

“Our Past, Our Present, Our Future”
Celebrate the 45th Anniversary of QHGS
at Our March 16th Meeting



2011 QHGS Board



1994 QHGS Board



First President Myrtelle Molyneux

The
Early Years
of
Questing Heirs

•
see pages
22 and 23
for details

IN THIS ISSUE

QHGS Information 18
Mollie Molyneux 18
Greetings from Sue Roe 18
Announcements 19
Reports 19
Events and Internet News . . . 20
QHGS 1993–2013 21
QHGS 1968–1969 22
QHGS 1970–1984 23
Meeting Place Map 24
QHGS Board Members 24
FamilySearch Centers 24
Newsletter Sources 24

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 24)**

•

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.

It is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) organization.

Donations are tax-deductible.

Mollie Molyneaux, Our First President QHGS Coat of Arms and Logo

MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 16, 2014

At 1:00 p.m., our 45th Anniversary meeting will begin with a presentation by Chris Elia highlighting the history of Questing Heirs. A catered luncheon will follow, past presidents will be invited to speak about their experiences, and members can share memories of genealogy searches in pre-internet days. Then we'll shift to future goals and discuss local projects our Society can become involved with in the years ahead. We'll play a special "45th Anniversary Edition" of Genealogy Bingo and have fun. Photos will be taken to document the event, so be prepared!

OUR FIRST PRESIDENT

MYRTELLE MOLYNEAUX

Myrtelle (Mollie) Wheeler Molyneaux, CG, whose picture is on the cover of this newsletter, was the first president (1969-1970) of Questing Heirs. She was always willing to share her knowledge of genealogy with others. She taught the beginning classes for many years and was very efficient, always arriving at the July board meeting with a full outline of what she intended to start teaching in September. Two or three people shared almost exactly the same story that Mollie related to them about the founding of our Society: there were five people who met to form a genealogy group. They all put their names in a hat to decide who would be president, and

her name was pulled out. In 1981 Mollie's book *Ten Lessons for Beginners in Genealogy* was published by the Federation of Genealogical Societies. We are very proud of our first president, and thankful for her dedication, talent, and hard work, all of which contributed to getting us to where we are today.

(The above article was written by Barbara Brown, Jeanette Jones, and Mabelle Little for the November 2003 edition of our QHGS Newsletter.)

GREETINGS FROM SUE ROE

I joined Questing Heirs Genealogical Society in the late 1970's. At that time, the Society was meeting in the then brand new Long Beach Main Library. I remember the group as being very friendly. I was fairly new to genealogy then so I really enjoyed the speakers, the fact there was a genealogy collection right there in the library, and that there was a group of women who liked to go on field trips. This helped to introduce me to other genealogy libraries. During my time as a member, I was the hospitality chair for a couple of years [1977 and 1978]. During that time, the meeting moved to a real estate office. Although I enjoyed my time as a member, my circumstances changed; and I found that Sunday meetings were no longer convenient. I have been back to visit a couple of times and have enjoyed my visits. I wish you a very happy anniversary celebration!

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

We had such a good time at the February meeting getting to meet “Thaddeus and Leontine Lowe” by way of Steven and Patrice Demory. Their presentation reminded all of us how quickly a life story can be lost whether it concerns an important inventor or just plain folks. Eric Seiss’ lecture about the basics of Civil War research brought home the point that our ancestors’ Civil War records and information are available for us to find—we just have to learn where to look for them! That’s what makes our work as genealogists so important. We are the collectors of memories for future generations, and we cannot forget this as we focus on the past. Next month we’ll find out about the history of our organization, and then we’ll discuss what the future holds for Questing Heirs. See you all on March 16th! —Terry Hamilton

LONG BEACH GENEALOGY

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

On Saturday, March 8, at 10:00 a.m., the 2014 lecture series **California—A Land of Many: *The Immigrant Experience and Its Legacy***, will show “Foreigners in their Own Land,” a PBS documentary about Latino Americans. The rancho is located at 4600 N. Virginia Road in Long Beach. Lecture fee: \$7. Advance reservations are requested; please phone 562-570-1755.

