

## Hispanic Research and Spanish Land Grants Will Be Presentation Topics At QHGS November 17th Meeting

WHICH  
RANCHO  
DO YOU  
LIVE ON?

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Archives départementales du Bas-Rhin

1852 Map of Bas-Rhin

Molsheim Kirche

French  
Archives  
Online:  
Bas-Rhin

•

see page 6  
for details

Frau in Elsässer Tracht

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

are held on the **third Sunday** of the month at **1:00 p.m.** at Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, in Long Beach, California (**map on page 8**)

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

New and Renewing members: \$20.00  
 Family: \$30.00  
 Sustaining members: \$50.00

Please make check payable to QHGS  
 Thank you!

**QUESTING HEIRS**

Genealogical Society is a member of the California State Genealogical Alliance and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. It is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) organization. **Donations are tax-deductible**

**Presentation Preview: Hispanic Research and Spanish Land Grants**

**MEETING AGENDA**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2013**

Starting at 1:00 p.m., **Linda Serna** will tell us how to do Spanish research here in the U.S., in Mexico, and in other countries. She will include a history of

**THE RANCHOS**

**LOS NIETOS**

Granted in 1784 by Spanish governor Pedro Fages to Manuel Nieto, a former sergeant in the Spanish army, this rancho comprised 167,000 acres and at first was called La Zanja, but later was known simply as Rancho Los Nietos. Upon Manuel Nieto's death in 1804, Rancho Los Nietos passed to his wife and four children. Territory in what is now Long Beach, Lakewood, Downey, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, Cypress, Seal Beach, Anaheim, Buena Park, Garden Grove, Artesia and Cerritos was part of the property.

**SAN PEDRO**

One of the first California land grants to Cristóbal Dominguez in 1822, and the first to win a patent from the United States, this rancho was validated by the Mexican government at 48,000 acres in 1828. It included the present-day cities of San Pedro, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Lomita, Gardena, Wilmington, Carson, Compton, and western portions of Long Beach and Paramount.

**SANTIAGO DE SANTA ANA**

Juan Pablo Grijalva died before his grant was approved, and the rancho's 63,414 acres went to his son-in-law, Jose Antonio Yorba, in 1810. This Spanish land grant encompassed present-day Santa Ana, Orange, Tustin, Costa Mesa, and part of Irvine, which was formerly known as Rancho Lomas de Santiago and was titled to one of the Yorbas.



*18th Century Mexico Pintura de Castas*

Mexico, its jurisdictions and types of records, and how to read them; border crossings; and other information that will allow one to be successful with this type of research. After our break, during the second hour, Linda will discuss the history of land grants in the Southwest and talk about the different types of grants in Texas, California, and New Mexico. One family's land grants in California and New Mexico will be highlighted in this presentation. Everyone in Southern California lives on a former land grant/rancho site. **Find your rancho and city** in the column to the right.

# Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Everything you ever wanted to know about DNA is what we got at our October meeting! My head was spinning from all the information coming at me. My husband's DNA was analyzed, and our speaker, CeCe Moore, was really able to help me understand his results better. I hope you all took some valuable information away with you from both presentations. A big thank you to the nominating committee for finding members to serve on the board. We are still looking for a member to teach the **Beginners Class**. I would be happy to help someone get started. You'd have July and August off, as well as December (our annual potluck); so if you can give 1 hour for 9 months, you will have all our thanks. Happy hunting—Terry Hamilton

## SLATE OF NOMINEES

Following is the slate of QHGS Executive Board Officers nominated to serve for the **2014–2015 term** as announced by Jeanette Jones at our October meeting. These four officers will be elected at the **November meeting**; so come on the **17th** and cast your vote:

