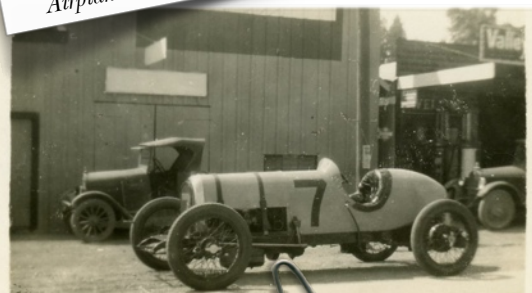


“City Directories” and “Elusive Ancestors”
Will Be Penny Nugent and John McCoy’s
Topics at QHGS April 27th Meeting



Airplane built by L. S. Cook



Race Car built by L. S. Cook



Kathy Oehlman Latham

An Act
of
Genealogical
Kindness

•
see page 30
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 32)

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.

Presentations by QHGS Members QHGS Events and News

MEETING AGENDA

APRIL 27, 2014

Please note the **one-time-only change in our meeting date** which is printed above. Easter has bumped us to the **fourth Sunday** this year.

Starting at 1:00 p.m., Penny Nugent will present, **“More Than Just Names and Addresses!”** Penny will show us how to use city and county directories to find **vital records, census data, residential lists for small towns, and employment information.** After our break, John McCoy will tell us about **“Searching for Solomon: Closing In on a Very Elusive Ancestor.”** After almost 50 years of research, the story of Solomon Victor and his wife Marion Danson, married in 1860 in Manchester, England, remains incomplete. The latest discoveries sound like something out of a soap opera—infidelity, jealousy, a shooting, a trial.... What will be revealed in the next breathless episode? More importantly for the genealogist, what new sources can we explore? Where do we find the good stuff?

FIELD TRIP

L. A. PUBLIC LIBRARY

On either the first or second Saturday in May, Cynthia Day-Elliott will lead Questing Heirs members on a field trip to the Central Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. We will travel on the Blue Line, departing from Long Beach, and hope to have a docent-lead tour. Don't miss this chance to see the LAPL. More information will be provided at our April 27th meeting.

MARCH SURVEY

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

At the March meeting, Laurie Angel and I talked about proposed activities or projects the society could undertake to contribute to the genealogical community. I am pleased that several people volunteered to chair most of the activities. *The majority of the board members did not participate in the survey* because they wanted to see what YOU were interested in, but many of them will join projects to help. We had 18 surveys returned with the following number of people interested in participating ("C" indicates how many volunteered to chair/co-chair and is also included in those who would participate; "*" indicates overlapping projects with a total of 12 participants):

- 8 C Collect data and index it for our website *
- 2 C Locate/publish local resources
- 8 CC Complete Sunnyside Cemetery data collection/index *
- 3 C Grow Long Beach Family Tree in Ancestry.com *
- 4 Create Obituary file *
- 8 CC Create consortia re North Branch Library site
- 7 C One-day seminar
- 5 C Member sharing
- 4 Trade “brick walls”
- 11 C Create interest groups (only 3 people indicated group focus—1 each for DNA, NE Germany, Preserving Your Collection)
- 0 Officer reports
- 1 Preserve history of the society (in albums or digitally)
- 13 C Field trips

(continued on page 28)

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MANY THANKS

If you didn't attend the anniversary celebration we had at our March 16th meeting, you missed a good time. I was amazed at all of the historical material Chris Elia dug up about Questing Heirs. Thank you, Chris, for an informative presentation. It made all of us want to keep up the work that our founders began. Refreshments provided by the QHGS Board were tasty, and I'd like to thank our two photographers, Kathy Latham and Jasmine Whiteside, for documenting the event. Also a big thank you to Laurie Angel who presented possibilities for future projects to us all. Wear your new QHGS lapel pins with pride, and **I'll see you at our April 27th meeting—note the date change.**

—Terry Hamilton

QHGS FUNDRAISER

PAPALUCCI'S

Coming up on **Tuesday, May 6th**, the owner of Papalucci's Italian Restaurant has agreed to donate a percentage of his profits for that day to Questing Heirs. Last year our fundraiser at Papalucci's was a big success, and we hope for an even bigger turnout this year. Mark your calendars, and get ready to eat a delicious Italian dinner and help Questing Heirs at the same time. Papalucci's is located at 4611 East 2nd Street in Belmont Shore, and there's plenty of parking available.

FRANCES PARKER PASSES AWAY

1977 PRESIDENT OF QHGS

Frances Elizabeth Parker, 95, of Danville, died Monday, October 7, 2013, at Roman Eagle Rehab and Health Care Center.



