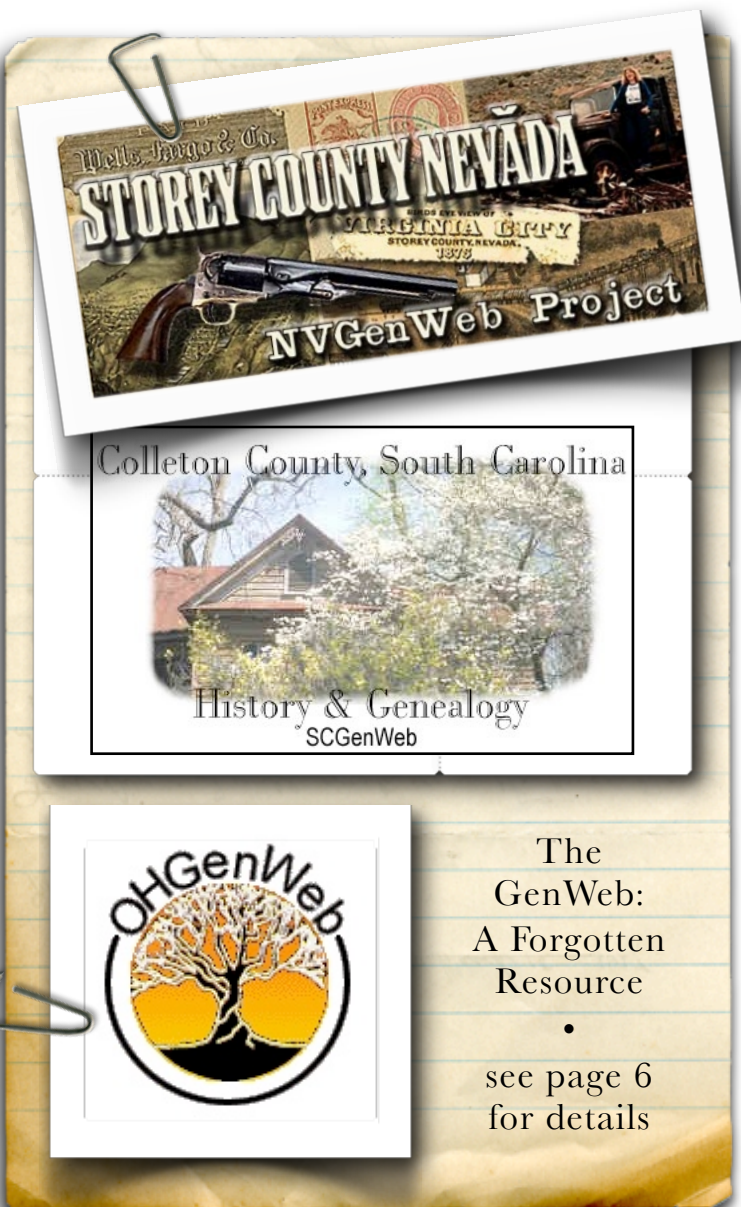


“New Research Tools at FamilySearch.org”
Will Be Barbara Renick’s Presentation Topic
at QHGS January 19th Meeting



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The
GenWeb:
A Forgotten
Resource
•
see page 6
for details

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 and QHGS Announcements

MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 19, 2014

Starting at 1:00 p.m., **Barbara Renick** will give two presentations. Her first talk, “**New Tools at FamilySearch: The FamilySearch Catalog**,” will explain how FamilySearch has designed a new search system for its updated catalog, which is being renamed the



FamilySearch Catalog to reflect its expansion to include links to digital records online (from both books and microfilms) and materials available for searching in its 4500+ Family History Libraries/Centers around the world. With its new use of wildcards and filters, the new FamilySearch catalog provides even more of a challenge to search effectively. After our break, Barbara will return to give her second presentation, “**New Tools at FamilySearch: Record Search**.” The updated FamilySearch.org website has the largest collection of genealogy records for free searching anywhere on the Internet. It remains a work in progress with new features being added and displays of results being redesigned regularly. Barbara will discuss effective ways to search this massive free resource.

CORRECTION

QHGS BOARD ROSTER

The **phone number** listed for Jeanette Jones in the December newsletter was **not correct**. Please change **Jeanette Jones’ phone number** on your “Board of Directors 2014-2015” roster to **(562) 430-4919**. Apologies to all from the newsletter editor for this mistake.