**1st Vice-President nominee:**

Jasmine Whiteside

**Secretary nominee:**

Penny Nugent

**Treasurer nominee:**

Christine Elia

**Director-at-Large nominee:**

Linda Ryan

## FIELD TRIPS IN 2014

Do you read about exciting speakers at genealogy seminars and wish you could attend, yet shudder at the thought of rush hour traffic on the 405? If you answered "yes," please answer another question: **If Questing Heirs were to provide transportation to and from genealogy seminars and research facilities in 2014, would you take advantage of the service?**



How many members would attend the **Whittier Area Genealogical Seminar** in February, if Questing Heirs hired a van to take a group to and from that event? How about a trip to **NARA**, to **Jamboree** for a day, or to the **Los Angeles Public Library**? Would you like to spend some time at the **SCGS Library** in Burbank or at the **Family History Library** in Los Angeles? The QHGS Executive Board will be considering ways to provide transportation for our members to and from special events and research facilities like those mentioned above, and **we need to hear your comments about a service like this**. If you want to participate, if you have ideas to contribute, or if you simply want to ask more questions, please email Terry: [hammytl@aol.com](mailto:hammytl@aol.com)

## FINANCE REPORT

Dave Werts

September  
Income: \$765.13  
September  
Expenses: \$238.42  
F & M Bank  
Balance:  
\$ 3,595.07

## REFRESHMENT REPORT

Penny Nugent

**Many thanks  
to our  
October  
Hosts:**

Jeanette JONES  
Penny NUGENT  
Susan ROBERGE  
and Linda RYAN

**Our  
November  
Hosts  
will be**

Laurie ANGEL  
Robert COLLINS  
and  
Cynthia  
DAY-ELLIOTT

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

Members  
attending  
October's  
meeting: 36  
Guests: 7

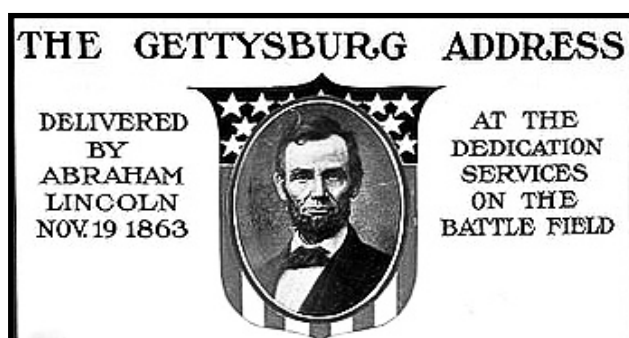
**New Member:**  
Susan T. Kroffe

## Events in November and December

### DRUM BARRACKS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

**Saturday, November 16, 2013, 2:00 p.m.**

For the fourth year, the Drum Barracks Museum joins in the national remembrance and celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's Address given at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery on November 19, 1863.



The event is sponsored by Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2, Department of the Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and their Auxiliary, the ASUVCW. **Free Admission.** At Drum Barracks Civil War Museum, 1052 N. Banning Blvd., Wilmington, California 90744.

### SOUTHERN CAL GEN SOCIETY WEBINARS

**Saturday, November 2, 2013, 10:00 a.m.**

"Women in WWII," by Gena Philibert Ortega. Think your grandma was just a housewife? Historically war brought on new roles for women. Maybe she was a WAC, a WAVE, participated in the Women's Land Army or was a Gold Star Mother. As we explore women's roles we will look at the documents that detail their activities and where they can be found.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 6:00 p.m.**

"Capturing Your Ancestors' Documents and Pictures on Portable Devices," by Leland K. Meitzler. This presentation touches on the pros and cons of a variety of mobile devices: portable photocopiers, flatbed and wand scanners, Flip-Pal, digital cameras and smart phones. The lecture will deal with capturing images in relative's homes, archives, and

libraries as well as scanning pictures and documents in bound books, large ledgers, and photo albums.

**Saturday, December 7, 2013, 10:00 a.m.**

"Getting Family History Information Through the Back Door," by Jean Wilcox Hibben, CG. Researching collateral relationships, unusual documents and historical events, can open the door to finding elusive ancestors. Options that may have been overlooked will be examined.

**Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 6:00 p.m.**

"Tips, Strategies, and Resources for the African American Researcher," by Tim Pinnick. This lecture will provide updated tips and strategies for conducting African American research.

All SCGS webinars are **free**.

Register online: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes2013.html>

### FAMILY TREE LEGACY WEBINARS

**Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 11:00 a.m.**

"Researching Your Ohio Ancestors," presented by Chris Staats and Lisa Alzo.

**Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 11:00 a.m.**

"Family Stories: Using Newspapers to Reconnect with Your Family's Past," presented by Tom Kemp.

**Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 11:00 a.m.**

"Overcoming Lost Records Using Technology," presented by Karen Clifford.

More information about these webinars is available at: <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/>

### LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY NATIVE AMERICAN GENEALOGY

**Saturday, November 23, 2013, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

**Central Library Meeting Room A – First Floor  
630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles, California 90071**

The Los Angeles Public Library's History and Genealogy Department presents "A Split Feather: An Introduction to Navajo and Cherokee Nation Genealogy Research Through the Eyes of a Citizen of the Navajo Nation." Leland Morrill was adopted before the Indian Child Welfare Act. Mr. Morrill will discuss resources and give tips on searching Navajo Nation and Cherokee Nation genealogy resources, the Dawes Rolls, and the United States Census.

## Articles From The 'Net

### EASTERN EUROPEAN BOOKS

***The Guide - A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents (including Birth, Marriage and Death Records)***, by Judith R. Frazin

Quoting from the announcement: "The new and expanded 3rd edition is a user-friendly and practical publication which focuses on 19th-century Polish-language birth, marriage, and death records but also includes many other related topics as follows: suggestions on how to locate an old Polish town on a modern map; tips on finding 19th-century documents and indexes from Polish towns; sample vital-record documents in script and block-letter versions; a unique step-by-step guide on how to extract data from the documents; a list of many given names which appear in 19th-century documents; tips on how to find out what records are at the Polish State Archives; information on how the Polish language works; translations of column headings from old Polish census records; model sentences in the Polish language for genealogical correspondence; 15 topical vocabulary lists, such as Age, Family and Occupations; and hundreds of new vocabulary words and phrases."

You can read more and view 17 sample pages of *The Guide* at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/theguide.html>. Originally posted on October 1, 2013, in *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*.

***Bohemian Settlers and Their Social Life in Cleveland, Ohio, North America***, by Hugo Chotek. In 1895 the Bohemian Czech author and newspaperman Hugo Chotek was commissioned to write a book entitled *Ceska Osada, a její Spolkovy Život u Cleveland, Ohio, v Severni Americe*. In English this translates to *Bohemian Settlers and Their Social Life in Cleveland, Ohio, North America*. Originally written in Czech, this 192-page book contains one of the most comprehensive and detailed views of the early Czech immigrant community in Cleveland, Ohio ever written and includes some excellent period photography of the City and Bohemian community. "This is a unique resource for genealogists and historians everywhere as it not only contains a

detailed look at Cleveland, Ohio and one of its early immigrant communities in the 1890s, but additionally it contains over 1,200 surnames of the earliest Czech immigrants in this area of Ohio," Scott Phillips said. "Rarely does anyone interested in family history come across a resource so chockfull of surnames from this time period. As a historical genealogist, the fact that this helps to fill the frustrating void caused by the loss of the entire 1890 United States Federal Census makes its availability all the more valuable." The work will be available free for everyone to access at the Onward To Our Past® website at <http://OnwardToOurPast.com> as well as on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/OnwardToOurPast>.

Originally posted on September 17, 2013, in *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*.

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF NORWAY

The National Archives of Norway has digitized thousands of documents and continues to add more daily. **All the digitized records are online and free of charge.** The website is available in both Norwegian and English, although the documents obviously will always be written in Norwegian. Census, parish, probate, court and emigrant records are available, some going back to the 9th century. The Digital Archives of the National Archives of Norway can be found at <http://arkivverket.no/eng>. The starting page for parish records is at <http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/content/view/full/629>

Originally posted on September 22, 2013, in *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*.

### SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS FOR PENNSYLVANIA

Penn State's University Libraries have completed cataloging and digitizing their entire collection of Sanborn maps that span the late 19th and early 20th centuries—31,036 sheets, representing 585 large and small communities across the Commonwealth. Maps available online to the public are presented in an alphabetical index of Pennsylvania communities at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/digital/sanborn.html>

FRENCH  
DEPARTMENTAL  
ARCHIVES

- (01) Ain  
 (02) Aisne  
 (06) Alpes-Maritimes  
 (15) Cantal  
 (17) Charente-Maritime  
 (21) Côte-d'Or  
 (33) Gironde  
 (34) Hérault  
 (37) Indre-et-Loire  
 (39) Jura  
 (42) Loire  
 (43) Haute-Loire  
 (44) Loire-Atlantique  
 (51) Marne  
 (52) Haute-Marne  
 (53) Mayenne  
 (55) Meuse  
 (57) Moselle  
 (58) Nièvre  
 (68) Haut-Rhin  
 (69) Rhône  
 (72) Sarthe  
 (76) Seine-Maritime  
 (80) Somme  
 (82) Tarn-et-Garonne  
 (84) Vaucluse  
 (86) Vienne

ADDITIONAL  
ALSACE  
INFORMATION

“The French  
Genealogy Blog”  
<http://french-genealogy.typepad.com/>

“Get Alsaced”  
<http://www.getalsaced.com/my-alsatian-genealogy.html>

“Alsatian Genealogy  
Society”  
<http://ddebuss.free.fr/indexe.htm>

“Families from Alsace”  
<http://www.robert-weinland.org/bookm.php?lang=en>

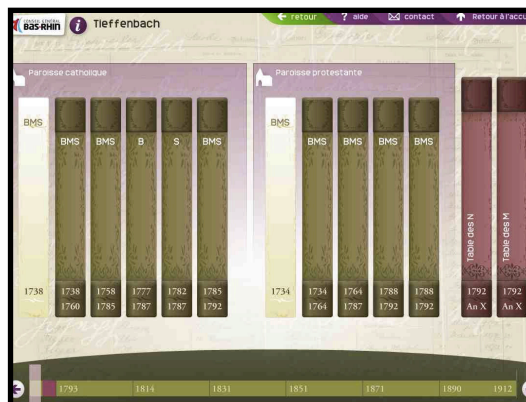
## Using Bas-Rhin's Archives Online

The Département du **Bas-Rhin** vital records are available online. They include: **parish registers** from the 16th century to 1792; **10-year indexes** and **civil registers** of births, marriages and deaths from 1793 to 1912; and a **register of family names chosen by Jews** in 1808. Three million images are in the database, and **access is free**.

This is one of the most user-friendly departmental archive sites currently online. You do not have to read French to use it because the graphics are so well-designed.

**Find your ancestors in Bas-Rhin** by going to <http://archives.bas-rhin.fr/scripts/accueilanglais.asp> and clicking on “access to online records.” This will take you to the license page. Accept the conditions by checking the box by “*J'accepte ces conditions*,” and then, when two lines of type appear below, click on “*Accéder à la version graphique*.” A new window will open, and you will use a small keypad to click on the first letter of the town that you want to research. In a moment, all of the towns beginning with that letter will appear listed in alphabetical order. Click on the village you want, and the beautiful graphic interface will arrive on your screen.

You're ready to begin! A sliding bar at the bottom of the screen lets you navigate the time line easily. Parish registers are on the far left; Catholics are first and Protestants are second. The “books” are color-coded; registers, both parish and civil, are green and indexes are red. White volumes are



special. They may signify missing records, or they may direct you to other towns where the records you seek are located. Double-click on any volume and it will “open” to display its digitized images or its directions for

researching additional records in other towns. A “bookmark” will let you know which volumes you have consulted.

