


Civil War History and Research
Will Be Presentation Topics
at QHGS February 16th Meeting



Using Newspapers
To Find
Genealogical Information

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see page 14 for details

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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 16)

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.

Civil War Research Presentations Member-Submitted Useful Websites

MEETING AGENDA

FEBRUARY 16, 2014

Starting at 1:00 p.m., we will have a presentation given by **Steve Demory** as Thaddeus Lowe, a scientist and inventor who offered his services to the Union



Army as an aeronaut for the purpose of performing aerial reconnaissance on Confederate troops. Mr. Demory will recreate **Thaddeus Lowe's** exciting career. In July of 1861 Lowe was appointed **Chief Aeronaut of the Union Army Balloon Corps** by President Abraham Lincoln, and though his work was generally successful, it was not fully appreciated; and disputes forced him to resign in 1863. Lowe returned to the private sector and continued his scientific exploration. His inventions and patents made him a millionaire. In 1887 he moved to Los Angeles, California and eventually built a 24,000 sq. ft. home in Pasadena. He opened several ice making plants and founded Citizen's Bank of Los Angeles. Lowe's fortune was all but lost in railroad ventures, and he lived out his remaining days at his daughter's home in Pasadena where he died at age 80.



After our break, **Eric Siess** will be the speaker for our featured presentation about Civil War Research. Eric was a member of our Professional Genealogists Panel at QHGS' September meeting last year. He is the president of South Bay Cities Genealogical Society and is a PhD, CG, and member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Eric specializes in Civil War and Scandinavian-American research.

USEFUL WEBSITES

SHARE YOUR "FINDS"

Kathy Latham recommends **Sonoma County Genealogical Society's** website at <http://www.scgsonline.org/>. Many articles of general interest are in back issues of their newsletters. A website for those researching the history of **Jewish surnames** was contributed by Dave Werts. <http://www.businessinsider.com/origins-of-popular-jewish-surnames-2014-1> provides historical background as well as examples of surnames derived from patronymics, place names, occupational names, names that describe personal traits, animal names, Hebrew names, Yiddish names, and names derived from non-Jewish sources.

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MOVING FORWARD

Was Dick Eastman a ghostly presence at our January 19th board meeting? His January 19th "Plus Edition" main article, "The Genealogy Society of the Twenty-first Century: Is It Growing or Shrinking?" made me consider that possibility! The main topic at our board meeting was exactly the same: how to grow membership in our club in 2014. Of course lots of other things were discussed too, like plans for our 45th Anniversary party, a field trip to the LAPL, and having another fund-raiser at Papalucci's restaurant. Board meetings are open to all members, and we'd love to hear your suggestions. What do you think our club should do to increase membership? We're waiting to hear from you.—Terry Hamilton

RALPHS SIGN-UP

SHOP AND HELP QHGS

Whether you shop regularly at Ralphs or rarely go to the store, you can help Questing Heirs by participating in the



Ralphs charity donation program. **Sign up online** at www.ralphs.com. QHGS NonProfitOrganization (NPO) Number is **84877**.

IT'S OUR 45TH ANNIVERSARY

MARCH 16TH CELEBRATION

Forty-five years of genealogy in Long Beach, California—how time flies when you're having fun searching for ancestors! **Don't miss the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society 45th Anniversary Celebration next month at our March 16th meeting.** In the first half of the meeting we will learn what the club was like in the 1990s as we listen to past presidents reminisce about old times. We'll find out about important events in Questing Heirs' history, too, when Chris Elia presents a talk highlighting the club's accomplishments. After Chris' talk, we will break for a catered luncheon of sandwiches and salads with a special 45th Anniversary cake for dessert. During the second half of our meeting, Chris will moderate a discussion about the future of Questing Heirs. We will end our celebration by giving a commemorative gift to each member present and by playing a few rounds of Jeanette Jones' special 45th Anniversary edition of "Genealogy Bingo" which will give all attendees a chance to win prizes and have fun at the same time. **Circle the date on your calendar, attend this event, and bring a "gen-pal" with you to join the fun!** You're sure to have a great time. Be advised: we will document the party by taking photographs of our past presidents and all the attendees. These photos will be posted on our QHGS website; so be prepared for jpg action!