Born December 10, 1917, in Raleigh, N.C., she was a daughter of the late Fred Hudgins Parker and Fannie Meredith Farmer Parker. She was predeceased by a brother, Algernon Meredith Parker; and a sister, Martha Elizabeth Parker. She was a World War II, Women's Army Corps (WAC) veteran. Frances was a commercial, news, and portrait photographer. She was a charter member of the Southern California Genealogy Society, and one of the founders of the Questing Heirs Genealogy Society [Frances was President of QHGS in 1977]. Miss Parker was also a member of the Pittsylvania County Historical Society and a former volunteer for the Danville Public Library Genealogy Room. The last member of her immediate family, she is survived by cousins.

Posted by Colbert Moran Funeral Home, Gretna, Virginia, on their website.

FINANCE REPORT

Chris Elia

February
Income: \$96.52
February
Expenses: \$639.63
F & M Bank
Balance:
\$ 6235.21

REFRESHMENT REPORT

Linda Ryan

**Our
April 27th
Hosts
will be
Chuck Horton
Maxine Pitts
and
Connie
Williams.**

Many thanks
to the
QHGS Board
for
catering
our 45th anniversary
meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

**Members
attending
the March 16th
meeting: 39**

Our Guests:
Esther Friedman
Shirley Terry

Internet News and Genealogy Events

SURVEY (cont'd from page 26)

As presented during the earlier history of the society, we appear to be a vagabond group, having frequently changed our meeting site. I guess that is in our genes as most of us want to go on field trips:

- 12 Los Angeles Public Library
- 8 NARA (National Archives in Perris, CA)
- 8 So. California Genealogy Society Library (Burbank)
- 6 Huntington Beach Central Library (Huntington Beach)
- 6 Orange Regional Family History Center (Orange)
- 5 Sons of the Revolution Library (Glendale)
- 4 Georgina Cole Library (Carlsbad)
- 4 Long Beach Historical Society (Long Beach)
- 4 Press Telegram (Long Beach)
- 4 Jamboree (Burbank, June 6-8, 2014)
- 3 Los Angeles FHL (West L.A.)
- 1 A.K. Smiley Public Library (Redlands)

Those who volunteered to chair a project are being notified of those who want to participate in the project. However, those who volunteered to chair more than one project will likely have to focus on one or two projects after they see what sort of support each project has.
—Chris Elia

LEARN ONLINE WITH WEBINARS

Illinois State Genealogical Society:

“Using Canadian Records to Find Your Midwestern Ancestor,” presented by Kathryn Lake Hogan, PLCGS, UE on Tuesday, **April 8**, at 6:00 p.m. PST. Register: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/5139560805000800257>

Southern California Genealogical Society:

At <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html> the following **webinars which will be presented between April 5th and April 16th**: “Descendancy Research,” and “Caring for Keepsakes: The Top 10 Family Treasures.”

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society:

“German-American Resources for Genealogists,”

will be presented by Antje Petty on Tuesday, **April 15**, at 5:00 p.m. PST. Register: <http://tinyurl.com/kgcgdhm> Webinar ID: 157-335-819

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

2014 Lecture Series: “California—A Land of Many”

“The Legacy of California’s Gold Seekers,” will be presented by Nancy Hendrickson on Saturday, **April 12, 10:00 a.m.** at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 N. Virginia Road, Long Beach. Nancy has authored numerous books about California history. Lecture cost is \$7. Call 562-570-1755 now to reserve your seat at this talk.

LOCAL AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETIES

Orange County California Genealogical Society:

“Timelines” and “WW II Records,” by Nancy Huebotter, Saturday, **April 5, 10:00 a.m.** at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, California.

Immigrant Genealogical Society:

“Advancing Your History Through Social Networking” by **Gena Ortega**, Sunday, **April 6, 2:00 p.m.** at 1310-B W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, California.

Pomona Valley Genealogical Society:

“Breathe life into your ancestors: they are more than names on a Pedigree Chart!” by **Dawn Thurston**, Saturday, **April 12, 2:00 p.m.** at Pomona Public Library, 625 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, California.

Los Angeles Westside Genealogical Society:

“Getting Beyond Dead Ends: Four Case Histories,” by **Ted Gostin**, Tuesday, **April 15, 7:00 p.m.**, at the Los Angeles Family History Library, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, California.

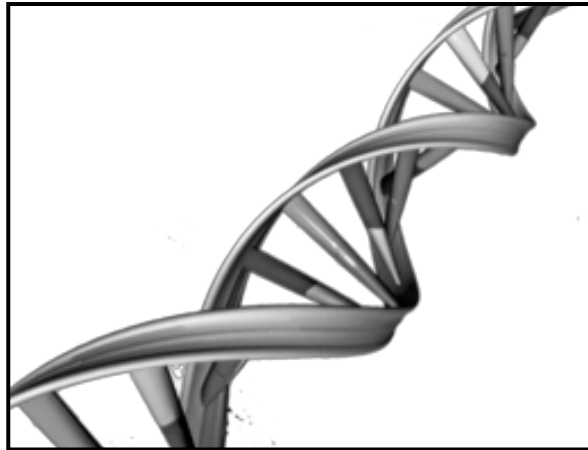
South Orange County Genealogical Society:

“Impact of the 1918 Flu Epidemic on Genealogical Research,” by **Dr. Stephen Baird**, Saturday, **April 19, 10:00 a.m. to noon** at the LDS Church Building at 27978 Marguerite Parkway (Between Medical Center Drive and Hillcrest), Mission Viejo, California.

