



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 45 ✦ Number 12 ✦ December 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, DECEMBER 16, 2012



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DECEMBER MEETING

One of the important genealogical events of 2012 was the release of the 1940 census. At our December meeting we would like those who attend to share a surprising or particularly interesting fact they learned when they found their relatives in that census. Those of you who were in the census might bring a copy of the page on which you were listed.

OFFICERS FOR 2013-2014

Following is the slate of officers that was elected at our November meeting to serve for the next two years. They will be installed at our December meeting.

- President: Terry Hamilton
- 2nd Vice President: Kathy Latham
- Director at Large: Glenn Haas
- Director at Large: Tina Yanis

Since no one has volunteered to take over the Editor's position, this will be the last issue of the Questing Heirs newsletter.

Members who have an Internet connection, can learn about upcoming programs at our website:
<http://www.qhgs.info>

Those who do not have an Internet connection will receive an announcement by surface mail each month.

REFRESHMENTS

Penny NUGENT (562) 290-0416

Thanks to our November hosts:

Kathy AKAU Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT
 Terry HAMILTON Kathy LATHAM

Our December hosts will be YOU.

The Society will provide beverages, but we would appreciate it if attendees would bring food according to the following schedule:

- Surnames A-F = Hot Dish
- Surnames G-L = Appetizers
- Surnames M-R = Dessert
- Surnames S-Z = Salad

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 31 Guests: 1

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

October Income:	\$ 929.25
October Expenses:	\$ 310.93
F&M Bank Balance:	\$ 3,900.36
Operations Balance:	\$ 257.34
Special Projects Balance:	\$ 3,643.02
U.S. Bank Balance	\$26,494.18

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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 - R E - V I E W - I N - T H E - M E M O - R I - A

FINDING MORE IN THE FamilySearch CATALOG

In her first presentation, Barbara Renick pointed out that there are now two versions of this catalog. When you go to the FamilySearch.org website and click on Catalog, you will be using an updated version—one that is still in “beta” and doesn’t yet include all its planned features. The old (or classic) version is still available, though, and has some advantages. When you click on Catalog, as above, you will see a message saying that you can still visit the “previous version.” Those words are a link to the older catalog.

It provides for eight searches: Place, Surname, Keyword, Title, Film/Fiche, Author, Subject, and Call Number. Hover your mouse over any of the buttons, and you’ll get advice on how to use that search. There is also a link to a tutorial called “The Family History Library Catalog Overview.”

When you go to Catalog in the new version, two boxes appear. Clicking on the arrow on the left box pulls down the same list of searches to choose from, but they don’t operate in exactly the same way as the old ones did because they are based on an entirely new catalog search engine. The tutorial is not yet available.

The old catalog originally only included information about resources found in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Now it has a Locations button in the Topic Details screen that allows you to see other institutions that have a copy of the item you found. The new catalog will identify materials found in 4500+ Family History Centers worldwide and in “affiliated” institutions.

Barbara’s advice is to use both the old and new versions of the Catalog for now.

Some hints...

Use a subject search for newspapers.

Localities are listed from largest to smallest—i.e., state, county, town.

Pay attention to “Notes” and “About this record” on a Record Details screen. They may provide additional references.

HIDDEN TREASURES IN THE FamilySearch WIKI

Barbara’s second presentation dealt with the FamilySearch Wiki, which can be found by accessing <https://familysearch.org>, clicking on “Learn” at the top of the page, and then choosing “Research Wiki.” It is a free collection of family history articles provided by family history enthusiasts from around the world. The Wiki makes it easy for people to share research information and useful tips.

The Wiki provides help for researchers from beginners to advanced. It is a tool to help you find information, use the information, and analyze the information.

If you’re new to the Wiki, you can take a Tour of the site or click on “Learn More” on the right side of the page. There are also a number of articles under “Help” in the list of topics.

There are two ways to use the Wiki:

- Search for a specific term or
- Browse.

There are two techniques for searching:

- Geographically or
- By topic.

The Search Box is at the right side of the page. You can enter a specific term in the blank box, or you can choose to browse by country or by topic.

If you choose to browse by country, you will be presented with a list of all available countries. When you click on a country, you will find a map, a list of topics relating to that country, a list of counties, a list of Research Tools, a list of Research Strategies, and more.

If you choose to browse by topic, you will find 19 topics listed alphabetically. There are sub-categories under these topics and also a list of pages relating to the category. If you search for “Rookie Mistakes,” for example, you’ll find a list of 12. Be sure to follow the links in each explanatory paragraph, too.