FINANCE REPORT

Chris Elia

December
Income: \$476.97
December
Expenses: \$355.61
F & M Bank
Balance:
\$ 3,084.86

REFRESHMENT REPORT

Linda Ryan

**Our
February
Hosts
will be
Brian ELIA
Jasmine
WHITESIDE
and
Cynthia
DAY-ELLIOTT**

Many thanks
to our
January
Hosts:
Bridget DOLE
Kathy LATHAM
and
Penny NUGENT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

Members attending
January's meeting:
34
Guests: 2
New Member:
Leslie Lyons Ford

Internet News and Genealogy Events

LEARN ONLINE WITH WEBINARS

Illinois State Genealogical Society:

“Going Nuclear: DNA Discoveries to Trace All Lines of Descent,” presented by Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL, on Tuesday, **March 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. PST**. Register at: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/5053293122685075970>.

Legacy Family Tree:

Go to <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> to learn more about the following **webinars which will be presented between March 1st and March 19th, 2014**: “Genealogy and Technology—State of the Union,” “Using Google Earth for Genealogy,” “Sources and Citations Made Simple,” “Some Lesser Known Irish Resources,” and “50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites.”

Southern California Genealogical Society:

Go to <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html> to learn more about the following **webinars which will be presented between February 1st and March 19th, 2014**: “Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Re-Evaluating the Evidence,” “Timeline Creation Applications,” “Timesaving Apps for Busy Genealogists,” and “Organizing Database Searches.”

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society:

“Probate Will Not Be the Death of You,” presented by Harold Henderson on Tuesday, **February 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. PST**. Probate records are not as scary as they sound, and they offer all kinds of wonderful opportunities for the well-prepared genealogist. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/kwnzw8f> ID: 122-884-299.

United Kingdom National Archives:

Registering for UK webinars is quick and easy. Simply send your name and email address to webinars@nationalarchives.gov.uk, and choose the topic(s) that you are interested in. You will then receive an email with a link to view the webinar at the scheduled time, along with detailed instructions on logging in.

LOCAL AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETIES

Pomona Valley Genealogical Society:

“What’s New at Familysearch.com?” by **Pat Chavarria**, Saturday, **February 8, 2014, 2:00 p.m.** at Pomona Public Library, 625 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, California.

South Orange County Genealogical Society:

“Finding Your Genealogy in Digitized Books,” by **Gena Philibert-Ortega**, Saturday, **February 15, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to noon** at the LDS Church Building at 27978 Marguerite Parkway (Between Medical Center Drive and Hillcrest), Mission Viejo, California.

Los Angeles Westside Genealogical Society:

“Overcoming Brick Walls with DNA,” by **Cheri Mello**, Tuesday, **February 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**, at the Los Angeles Family History Library, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, California.

South Bay Cities Genealogical Society:

“Where Are Your Female Ancestors Hiding?” by **Connie Moretti**, Wednesday, **February 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**, at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, California.

Whittier Area Genealogical Society:

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. **Laura G. Prescott**, a professional researcher, will present four talks. For more information call Pat Stubblefield, Seminar Director, at (562) 691-9502 or visit WAGS at <http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>.

Orange County California Genealogical Society:

Genealogy Bash and Book Faire, Saturday, **March 1, 2014, 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, California. Nine of southern California’s best speakers will present 18 lectures; a book faire will increase your genealogy collection at low cost; exhibitors will display their wares; and there will be free beginning genealogy classes all day long. Go to http://www.occg.com/mtg_event/mtg_event.html#bb to download the speakers’ schedule, and plan now to attend this event.

Genealogical DNA News

VENDORS, TESTS AND RESULTS

What's new in DNA genealogy? More than we have room for here! In vendor news, 23andMe is still in business, though they were forced to discontinue their health-related products. However, they have switched to a new "chip" whose data can't be imported into the Family Tree DNA "Family Finder". People continue to be baffled by the complicated procedure for contacting matches at 23andMe. Customers at Ancestry.com are still complaining about the lack of tools to identify shared chromosome segments. Family Tree DNA has added new features to help you work through your Family Finder results. Expect more changes! GEDmatch.com, which accepts autosomal DNA results from all of these vendors, still struggles with software issues, but its tools are impressive.

There are now **several different kinds of tests** to choose from. Family Tree DNA has the largest selection. For the Y chromosome (males only), you can test STRs (short tandem repeats), SNPs (single nucleotide repeats), or choose the more comprehensive "Big Y" test that may uncover zillions of additional SNPs. The "Family Finder" test covers the autosomes and, to some extent, the X chromosome. Mitochondrial tests are still available, though they probably won't be useful for most genealogists. It is easy to get confused about which test you have taken, and what it can tell you.

Here's the way I see it:

Y chromosome STRs: A "match" having no more than 3 differences out of 67 markers means the common paternal ancestor could be as far back as 10 generations, but more likely about 5 generations. If the person who matches you that closely also has the same surname, it's likely there was a common ancestor in the last 200 years or so.