DATE CHANGED FOR APRIL MEETING

APRIL 27TH MEETING

Next month **Questing Heirs will meet on the FOURTH Sunday, April 27th at 1:00 p.m.** Please mark your calendars accordingly because you won’t want to miss this meeting!

USEFUL WEBSITES

SHARE YOUR “FINDS”

QHGS member Floyd Farrar recommends the **Water and Power Associates** website at <http://www.waterandpower.org/museum/museum.html>. Articles, photos and stories of Los Angeles are available there, and it is well worth a visit. Blogs are important sources too. Here’s Michael J. Leclerc’s “Top 5 Genealogy Blogs” list:

News: [Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) Dick Eastman does a wonderful job of getting information out there.

DNA: [The Genetic Genealogist](#) Blaine Bettinger brings his experience in biochemistry to explain genomics to you in plain English.

Technology: [Hack Genealogy](#) You will find technology news and advice here from Thomas MacEntee.

The Law: [The Legal Genealogist](#) Law can be a major snooze. Not so whenever Judy G. Russell is involved. She makes every article interesting and informative.

Opinion: [RootDig](#) This is Michael John Neill’s Genealogy website. As he describes it: “Things that cross my path, general research suggestions, and whatever else...with a little bit of attitude.”

FINANCE REPORT

Chris Elia

January
Income: \$4,138.46
January
Expenses: \$551.00
F & M Bank
Balance:
\$ 6,778.32

REFRESHMENT REPORT

Linda Ryan

**Many thanks
to our
February
Hosts:**

Brian ELIA
Jasmine
WHITESIDE
and
Cynthia
DAY-ELLIOTT

**Our
March
meeting
will have a
catered lunch
for all.**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

Members
attending
February’s
meeting: 31
Guests: 4

**Welcome
New Member:
John Johnston**

Internet News and Genealogy Events

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SSDI

There has been a great deal of talk about the **Social Security Death Index**. That the U.S. Congress finally decided to pass a law that had such an impact on us as genealogists was bad enough, but to do it in a rush at the end of the year has left many people with some confusion around what did and did not occur. While much has been written, I thought I would take a stab at my understanding. I'm certain my friends and colleagues will let me know if I have misunderstood anything.

What happened in December?

As part of the process to pass a budget for this year, both houses of Congress included a section that closes public access to the SSDI for three years after a death occurs. The terms went into effect on January 1, 2014.

Does that mean that I can no longer access the SSDI?

No, that is not what it means. It means that, at least for now, deaths added to the SSDI will not be publicly accessible until three years have passed (e.g., deaths in 2014 will be available in 2017).

So no one can access the SSDI for three years?

There is an exception carved out for those who need to access it for legal reasons. The exact method of access, and who will be allowed to access it and why, have yet to be determined. Those are regulations that will be worked out over the coming months.

So now we cannot access any records after 2011?

No. The law was not made retroactive, it started on January 1, 2014. Those records will be available in 2017. But the last three years have been made public; and, as far as we know, are not subject to closure. Mocavo has no intention of removing any records from its version of SSDI. That said, it will not be able to add any more records until 2017.

In summary, for the most part the impact will not be major for the vast majority of genealogists. It will make things more challenging for a time as we see how the new regulations are implemented. But, for the vast majority of people it is not the worst thing in

the world to have to wait a few years to access information. Most states have limits on access to birth, marriage, and death records already. This is only one more restriction. It is our hope that the forensic genealogists who need access to the SSDI will be able to have access under the exception carved out by Congress.

We must, however, be vigilant. We cannot allow more records to be closed.

From: *Michael Leclerc's Genealogy News*, 8 Jan 2014.