USEFUL WEBSITES

SHARE YOUR “FINDS”

QHGS member Laurie Angel found <http://www.notarialarchives.org/notaryalpha.htm> while searching for archives to visit in Louisiana. Originally a WPA project, this is a listing of New Orleans notaries and their commission dates, the documents they notarized and the parties referred to in those documents, and the specific dates of legal actions recorded. Over 225 years of notarial information is contained in these records which cover from 1739 to 1966, and they are now searchable online. Even though Laurie hasn’t found her specific ancestors yet, she says she has discovered so much information about the times in which they lived by studying similar families that she cannot over-emphasize how important WPA projects are to genealogical research. We thank her for sharing this website with us. **Do you have a useful website to share with fellow QHGS members?** Whether you stumbled upon it by accident or read about it at another site, please tell the newsletter editor about it so your discovery can be published for everyone to use.

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

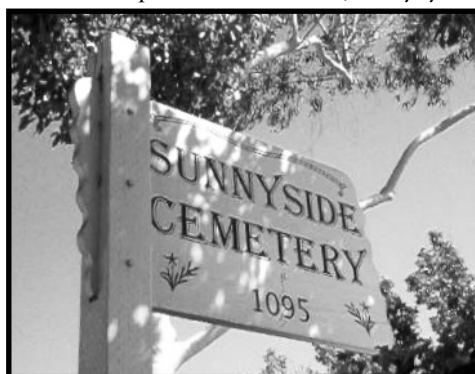
Happy New Year to all! I hope you had as much fun as I did playing “Genealogy Bingo” at the QHGS December pot luck. Many thanks to Jeanette for creating an exciting game, and wasn’t it great that “Red,” our very own QHGS “Santa,” won two of the Bingo rounds?!! The food was terrific, and thanks go to everyone who brought a dish to share. Now that our new board members are installed, we turn our attention to the coming year. What’s in store for Questing Heirs in 2014? Come to the brainstorming/round table discussion at my house on January 11th and find out!—Terry Hamilton

BRAINSTORMING SESSION OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

Members will gather at **Terry Hamilton’s home at 2168 Vuelta Grande, Long Beach, on Saturday, January 11th, at 11:00 a.m.** to discuss the future of our organization. How can we increase membership? How can we make our guests feel appreciated so they return? How can we welcome beginners? Should we begin our meetings with 15 minutes of information about what our club is doing? Should we have one speaker or two? How should we celebrate our 45th anniversary in March? Come to the discussion and air your opinions—positive as well as negative. **Lunch will be provided,** and we hope to **see you there!**

CEMETERY PROJECT

In 1974, members of QHGS recorded names of those interred in Wilmington, Sunnyside, and Long Beach Municipal cemeteries. This information was published as *Some Early Southern California Burials*, and it is still available on our website in pdf format. Now, forty years



later, in 2014, genealogists have an additional resource to use when they search for burials: findagrave.com. **QHGS member Laurie Angel has begun a project to photograph every gravestone in Sunnyside Cemetery here in Long Beach,** and she plans to make the pictures available to all researchers by posting them at findagrave.com. Laurie is currently in the process of creating a spreadsheet containing information originally published in the QHGS book described above. She will present information about her progress at a future QHGS meeting and ask for volunteers to help her with graves that are still not photographed. Do you have a digital camera? Call 562-423-1563 and donate an hour or two of your time to help Laurie complete this project.

FINANCE REPORT

Dave Werts
and
Chris Elia

November
Income: \$546.70
November
Expenses: \$793.95
F & M Bank
Balance:
\$ 3,350.23

REFRESHMENT REPORT

Linda Ryan

**Many thanks
to our
December
Pot Luck
Attendees**

for
bringing
delicious food.

**Our
January
Hosts
will be**
Bridget DOLE
Kathy LATHAM
and
Penny NUGENT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

Members
attending
December’s
meeting: 26
Guests: 2

Internet News and Genealogy Events

WHITTIER AREA GEN SOCIETY PRESENTS 31ST ANNUAL SEMINAR

Saturday, February 22, 2014

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

at the Masonic Lodge

7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, California

WAGS' 31st all-day seminar will feature Laura G. Prescott, a professional researcher, writer, and speaker. Topics to be presented: "Turning Fiction into Fact," "loc.gov: Using Our Nation's Library Online." "Spinsters and Widows: Gender Loyalty Within Families," and "The Rest of the Story: Using Manuscripts to Create a Family History."