Note that you can find Barbara’s website at <http://www.zroots.com>, and her e-mail address is Barb@ZRoots.com.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last President's Message for Questing Heirs, and this is the last President's Message for the Questing Heirs Newsletter as the Nominating Committee and the Board have not been able to recruit a new newsletter editor. I know we are all going to miss the newsletter. Linda did a wonderful job of writing, editing and publishing the newsletter every month for several years. We are going to greatly miss her as she leaves Long Beach and starts down another road in her life.

I also am starting down another road in my life as the result of my husband's death last year. Circumstances are not conducive to my serving a second term; but I know that Terry Hamilton, our new President Elect, will do a great job. She brings much administrative skill and genealogical knowledge to help guide the society, and I know I can count on all of you to give her your support and cooperation.

Writing this part of the newsletter at times has seemed like a "real chore," and I feared I was not going to be able to come up with something before the deadline a couple of months. Somehow I managed to get something down and submitted to Linda. As I look back, I think it was a real growth exercise for me. When I found a focus for each message, I sometimes had to research subjects in detail and gained new knowledge. The times I talked about my own personal family were good times to review where I was and stimulated me to think about further avenues of research. The easiest part of the messages always was to comment on the great material and speaker from the previous month.

I can't resist giving you one more "good idea" or "push" to help you gain valuable knowledge about what is going on in the genealogy world. At www.geneabloggers.com, you can pick and read one or two of the blogs about genealogy subjects that you are interested in. The easiest way to get started is to select the "Blogs by Type" category. These blogs are another one of my addictions. They will not make up for the loss of the newsletter, but you will be exposed to the latest thinking and

material available for genealogists - plus lots of interesting stories.

J.J.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER

In addition to signing up at Ralph's so that a percentage of your food purchases is contributed to Questing Heirs, there are other opportunities to help out. Amazon dropped their program for a short time while they were negotiating with the State of California about collecting sales taxes. Now that the tax situation is resolved, you can help the Society if you go first to our website (<http://www.qhgs.info/shop.html>) and click on "Amazon" there. The Society will benefit a small amount (that adds up quickly) on anything you buy while signed on to Amazon. What could be easier? Also, if you register your credit card numbers with eScrip, you will make donations to the Society without even knowing about it.

For detailed information on how to take advantage of any of these opportunities, go to the webpage shown above.

DOROTHY LORRAINE DUNNING 1929-2012

Dorothy was born to Frank and Lorinda White on 17 July 1929 in Decorah, Iowa, and was one of the many from Iowa to move to Long Beach during the 1930s. She attended Long Beach Polytechnic High School, LBCC and USC School of Nursing. Later she was an office manager for the LBUSD and president of the California School Employees Association, as well as being active in church organizations.

Married to Neal Dunning for 49 years until his death in 1999, Dorothy is survived by 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. She passed away on 9 November, a memorial service being held for her at the California Heights United Methodist Church in Long Beach on 17 Nov 2012.

Proud of her Norwegian and Scottish heritage, Dorothy kept Norwegian and Scottish traditions alive for her family each Christmas. She joined Questing Heirs in 1997.



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IRISH HERITAGE CERTIFICATE

In the February issue of the QH newsletter, your editor mentioned the availability of a Certificate of Irish Heritage for those with Irish ancestry. Apparently this offer was not successful. Jennifer O’Connell reported in the *Irish Times* of 31 Oct 2012 that only 1,042 people applied for a certificate in the first year. This was such a small percentage of those with Irish heritage around the world that the idea has been dropped.

BLACK DEATH

“LONDON—They were the final resting place for victims of the Black Death, but London’s underground medieval plague pits are now unlocking the secrets of modern-day infectious diseases...

“Between 1348 and 1351, the Black Death—or bubonic plague—killed up to three in five people as it spread rapidly through pre-industrial cities, unchecked by sanitation or modern medicine. That, and subsequent waves of the *Yersinia pestis* bacterium, claimed the lives of tens of millions of Europeans...

“Next month, a conference of forensic scientists will hear how an international team of experts—led by researchers based at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, and the University of Tübingen in Germany—sequenced the entire genome of the Black Death using DNA extracted from plague victims...

“It is the first time an ancient disease has been reconstructed, providing clues as to how it has evolved and whether it could strike again in future.

“The scientists hope their work heralds a new era of research into infectious disease.”

Excerpts from an article by Jim Maceda at nbcnews.com on 14 Nov 2012.

NEW ORLEANS RECORDS

A project is under way to digitize thousands of time-worn 18th-century French and Spanish legal papers that historians say give the first historical accounts of slaves and free blacks in

North America. Archivists are scanning 220,000 manuscript pages from the French Superior Council and Spanish Judiciary between 1714 and 1803 in order to digitize, preserve, translate and index Louisiana’s colonial past.