Y chromosome SNPs: Currently this is a very blunt instrument. If you find someone with the same surname but different SNPs, at least you can rule out a relationship in the past few centuries. The SNPs that are well documented today mutate so seldom that the common ancestor between you and an exact match could well have lived before people were even

using surnames. However, stay tuned. The "Big Y" test is expected to discover SNPs that have mutated more recently, potentially identifying specific branches of modern families. By 2015, we should know if this genealogical pipe dream has come true.

Autosomal DNA: "Matches" are mostly only very distantly related. It is difficult to identify even close relationships (predicted second cousins, for example), because so few people have complete and accurate pedigrees back even 5 generations. Once you get to predicted 4th and 5th cousins, proving a relationship is very difficult. Some of the relationships turn out to be much more distant (9th or 10th cousins), and others don't seem to make any sense at all. When you succeed in proving a relationship from autosomal DNA, it's time to celebrate! The best thing you can do to increase the chances of success is to **POST YOUR PEDIGREE** on your DNA vendor's web site.

Mitochondrial DNA: Even an exact match doesn't imply a recent connection. The mitochondrial "haplogroups" seem to be stable over millenia. But for specific genealogical problems, such as deciding which of two women was the mother of a particular child, mitochondrial DNA might be the right test.

—John McCoy

DNA WEBINAR

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society:

"DNA and Genealogy," presented by Colleen Fitzpatrick on Tuesday, **March 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. PST**. Understanding your DNA results, connecting with long lost cousins, and gaining insight into family history through DNA has become easier than ever. And what if your DNA is different from the rest of the members of your family? Should you hide under the bed? Refuse all incoming phone calls? No! You have a terrific opportunity to discover interesting family history if your DNA doesn't match anyone else's. No matter what level of understanding you have about genetic genealogy, this talk is for you. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/k8nxcvm> Webinar ID: 156-601-187.

18TH
CENTURY
NEWSPAPERS

August 7, 1721



December 4, 1773



December 19, 1792



Using Newspapers As Genealogy Sources

Newspapers often tell us where and when our ancestors were born; they provide elaborate descriptions of marriage ceremonies; and they print those florid obits we love to find. But that's not all we can discover in their pages. Graduation exercises, school plays, county fair prizes, visits by other relatives from far and near, legal notices of tax arrears, fraternal lodge meetings, participation in sports teams, church socials—town newspapers chronicled every event in our ancestors' lives.

Which of the following two sentences makes you feel that Patrick Hanlon was a real person? "In 1901 Patrick Joseph Hanlon played baseball on the local businessmen's team," or "One of the most interesting events of the ball game between the Fats and the Leans was when the Hon. P. J. Hanlon caught a swallow as it passed over center field thinking it was a fly ball." The first example comes from an automated genealogy program biography. The second example comes from a newspaper article in the May 31, 1901 issue of *The Sioux County Bee*, which describes the ball game, inning by inning (the Fats won, 21 to 16). If you want to make your genealogy more interesting, use newspapers to do so.

Thousands of small town newspapers were published during the 18th and 19th centuries, and many of these papers are now available online. Some companies require subscription fees to access what they have digitized, while other organizations offer their newspaper images for free. Websites which will help you locate newspaper resources are listed in the next column. Good luck with your search!

Begin with **Wikipedia's** article about online newspaper archives. It tells you which repositories offer their images for free and which require payment to view their images online. It also tells you about newspapers at library sites and lists newspapers from all over the world from Algeria to Venezuela. External links to other collections of old newspapers are at the end of the article which is available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives.

New York State Historical Photos & Newspapers—1795 Thru 2007 is a free site at <http://www.fultonhistory.com/>. It has 26,108,000 pages at last count with more being added every day.

Historical Newspapers and Indexes On The Internet at <http://www.researchguides.net/newspapers.htm>.

Historical Newspapers Online at <http://guides.library.upenn.edu/historicalnewspersonline>.

Library of Congress has browsable newspapers listed by state at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/>.

If you are looking for newspapers published outside the United States, search the world's historical newspaper archives at **Elephind** <http://www.elephind.com/>.

ICON's page links to past, present, and prospective digitization projects of historic newspapers. The focus is primarily on digital conversion efforts, not full-text collections of current news sources, but it is an interesting website to visit if you want to know about future projects being planned at <http://icon.crl.edu/digitization.htm#USM>.

— Penny Nugent

Beginning Genealogy: Marriage Records

Marriage records are valuable vital records, not just because they prove our ancestors were legally married and their children were legitimate; but because they often provide us with the maiden name of our female ancestors. This in turn enables us to graft another branch onto the family tree.