Genetic Genealogy and DNA News

VENDOR PROBLEMS AND PROMISES

Believers in the inevitability of progress sometimes have to face reality: there are detours on the road of life! If you are an experienced genealogist, this will come as no surprise, but there are a lot of upset genetic genealogists just now because the main vendors all have problems.



23andMe has so far survived the decision by the government that they must stop providing unsubstantiated health information, which was a large part of their business. But the tools that 23andMe provides for analyzing the genetic results and contacting potential genetic matches are still regarded as inadequate and very cumbersome. Ancestry.com still has very weak tools for genetic analysis. Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) has good tools, but they keep breaking. GEDmatch.com, the most popular free web site for comparing genetic results, has recently introduced some very helpful and innovative tools, but their entire web site has crashed again, just as it was recovering from its previous crisis in February.

The story at FTDNA is especially aggravating for the believers in inevitable progress. The Big Y test, which holds out the promise of sequencing most of the Y chromosome, and thus discovering zillions of previously unknown mutations that could be useful for genealogy, was supposed to release its first results, after several delays, at the end of February. The big day arrived, but only 100 results were released, out of what are believed to be “thousands” of tests. The roll-out was marred also by poorly-worded promises and web site problems. Then, FTDNA attempted various “improvements” to its web site, affecting all of its products. Pretty much every part of the web site fell apart. Order is being restored, but the Big Y results are still way, way behind schedule.

As a retired programmer, I can see that one cause for FTDNA’s problems was the lack of a good test system for its web site. For all but the simplest web sites, an exact duplicate web site (private, of course, not visible to the public) is a necessity—in the programmer’s jargon, this is known as a “parallel test system”. All changes need to be tried out on the

test system, and thoroughly tested, before they are moved to the public web site. Will FTDNA learn that lesson? Will they realize that the spectacle of a big company scrambling to fix dozens of problems, and then having to fix the fixes, is bad for the corporate image? Will they realize that Information Technology is a serious business, not just a playground for a few computer geeks? I have some doubts!

In spite of these growing pains, I can see that genetic genealogy works. I can’t recommend mitochondrial DNA tests except in very specific circumstances, but the autosomal DNA tests (such as the FTDNA “Family Finder”) and the Y chromosome tests (FTDNA Y-37 or better, but for males only) really do give you data that can inform your genealogical research. For my own research, the genetic results are promising. Now if I could just get my “matches” to answer their e-mails and post their pedigrees.

—John McCoy

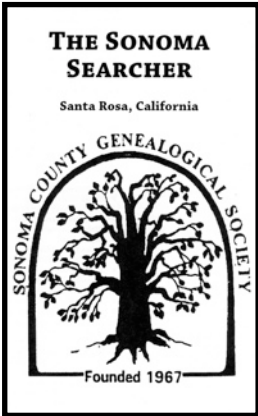
A USEFUL DNA WEBSITE

The Genetic Genealogist:

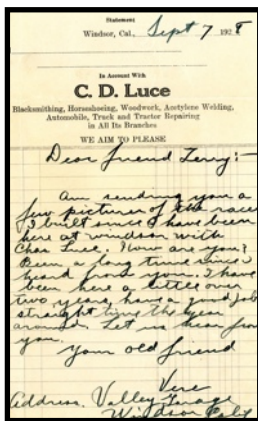
Blaine Bettinger brings his experience in biochemistry and his gift for communication to explain genomics to you in plain English at <http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com/>.