The records have survived many perils over the years, the latest being Hurricane Katrina. Currently stored in the Old United States Mint museum, the archive is being digitized by one full-time staffer and one part-timer. At that rate the project will take 10 years to complete. The Louisiana State Museum hopes to add more workers in order to complete it in 3 years.

From an Associated Press story by Cain Burdeau published 14 Nov 2012.

CEMETERY PHOTOS

Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist, wrote an article on her blog of 22 Oct 2012 about whether permission is required to take photos in cemeteries. She says,

“The answer to this question is really basic, but it’s one that just about every genealogist—including *The Legal Genealogist*—tends to forget. It’s the law of **property rights**.

“Now it may seem strange to think of cemeteries as property, particularly when they’re owned by a governmental entity, but any landowner—public or private—has certain rights to control what happens on that land. Even when the land is publicly owned and dedicated to a public purpose, such as a park, the landowner is absolutely entitled to impose time, place and manner restrictions as to what can and can’t be done on the land.”

Judy points out that laws regulating cemeteries are usually local laws. It is common for state law to delegate decision making to municipalities or counties. Restrictions on taking photographs in cemeteries are very common, though not usually onerous. So, it’s a good idea to find out in advance what restrictions may apply. Find out whether you need permission, whether there’s a fee, and what the cemetery’s hours are.



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LOCATING CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES

by George G. Morgan

Some of the best evidence of our ancestors' vital dates and locations can be found in church records. This is especially true of the time periods before state, county, and local governments began complying with legislation to issue birth and death certificates. These records are also essential in cases in which government-produced records have been lost or destroyed.

One of the challenges of researching church records is that sometimes the churches have disappeared. For whatever reason, the church to which you thought your ancestral family belonged just cannot be found. Let's discuss some possible reasons for "lost" churches and strategies to help you locate them and their records.

What Happened to the Church?

There are many reasons why you might not be able to find a church. First and foremost, be certain you are researching in the right place and are using the correct name and denomination. In Rockingham County, North Carolina, there are two Chapel Hill Churches (unrelated to the town of Chapel Hill in another county), three Mount Herman Churches, and two New Hope Churches, among others. Churches with the same name can also be different denominations, as I found when I located a Baptist church and a Methodist in the same county, both known by the name of Bushy Creek Church. (You might need to research both if you aren't sure of your ancestors' religious affiliation.)

The church may have changed its name, merged with another church, or split into multiple congregations. In some situations, the church may have dissolved entirely. Worse yet, the church may have been destroyed by some natural disaster and simply was not rebuilt. In these cases, you may need to trace the "genealogy" of the churches themselves.

It also is possible that an entire congregation relocated to another area, perhaps even to another state. In my family research, I found

an example in the mid-1700s in which an entire congregation and its clergyman relocated from Maryland to North Carolina.

When these things happen, the question then becomes, "What happened to the church's records?" That is where you need to be creative.

Strategies for Locating the Records

Assuming that you do have the right church name, and are looking in the right place, there are some strategies to help you locate these elusive churches and their records.

First of all, you might start with the United States Geological Survey's Geographic Names Information Survey. (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>) Enter a state, county, and choose the church type and see what you get.

The list is not always comprehensive, as I found when I looked for Madison Presbyterian Church in Rockingham County, North Carolina. It was not on the list. Try selecting no feature type, and enter a keyword into the Feature Name box.

If you find the name of a church you were seeking, the research results list will tell you the state, county, the latitude and longitude, and the name of a USGS map. Click on the hyperlink in the Feature Name column and, on the next page, click on the hyperlink labeled Tiger Map Server.

When you access the map feature, the area with the church location will be indicated by a red dot. You can zoom in for more detail and to see roads in the area. The new TerraFly map is an interactive facility that allows you to scan across an area and read the labels for the related features. The roads are not named or numbered, so you will need to consult a county road map, but this search can be very rewarding. Next you might want to search the Web. Search online directories for the name of the church. Search engines are also a huge

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NEW SEARCH ENGINE
<http://www.millionshort.com>

This search engine lets you search less common websites. The name is derived from the fact that it can ignore the one million most popular websites. Actually, when you access the site and use the drop-down menu next to the Search window, you have six options: remove the top million sites from the search, the top 100 thousand, the top 10 thousand, the top 1,000, the top 100, or Don't remove any sites.

Thanks to the Hi Desert Genealogy Society Newsletter of Jul-Sep 2012 (Vol. 33, Issue 3) for this item.