Many thanks to Anne Larkin, PVGS's newsletter editor, for calling this article at MOCAVO to our attention.

LEARNING ONLINE

French-Canadian Genealogy:

Sandra Goodwin's **new audio podcasts (in English)** are called "Maple Stars and Stripes." She takes a look at French-Canadian genealogy and discusses ways to research in French-language records, especially if you're not a native French speaker. She has released four episodes: "Beginning French-Canadian Research," "The Dreaded 'Dit' Name," "French Pronunciation and Text-to-Speech Aids," and "More French-Canadian Name Variations." If you have French-Canadian ancestry, turn on your computer's speakers and go to <http://maplestarsandstripes.com>.

from: *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, 22 January 2014.

LOCAL GENEALOGY SOCIETIES

Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society:

Wednesday, **March 5**, 7:00 p.m. at Jewish Federation and Family Services of Orange County, 1 Federation Way, Irvine: "Germany before Germany," by Roger Lustig. \$5/members \$10/non-members.

Conejo Valley Genealogical Society Seminar:

Saturday, **March 15**, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1600 East Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks: Luana Henley Gilstrap will give four presentations. \$45 at the door.

South Bay Cities Genealogical Society:

Wednesday, **March 19**, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance: "Record Keeping," by Alice Colby Volkert .

QHGS Recent History: 1993 to 2013

About 20 years ago, Richard Hoover introduced me to Questing Heirs. I was delighted to find a group of enthusiastic, friendly genealogists. They were a very diverse bunch. Their pedigrees had led them into all sorts of subject areas, and they were happy to share what they had learned about a wide range of topics: Quaker ancestry, Cherokee research, how to get copies of California vital records, dating photographs, tax lists, and so forth. After a few years, I found more time for my own research, including the discovery of my Swiss and French roots, and it wasn't long before someone talked me into presenting a program about my research. Eventually, I ended up on the Board, and then in the office of President. Interesting times!

During the past 20 years, I have heard many predictions about the imminent demise of genealogical societies. But what I saw at our meetings, and what I still see, is that clubs like ours have an important role to play. I remember a Questing Heirs Christmas party where only 12 people showed up. We had already moved into our current venue, and there was still a piano in the room. Richard played Christmas carols. Did everyone in that small group share my feeling that this was a very special occasion? We had voted with our feet, we were loyal to Questing Heirs, and we would keep it alive. That's when I knew Questing Heirs would survive.

There's a sort of social contract in play between the Board and the rest of the members and visitors. The Board takes on the responsibility of figuring out what the members need to further their research. As my responsibilities grew, I found I had less interest in discussing my own research. I had to spend more time listening, more time developing programs that would help the members locate the *original* records of their ancestors. To me, that is our ultimate goal: giving our members

the knowledge and tools they need to find those original records. Questing Heirs members have never been satisfied with secondary sources. We always want to see the documents and evaluate the evidence for ourselves! By sharing our discoveries, we encourage everyone to keep digging.

Yes, of course we could do all of this on the internet. But the conversations we have online are only poor imitations of conversations with real people. The internet is a wonderful tool, very good for exchanging information, but when we are looking for insights about our own research problems, talking to a room full of real genealogists is an opportunity not to be missed.

Genealogy is a long-term project. My own interest goes back at least 50 years, and I haven't reached the end of it yet. It has taken all of these 50 years to chip away at my own family mysteries, many of