Print individual pages by clicking “*imprimer*” at the top of the page. The document will appear positioned on a virtual sheet of paper. You can enlarge, reduce, or rotate it using buttons at the bottom of the page; and in the “*Annoter votre document*” area you can type information about the record itself. Click “*Valider*” in the lower right-hand corner, and your document will be printed with a light archival watermark that does not obscure the image. To return to the volume and pages you were looking at previously, click “*Retour*.”

**All this and censuses too!** Yes, census records exist for the years 1819, 1836, 1841, 1846, 1851, 1856, 1861, and 1866; and **access is free** at <http://population.bas-rhin.fr/ellenbach/index.php>, another branch of the Bas-Rhin Archives. You will be dealing with **two languages in Bas-Rhin**; so print the **French and German** Genealogical Word Lists available at FamilySearch in the WIKI to help you translate your documents. More information is available at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fraalsac/alsaceaz/resources.htm>

—Penny Nugent

## DNA News

Questing Heirs members have always been interested in new technology. Do you remember the excitement caused by the Palm Pilot? eBay? New Family Search (when it really was new, before the marketing department got into the act and took the spaces out, creating newfamilysearch)? Today the “next big thing” is autosomal DNA, the latest innovation in genetic genealogy. Questing Heirs members were at the front of the line, too, when the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation was collecting blood samples. In those days, about all you could do was check to see if anyone matched your family’s Y chromosome. (Nobody matched my family then; I’m still waiting.)

Today, genetic genealogy is far more powerful, and far more complicated. We can no longer expect a simple answer. Instead, it takes work, patience, and persistence, just like any other aspect of genealogy. We need new skills to get the most benefit from our DNA tests.

It seems to me we should be able to develop our genetic genealogy skills collectively. We can call our effort a DNA Interest Group, but it remains to be seen what form this collaboration will take. Perhaps we can use e-mail? this newsletter? or the Questing Heirs website? live internet sessions at our regular meetings? More important than the form, is the content: **we need your questions about real DNA test results.**

I made a start by creating a page on our website at [www.qhgs.org/DNA.htm](http://www.qhgs.org/DNA.htm). I included some recommended websites and some steps you can take to get the most out of your results.

What is our goal for a “DNA Interest Group”? Whether we have formal meetings, or rely on informal discussions through e-mail, I think the goal should be to acquire the skills necessary to apply

DNA testing to real genealogical problems. We need to be able to select the right tests, interpret the results, and work with other genealogists to apply the results.

**Question of the month:** When is a “match” for a Y chromosome test conclusive? **Answer:** A perfect match at the 37 marker level (STR’s, such as the test from Family Tree DNA or the old Sorenson test) usually means there is a common ancestor in the direct paternal line within the past couple centuries. Even perfect matches at lower levels of testing (25 or 12 markers) often turn out not to be significant. While there must have been a common ancestor, a match at the 25 or 12 marker level could easily come from an ancestor who lived before most people used surnames. (There is still some uncertainty about the date when surnames became stable, even in the British Isles.) Consequently, it is not unusual to find men with many different surnames among your “perfect” matches at these testing levels. These matches are real, but probably irrelevant for genealogy purposes. The current opinion is that a perfect match at the 67 marker level (or, with a very small number of discrepancies, especially in markers that mutate more frequently) almost certainly indicates a common ancestor in the direct paternal line within the past couple centuries, even if the surname is not the same. If you want to prove that your Bryant family is the same as someone else’s Bryant family, then, testing at the 67 marker level is recommended. The tests are not powerful enough to tell you exactly how far back the common ancestor was; instead, you get a very wide range of possibilities. FTDNA has some guidelines on this subject, though I think they are a bit optimistic: see <http://www.familytreedna.com/faq/answers/default.aspx?faqid=9#919>

