents the Torrance Centennial

Wednesday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m.
James R. Armstrong Theatre
3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance

The program, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, was adapted from the television series. The ancestry of three families will be traced back in time. The program will be produced and narrated by Lisa Schumacher and Connie Moretti, with guest experts: Janet Payne, Eric Siess, and Paul Lipinski. A reception follows.

The families being honored are The Post Family (one of the earliest in Torrance), The Scottos (Mayor Frank and Centennial Committee member Cindy), and Michael Shafer (Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year).

Tickets (\$10.00) are required and may be purchased by calling The Armstrong Box Office at 310-781-7171 beginning August 1, 2012. For more information, you may send an email to sbcgs.events@gmail.com or visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casbcgs>.

*FHC stands for Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. FHCs are open and 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 Family History Library are Monday, Friday, and Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 am to 9 pm. The LAFHL 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.lafhc.org> provides details of their extensive collection. 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.