Plan now to attend this seminar. For more information call Pat Stubblefield, Seminar Director, at (562) 691-9502 or visit WAGS at <http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>.

WEBINARS OF INTEREST

Illinois State Genealogical Society:

"Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes" presented by D. Joshua Taylor on **Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** Discover methods used in the 19th and early 20th century to create a compiled genealogy, and learn how to ensure its errors won't lead you astray. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9213931983607980546>

Legacy Family Tree:

Go to <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> to learn more about the following **webinars which will be presented between January 22nd and February 26th, 2014:** "Irish Research 101," "Ten Reasons Your Ancestor Was in Canada," "Genealogy Bank—Newspapers Have Your Family Stories," "The Ties That Bind," "Searching for Surnames: Challenges, Pitfalls and the Downright Ridiculous."

North Carolina Genealogical Society:

Go to <http://www.ncgenealogy.org/> to learn about a webinar "The Goodliest Soyle: Finding, Reading and Interpreting North Carolina Land Records," presented by Helen F. M. Leary, CG, which will be **available free online January 17–19.**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR GENEALOGY COLLECTION?

Patsy D. Herring has written an article that should be required reading for all genealogists. Stephen Brown Simmons (1918–2012) spent more than half a century collecting hundreds of family group sheets, pictures, letters, notes, documents, newspaper articles, birth, wedding, and death announcements, books and historical information about relatives. This valuable collection needed to be preserved and shared with the public. The article describes one solution being performed by Mr. Simmons' friends and family. Read Patsy Herring's article at <http://goo.gl/JqbPEz> and then think about what will happen to YOUR collection after you are gone.

from *Dick Eastman's Blog*, 17 November 2013.

WWII PHOTOS ONLINE

Between 1944 and 1945, Daniel Novak was an Army photographer assigned to the Signal Corps in India, China and Burma. Army photographers didn't own their work; their images belonged to military archives. 90-year-old Novak asked for and was given access to his photographs, and he has since posted them to a website for everyone to see. You can read more in an article by Bill Hudson in the WCCO web site at <http://goo.gl/7ufJql>. To see Novak's photos, go to his website <http://www.danielnovak.com>.

from *Dick Eastman's Blog*, 17 November 2013.

NORDIC RECORDS

Over 32 million records from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, dating back to the early 1600s, are now available at <http://www.myheritage.com/>.

from *Dick Eastman's Blog*, 11 December 2013.

FAMILY BIOGRAPHIES

Over 17,000 family biographies from 10 states are freely available at www.MyGenealogyHound.com. All of the biographies can be easily browsed by family surname or by county and state.

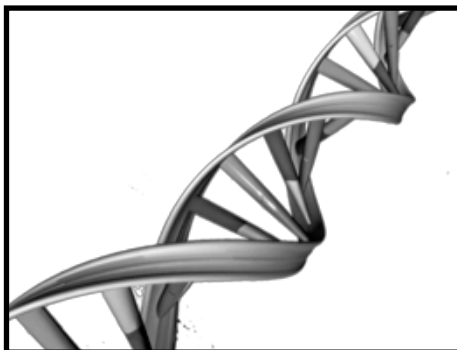
from *Dick Eastman's Blog*, 22 November 2013.

DNA News: Too Much of a Good Thing

There's so much news about DNA genealogy this month, I hardly know where to begin. The websites are changing faster than we can learn how to use them. Probably the biggest news concerns the 23andMe company, which offered a comprehensive test for detecting genetic markers that may have health implications. The same autosomal DNA test can be used for genealogy, and the 23andMe web site provides tools for that purpose. On November 22, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ordered 23andMe to stop marketing their health reports, on the grounds that the health risks being reported were not supported by scientific evidence.

As many of you know, I am skeptical of unproven health claims. While some genetic markers have a very strong association with a particular disease (sickle-cell anemia, for example), in most cases the genetic studies point only to an "increased risk". Usually, that means that having a particular genetic marker explains only a small portion of the overall risk of developing the disease, and the remainder of the risk is presumably due to factors that have not yet been identified. In addition, we rarely have any information about the sample size or the particular population in which the elevated risk was detected, or whether the findings have been replicated by other investigators. The FDA argues that the health reports from 23andMe fail to put the reported risks in perspective, and could lead someone to undergo dangerous procedures in the mistaken belief that they were going to develop some dread genetic disease, or else to ignore serious symptoms in the equally mistaken belief that the report said they had no risk.