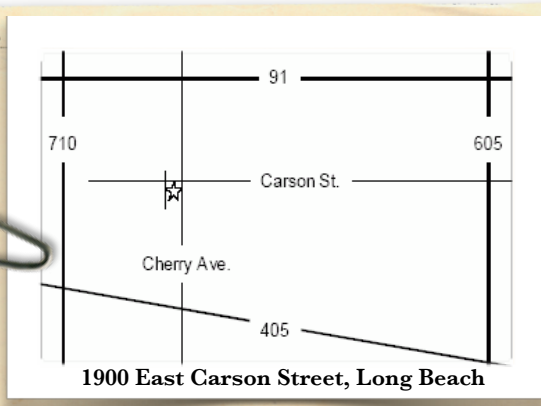
—John McCoy  
[RealMac@aol.com](mailto:RealMac@aol.com)

### DAR TO ACCEPT DNA EVIDENCE FOR APPLICATIONS

Beginning January 1, 2014, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will accept Y-DNA evidence in support of new member applications and supplemental applications. DNA evidence submitted along with other documentation will be considered along with all of the other documentation provided to prove heritage. Y-DNA will not be considered as stand-alone proof of lineage because it cannot be used as absolute proof for an individual. Original article published online October 5, 2013, in *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter*.

### “23 AND ME” DNA TESTING DISCUSSED ON OCTOBER 18, 2013 BROADCAST OF “ON THE MEDIA”

You can listen to “Genetic Testing Anxiety,” “Lost, Then Found,” and “The Results Are In” online by going to <http://www.onthemedias.org/> and clicking on the segment(s) you wish to hear. “Lost, Then Found” is especially interesting because it explores privacy issues involved when adopted children locate their birth parents through genetic testing.



Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall

**QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING PLACE**

**FAMILYSEARCH CENTERS**

FSC stands for FamilySearch Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. FSCs 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** FamilySearch Center are Monday, Friday, and Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 am to 9 pm. The LAFSC 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. [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Los\\_Angeles\\_FamilySearch\\_Library](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Los_Angeles_FamilySearch_Library) provides details of their extensive collection. There are smaller FSCs 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. Call the local centers before you visit, as their hours may change from time to time.

**NEWSLETTER SOURCES**

Illustrations in this newsletter came from [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) **Page 1:** "Archives du Bas-Rhin," photograph "CC-BY-SA"; "1852 Map, Department Du Bas Rhin," engraver Victor Levasseur, public domain; "Dompeter Molsheim," photographed 19 June 2005 by Christian Nodet, public domain; "Frau in Elsässer Tracht," 1870s albumen print photograph attributed to Adolphe Braun, public domain; **Page 2:** 18th century "Casta Painting," by an anonymous artist, Museo Nacional del Virreinato, Tepotzotlán, Mexico, public domain; "California Ranchos: Los Nietos, San Pedro, and Santiago de Santa Ana," abridged from articles about Spanish Land Grants in Southern California on Wikipedia; **Page 3:** 1912 Studebaker Bus, photographed by Harry Shipler, public domain; **Page 4:** 1909 poster of Gettysburg Address, public domain; **Page 6:** screen grab image of Tieffenbach parish registers from Bas-Rhin archives website.

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**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 22ND**

The newsletter has been published since 1969 by Questing Heirs Genealogical Society. Submissions are encouraged. We print queries from members for free; non-members are charged \$2.00. Queries are limited to 50 words and must be printed clearly. We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published, but will gladly print corrections. Material for proposed publication, including queries, corrections, or any questions regarding the newsletter, should be sent to the editor: Penny Nugent, QHGS P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach, CA, 90815-0102, or emailed to [kazootiesan@earthlink.net](mailto:kazootiesan@earthlink.net)

***In order to receive the monthly newsletter, one must be enrolled as a member of the Society. To join, please contact Membership Chair Kathy Latham at (562) 422-7645.***