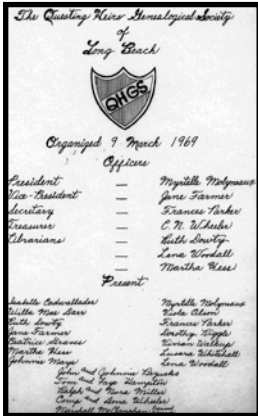
which surround my great-great-grandparents Solomon Victor and Marion Danson. Every few years another clue turns up. For the most part, these discoveries have been the result of almost infinite patience and persistence. I couldn't find the Danson family in Quebec, but I kept trying. Finally, Ancestry.com posted an index to the church records in the Drouin collection, and, as luck would have it, there was one entry under the surname Danson that I was able to recognize. But all the other records of that family had been indexed as Dawson, in spite of the fact that the original records clearly said Danson! At that point, I had already been looking for about 40 years. Progress on the problem of Solomon Victor has been even more difficult, but two definite records of him in the United States have turned up in the past few months—quite sensational records at that! I have a good idea of where he was from 1860 until 1870, but what about the rest of his life? My search continues!

—John McCoy



QHGS
IMPORTANT
MILESTONES

March 9, 1969



15th Anniversary



20th Anniversary



QHGS Early History: 1968 to 1969

The society started as a Southern Workshop group in the Fall of 1968 with a small number of people interested in tracing their Southern families. Because resources were limited and records difficult to find, the group began meeting together to exchange books and materials and to share new ideas and research methods. There was a friendly spirit of mutual help; and after each person's knotty problems were discussed, the "hat was passed" to cover expenses and to buy additional materials. Members brought their own books to exchange and were interested and enthusiastic in contributing ideas to help each other research. Since the meetings were informal sharing sessions, no one thought of keeping records except for the "treasury" which had grown to \$28.00 by the end of the year.

In December of 1968, about 20 persons met at the home of Myrtille Molyneux, 2227 Cedar Avenue, in Long Beach, and voted to organize and elect temporary officers at the next meeting. Frances Parker volunteered to send out notices. Lena Woodall proposed making a file of members' books, and the group agreed. It was voted to start a family surname file. A lively discussion and sharing period followed.

At the meeting on January 11, 1969 at the above address, the following temporary officers were elected: Chairman, Myrtille Molyneux; Secretary, Frances Parker; and Treasurer, Lena Woodall. Viola Olson volunteered to serve as Librarian and be responsible for bringing the books and magazines donated by the members for general use. Isabelle Cadwallader asked for volunteers to

be docents at one of the local Ranchos. Marshall McClanahan brought maps to share.

Some 22 persons attended the February meeting at the same address. Minutes were read, bills paid, and treasurer's balance showed \$30.12. The members voted to continue regular meetings and elect permanent officers at the next meeting. It was voted to keep the meeting place at Molly's until organization was completed.

On March 9, 1969, the meeting was held at 2227 Cedar Avenue and officers elected as listed on an accompanying page. Future meetings were voted for the second Sunday of each month to be held in members' homes on a rotating basis. Mrs. Whitehall gave an excellent talk on how to find southern records, the availability of Confederate military records in the LDS Library, and records of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Lena proposed a family surname file and Ruth Dowty volunteered to keep it. Ruth also explained how to get books and pre-1850 census records from Sutro Library on inter-library loan. Frances Parker volunteered to send out notices with attached maps.

"Questing Heirs" was selected as a name for the society in June from a list submitted by Buzz Benzusko, Jane Farmer, and Dorothy Riggle. Donations to the society's library continued throughout the year and required first one large box and later two boxes to transport it to the meetings. A nominating committee was elected in November and officers elected in December of 1969.

QHGS Early History: 1970 to 1984

1970

New members expand the club's area of interest beyond southern states, and work is begun on a book of members' pedigree charts.

1971

The book *22 Pedigree Charts* is completed and mailed to larger libraries in the United States, and another book of cemetery records is planned.

1972

Questing Heirs begins recording the burials in Banning, Long Beach Municipal, and Sunnyside cemeteries.

1973

First classes offered for beginning genealogists, and cemetery project is finished.

1974

Questing Heirs is five years old. Sales of *Some Early California Burials* begin.

1975

Questing Heirs participates in the Long Beach Hobby Show for the first time and wins a ribbon.

1976

Questing Heirs again participates in the Long Beach Hobby Show.