What do genetic genealogists think about this? First, there is widespread belief that everyone



should have access to their own genetic data—but that doesn't seem to be the thrust of the FDA's objections. More interesting for genealogists, the question has been raised about whether 23andMe can survive solely on genealogical DNA testing. Some bloggers have gone so far as to recommend that you test with Family Tree DNA instead, or, if you have

already tested with 23andMe, that you immediately download your raw data and reports, and then upload your data to Family Tree DNA (this option is on sale at \$49 until the end of 2013, the last known "normal" price was \$69). So far, it's not clear where this story is headed. Meanwhile, Family Tree DNA has unveiled a "Big Y" test, designed to probe the Y chromosome in vastly greater detail than ever before. Enthusiasts expect that this test will lead to genetic markers that identify particular families, not just ancient paternal ancestry. The price is high, and no results have come back yet. Stay tuned for this one, too!

The growing pains at the free GEDmatch.com web site continue. It was too popular, and so it crashed! You can upload your raw autosomal data from any of the vendors, and within a matter of weeks (remember, patience is a virtue in genealogy) you will be able to find matches with people who tested at other vendors. I know of a case where an unknown "half first cousin once removed" was detected this way.

Family Tree DNA has added a new "Matrix" tool that is almost as good as the tools on GEDmatch. If one or more cousins on both sides of your family have done the "Family Finder" test, the "Matrix" tool could be a big help in working out which side of the family your other matches come from.

—John McCoy

AT THE
IOWA
GENWEB

•
SPECIAL
PROJECTS:

Iowa Family
Group Sheet
Project

Iowa Genealogy
Boards

Iowa Gravestone
Photo Project

Iowa History
Project

Iowa in the
Civil War

Iowa in the
Great War

Iowa in WWII

Iowa Old Press

Iowa State
Census Project

Orphan Train
Riders to Iowa

WPA Graves
Registration
Survey



The GenWeb: A Forgotten Resource

Newcomers to genealogy usually access FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, and Find-a-Grave.com to begin their research; and then, if they draw a blank at those three sites, they assume that all available sources have been exhausted. Of course this is not the case. Most of the **USGenWeb (USGW)** is still online, offering genealogical information from states, counties and cities—information that is **free**. Family photographs, Civil War rosters, post cards, emigrant lists, ship manifests, newspaper articles, plat books, township records, obituaries, wills, cemetery transcriptions and gravestone photos, church and school listings—the number of resources available at USGenWeb sites is staggering and includes records that can be found nowhere else, records transcribed by thousands of volunteers during the early days of the internet. **It is especially useful for research at the county level.**

A quote from page two of the USGW website tells us that, “USGenWeb was established in 1996 by a group of genealogists who shared a desire to create online centers for genealogical research. Each of our literally thousands of web sites have been created and are maintained by volunteers. Some of the offerings you’re likely to see in these diverse and creative sites include query boards, listings of local sources for records, county and state histories, online genealogy books, research tips, maps, and links to helpful internet resources. You’ll even find transcribed records online, accessible for free. The USGenWeb Archives are a major repository of data as well, which is provided by helpful contributors—people just like you!”

Because each website was created by volunteers, quality varies on the USGenWeb; but most sites which are still up and running have very professional-looking graphics and many research capabilities. Take a look at the sidebar and discover resources at the IAGenWeb site <http://iagenweb.org/>.



The **USGenWeb Archives** is a category unto itself. It is a collection of vital records transcribed by volunteers from courthouse ledgers, old newspapers, county histories, city directories, and family Bibles, along with many other sources. Photographs and old postcards can also be found in the archives. Don’t look down your nose at the old U. S. Census transcriptions; you can use these to find people mis-indexed in the Ancestry.com database.

Finally, the **USGenWeb** is part of the **World-WideGenWeb**. Be sure to consult the GenWeb site of the country from which your ancestors came—it may have transcriptions of ship manifests that are not yet digitized.

The GenWeb began almost 20 years ago, and it remains a valuable source of information today. As genealogy becomes “corporate” in nature, we give kudos to the USGenWeb for keeping genealogy free.

—Penny Nugent

Beginning Genealogy: Death Records

One of the most important issues to genealogists is proving the parentage of any of our ancestors. Often, we assume that the birth record will provide this information and, therefore, attempt to start by searching for this record first. **You are more likely to be successful with your research if you do the search for vital records (birth, marriage and death) in the reverse order of life's events.** Start with death records, then seek the marriage records and finally hunt for birth records.