Marriage licenses are the most common marriage records in the United States. An American researcher should conduct a search for a marriage license in the town or county clerk's office in the locality where the couple was living at the time; or, if they resided in different localities, a search should be made in the bride's county or town of residence. Always look for the formal application for a marriage license, the license itself, the marriage certificate, and the filed return.

Family records (Bibles, naturalization papers, widows' pension application files, etc.) may yield marriage documents. Additionally, military pensions and applications for same may include affidavits of eyewitnesses as to when and where a wedding took place. American census records starting in 1850 are also a valuable source for circumstantial evidence of marriage, but be careful about making assumptions based on these records. Cemetery records may be used for evidence pertaining to a marriage; and don't forget to check old newspapers, city directories, voting registers, funeral records, and land title insurance company records, as well as records of fraternal lodges and hereditary societies. Marriage information or evidence of a marriage can turn up in probate records, where you may find wills, petitions, decrees of distribution, and agreements of heirs. Lawsuits may disclose marriage

relationships, especially those in which the executors and administrators have to establish legitimacy of children and their right to inherit. You may find marital information in criminal court records as well.

The fact of marriage may be established by direct or circumstantial evidence. Official or private records that attest to the fact that the parties were married are acceptable as direct evidence. Indirect or circumstantial evidence may be found in deeds or other documents that describe a man and woman as "husband and wife."

Few of us find marriage records for all of our ancestors. Some will never be found, due to courthouse disasters, wars, lost or destroyed records, or simply because they were never recorded by a circuit-riding preacher who lost them from his saddlebags while he forded a river on horseback. Moreover, a wedding might have taken place some time after the couple set up housekeeping and began to have a family. Some marriage records simply do not exist, but never assume this just because you have not found the information yet. Search thoroughly, lest you overlook these treasured records.

This overview is abridged from "RootsWeb Guide to Tracing Family Trees: Lesson No. 5: Marriage Records." The entire article is at: <http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson5.htm>. RootsWeb Guides to Tracing Family Trees are written & compiled by professional genealogists Julia M. Case, Myra Vanderpool Gormley CG, and Rhonda McClure.

Note: the "Beginning Genealogy" column will not appear in next month's newsletter. It will return in April.

19TH CENTURY RECORDS

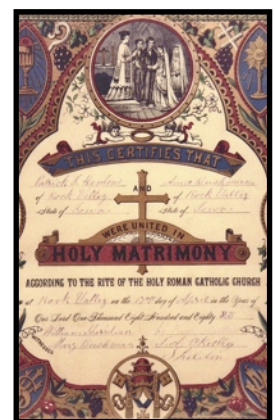
1883 Certificate

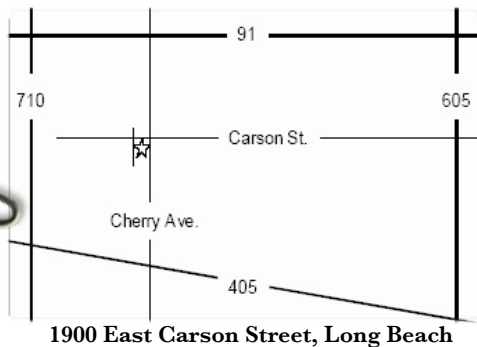


1897 License



1883 Church Record





Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING PLACE

QHGS BOARD MEMBERS

President	Terry Hamilton	(562) 596-9382	hammytl@aol.com
1st V-President	Jasmine Whiteside	(661) 993-9186	jasmine.christine29@gmail.com
2nd V-President	Kathy Latham	(562) 422-7645	kat22lat@gmail.com
Secretary	Penny Nugent	(562) 290-0416	kazootiesan@earthlink.net
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Dir. at Large	Linda Ryan	(562) 422-4006	llcuttenryan1@verizon.net
Webmaster	Mike Powers	(562) 888-0212	lunalake@pobox.com

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. Information about the **Los Angeles** FSC is available at https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Los_Angeles_FamilySearch_Library. Local FSCs are in **Long Beach** at 3701 Elm Avenue in Bixby Knolls, phone (562) 988-0509; **Los Alamitos**, phone (714) 821-6914; and **Cerritos**, phone (562) 924-3676. Call the local centers before you visit, as their hours may change from time to time.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 20TH

The newsletter has been published since 1969 by Questing Heirs Genealogical Society. Submissions, 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 kazootiesan@earthlink.net. We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published, but will gladly print corrections. **Newsletter sources:** page 2, speakers' photos from their web pages; page 3, Ralphs logo from Google Images; page 7, 1883 church record of marriage courtesy of Margaret George; all others are from http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page in the public domain.

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Kathy Latham at
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