1977

Meeting place changes to the new Long Beach Public Library.

1978

A Genealogy Fair is held in July, and a bus trip is made to the Los Angeles Public Library. The first Questing Heirs all-day seminar is held in October, and 100 people attend it.

1979

Questing Heirs is 10 years old. The second annual seminar is held, and 200 people attend to hear Val D. Greenwood, the featured speaker. The second annual Genealogical Fair is given. Members tour the California State University Library,

and make two trips to the Los Angeles Public Library.

1980

Questing Heirs Seminar has 8 speakers. The 3rd annual Genealogical Fair is held, and the book of pedigrees is revised and enlarged with volume two underway. The Society members sign incorporation papers on November 12, 1980.

1981

Fourth annual seminar is held in May. It features Richard Stephen Lackey, author of *Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogical Records*.

1982

First brochure is printed and distributed to recruit members. Fifth seminar is held in May. It features Virginia genealogist Arlene Eakel.

1983

Sixth annual seminar is held in May. It features Norman Edgar Wright, author of *Building an American Pedigree*. A new coat of arms logo is designed by Eric Paul Donald, and it first appears on the April issue of the monthly newsletter.

1984

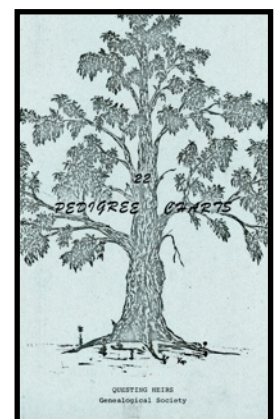
Questing Heirs celebrates its 15th anniversary on March 18, 1984. The Frances E. Parker Award is established to be awarded to the person who submits the best piece of either 1.) original research, or 2.) printing of some previously unpublished information, e.g., diaries. The seventh annual seminar is held at LBCC; and, to show that QHGS embraced technology early in its history, one of the presentations is entitled, "Use of Home Computers in Writing Your Family History." The featured speaker is Clifford Neal Smith, author of *Encyclopedia of German American Genealogical Research*. By the end of 1984 there are 322 memberships, 31 of them in the "family" category.

QHGS IMPORTANT MILESTONES

First Beginner Class

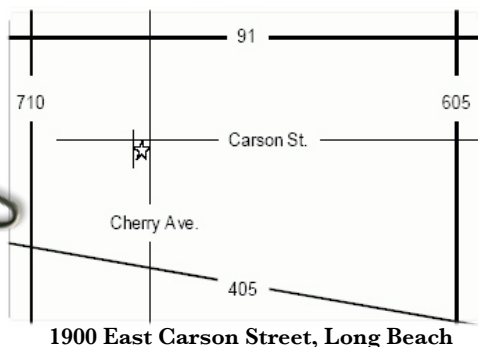


First Published Book



Seminar





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
Treasurer	Christine Elia	(562) 429-8750	chrise365@earthlink.net
Past President	Jeanette Jones	(562) 430-4919	haltjones@aol.com
Dir. at Large	Glenn Haas	(562) 420-1060	glennhaas@att.net
Dir. at Large	Tina Yanis	(562) 591-7197	tina.yanis@yahoo.com
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 APRIL NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 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:** all of the illustrations, photographs, posters, book covers, newspaper articles, and historical information in this edition of the QHGS Newsletter came from scrapbooks kept by QHGS historians from 1969 to 1998, and from our QHGS website newsletter archive.

Copyright ©2014
Questing Heirs
Genealogical Society, Inc.

Permission to reprint
original items from
this publication is granted,
provided that
the reprint is used for
non-commercial,
educational purposes,
and that the following
notice appears at the end of
the article: "Previously
published in Questing Heirs
Genealogical Society
Newsletter,
Vol. 47, No. 3,
March 2014."
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
contact
Membership Chair
Kathy Latham at
(562) 422-7645.