The U.S.A does not have a nationwide system of vital records registration and, with the exception of the New England states where many towns have kept vital records from their beginnings, the states did not attempt to keep centralized vital records until the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In the absence of centralized death records for earlier years, the American researcher should determine what original vital records exist at the county and local levels, some of which might have been transferred to state archives, and whether any have been published. When it is possible to consult original records or microfilmed copies of them, it is preferable to do so rather than to rely upon published abstracts, transcriptions, or indexes, which might be incomplete and almost certainly contain errors no matter how conscientious the transcriber.

The Family History Library (FHL) has microfilmed records from many countries and U.S. states. In some cases, these microfilms are all that remain as evidence of records lost to the ravages of time. FHL microfilms are available through local FamilySearch Centers (FSC).

To replace or supplement civil death records, other sources include: Bible records; court records (wills and administrations); census records (mortality schedules); military service and pension records; newspapers (death notices, obituaries, and news articles); and cemetery records and tombstone inscriptions.

Suggested reading and reference:

Rodeback, David. **Nineteen Kinds of Death Records and Their Uses:** <http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/10/23/nineteen-kinds-of-death-records-and-their-uses/>, posted on October 23, 2013.

Marks, Kenneth R. **30 Reasons Why Searching for Obituaries Is Like Finding Gold:** <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/1/post/2013/10/30-reasons-why-searching-for-obituaries-is-like-finding-gold.html#.UnLqSJT728V>, posted on October 30, 2013.

Marks, Kenneth R. **14 Ways To Find Someone's Death Information:** <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/1/post/2013/09/14-ways-to-find-someones-death-information.html#.UnLp05T728U>, posted on September 14, 2013.

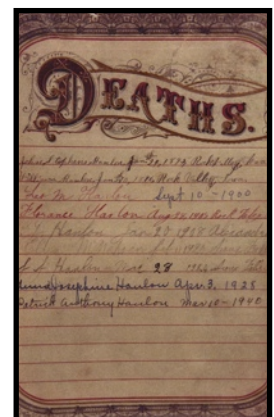
This overview is abridged from "RootsWeb Guide to Tracing Family Trees, Lesson No. 4: Death, Tombstones and Cemeteries." The entire article is at <http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson4.htm>. RootsWeb Guides to Tracing Family Trees are written & compiled by professional genealogists Julia M. Case, Myra Vanderpool Gormley CG, and Rhonda McClure.

TYPES OF DEATH RECORDS

Death Certificate

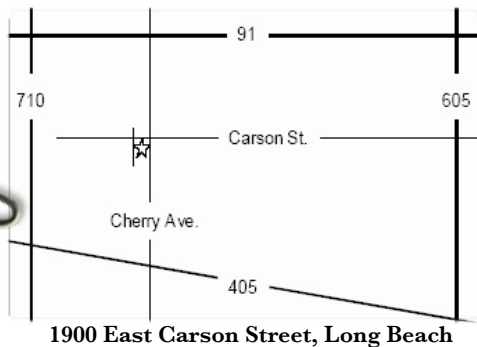


Family Bible



Cemetery Gravestone





1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach



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 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.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 24TH

The newsletter has been published since 1969 by Questing Heirs Genealogical Society. Submissions are encouraged. 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: Penny Nugent, QHGS P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach, CA, 90815-0102, or emailed to kazooticsan@earthlink.net.

NEWSLETTER SOURCES

Illustrations in this newsletter came from http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page **Page 1:** GenWeb banners: Storey County, Nevada; Colleton County, South Carolina; and Ohio GenWeb logo from GenWeb sites; **Page 2:** photograph of Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, taken by Ricardo630 on April 21, 2006, public domain; **Page 3:** photograph of Sunnyside cemetery sign taken by "Graving Queen of the OC," September 2, 2004 on <http://www.findagrave.com/>; **Page 5:** "DNA Double Helix" created by Apers0n 2006, public domain; **Page 6:** Iowa GenWeb Archives logo from Iowa GenWeb site; "Welcome to Iowa" logo created by StoneCity for the Iowa GenWeb; **Page 7:** 1959 death certificate of Vincent Mastroddi courtesy of Penny Nugent; Hanlon family Bible "Deaths" page courtesy of Margaret E. George; photograph of tombstone from Scotch Road Cemetery, Grenville, Québec, courtesy of Penny Nugent.

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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 Chair Kathy Latham at (562) 422-7645.