NEW WEBSITE
<http://generousgenealogists.com>

This is "a community of volunteers who agree to provide free genealogy research and assistance, as an act of kindness, to 'those in need'..."

"We are constantly striving for excellence, empathy and understanding of each other, our pasts, our families and who we are. We are here to help you break through your brick walls, discuss tools & techniques, provide coaching and learn from each other."

SAN FRANCISCO MORTUARY RECORDS

<http://www.sfgenealogy.com/php/sfmrsearch/sfmrindex.php>

"The 'San Francisco Mortuary Records' database has been updated with 46,185 new indexed images representing over 21,000 unique names. This latest round are the records of the H.F. Suhr mortuary of San Francisco, CA from 1922-1978. Oh, by the way, it's all free."

This item appeared in the Ventura County Genealogical Society newsletter, October 2012.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE
http://www.loc.gov/lcm/pdf/LCM_2012_0910.pdf

This is an interesting new magazine put out by the Library of Congress. The Sept/Oct issue

features articles on the growth of the LOC from the "ashes of 1812."

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help. Remember, enclosing several words in quotation marks in a search engine's search box causes it to be treated as an exact phrase.

If you still have no success, contact the public library in the nearest town. Ask for information about the church by name, and be sure to tell the librarian the time period you're interested in so he or she can search more effectively. There may be a county or local history in the library's collection that tells about the church.

You can also direct your inquiry to an academic library at a nearby college or university. If they can't locate anything, keep going and contact your state archives. Other resources you should check would include local, county, and/or state historical and genealogical societies; libraries at nearby colleges and universities; and state archives. You may even find that one of these resources is now in possession of the church's records.

Don't overlook contacting other churches of the same denomination in the area; clergy, staff, or members may have knowledge of the lost church. The lost church's members may have joined their congregation. Be sure to inquire whether they have the church's original membership records and minute books, or if they know where they may be located.

Research the denomination to determine the structure of its governing body and contact them to request information about the church in question.

No Perfect Steps

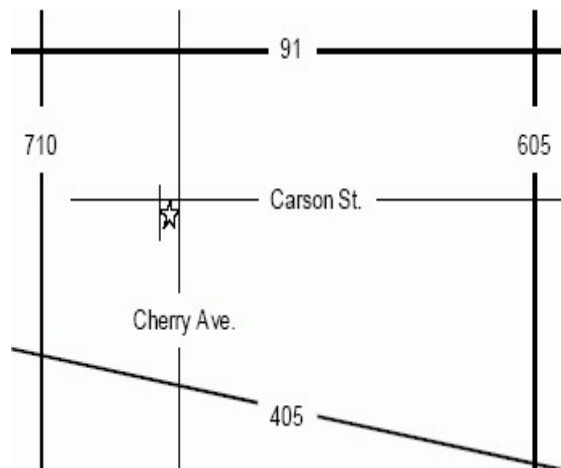
These approaches can be used by anyone. There is no set sequence to use when searching for a "lost" church. Internet research is a great place to begin, followed with telephone calls, and then letter-writing. I personally have had success with tracing one family line from a church in North Carolina back to a prior church in Georgia, then to

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Sunday, December 16, 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 90.



Saturday, January 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): Hal Horrocks. Topic to be determined.

Continued from page 95...

Tennessee, and finally back to Alabama—all through the use of membership records. (Letters of membership transfer were presented at each new church by him or by his parents when they relocated, and the membership records all indicated the name and location of the previous church.)

Sometimes you just have to consider alternative research paths and different sources than perhaps you have used before. The strategies we've discussed above will go a long way toward locating those "lost" churches and the records of your ancestors.

Mr. Morgan wrote this article for the 24/7 Family History Circle on 11 May 2008. © The Generations Network, Inc., 2008.

Upcoming Events

Banning Museum
401 E. M Street, Wilmington

In December through January 6, the Greek Revival-style Banning Museum will be decorated as it was for Christmas in 1875. Many candles will illuminate the parlor festooned with red ribbons and garlands. The tall pine tree will display decorations made from pieces of colored paper and cloth. The air will smell of pine, cinnamon, and gingerbread.

On December 1 and 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Friends of the Banning Museum will host a Victorian Christmas reenactment. Docents in period costumes will lead tours of the two decorated floors of the home. Staff and volunteers have worked to make every detail as authentic as possible.

Tours will continue through January 6, 2013. Admission is free, although donations help to support the educational programs and the mansion's preservation. You can check for days and times at thebanningmuseum.org or by calling (310) 548-7777.

*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.