AN ACT OF
GENEALOGICAL
KINDNESS

SCGS Journal



Letter



Race Car



QHGS Member Spotlight

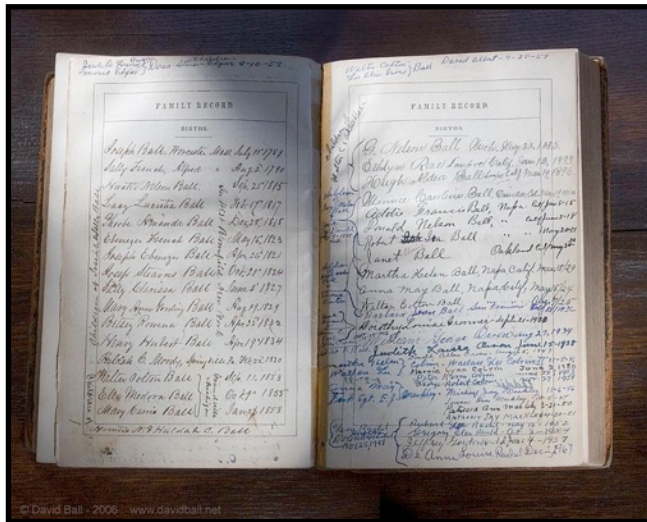


Questing Heirs member Kathy Oehlman Latham has “paid it forward” by performing an Act of Genealogical Kindness for the unknown relatives of L. S. Cook. A few years ago Kathy received some letters and photographs from her mother, Margaret Bailey Oehlman. Margaret had them because they had belonged to her father, Terry E. Bailey, and she knew that Kathy would want to have her grandfather’s correspondence since it was of genealogical interest. In February, Kathy ran across the bundle of letters and photos; and, after examining them again, she decided to send scans of them to the Sonoma County Genealogical Society (SCGS) just in case descendants of the letter writer/photographer still lived in Healdsburg or Windsor. She knows nothing about L. S. Cook, the man who sent these letters and pictures to her grandfather whom he addressed as “Friend Terry” in the letters, but she assumes that her grandfather must have known Mr. Cook when he lived in Healdsburg and worked as a mechanic on both autos and airplanes because the photographs document the building by L. S. Cook of an airplane and a race car.

Kathy’s “mystery photos” from 1928 and 1929 of the plane, its wings, struts, and hand-made machine parts, complete with individual shots of shock absorbers (one of which is shown above), pistons, and the disassembled motor with its propeller, will be featured in the Spring 2014 edition of the SCGS journal, *The Sonoma Searcher*, accompanied by scans of the letters L. S. Cook wrote to Kathy’s grandfather. Photos of the race car clearly show background buildings in a town that one member of SCGS has identified as Windsor, California; so, with Kathy’s permission, SCGS has also given copies of the scans to the Historical Photographs Department of the Sonoma County Library. It is possible that Kathy herself will never find out if the photos and letters reach any of Mr. Cook’s descendants; but some day, far in the future, a genealogist looking for information about L. S. Cook may come across these documents and thank her silently for sharing them with the SCGS. Why not “pay it forward” yourself and send scans of your old “mystery photos” to the genealogical or historical society in your research area?

—Penny Nugent

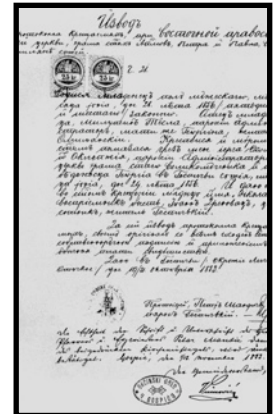
Beginning Genealogy: Birth Records



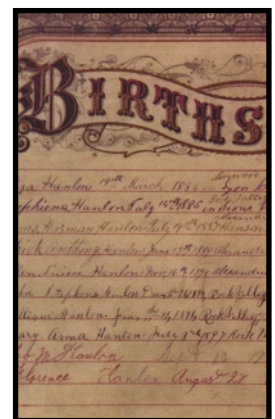
© David Ball - 2006 - www.davidball.net

FROM THE 19TH CENTURY

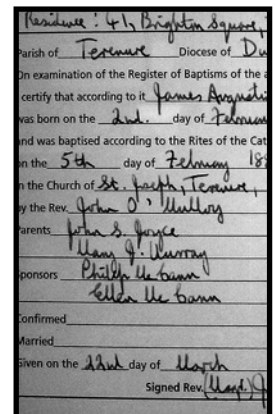
Church Register



Family Bible



Civil Registration



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. By the time you are looking for a birth record, you should already know some pertinent pieces of information about your ancestor, most notably: full name, date of birth and place of birth. In addition, it is certainly helpful to have the name of one of the parents. Of course you are probably saying, “Well if I already know all this, then why do I need to get the birth record?” Just as you searched for the death and marriage records first to help find needed clues to the birth of your ancestor, the birth record will supply you with clues needed for pursuing the parents of your ancestor. It is always through the records of relatives you have found that you discover tidbits and

hints about those ancestors you have yet to find. The fun part of genealogy is that for every person you can prove, you create two new slots on the pedigree chart to fill.

Suggested reading and reference:

Birth Certificates and 27 Other

Places to Look for Data: [http://](http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/09/25/birth-certificates-and-27-other-places-to-look-for-birth-data/#more-3117)

[blog.worldvitalrecords.com/](http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/09/25/birth-certificates-and-27-other-places-to-look-for-birth-data/#more-3117)

[2013/09/25/birth-certificates-and-27-](http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/09/25/birth-certificates-and-27-other-places-to-look-for-birth-data/#more-3117)

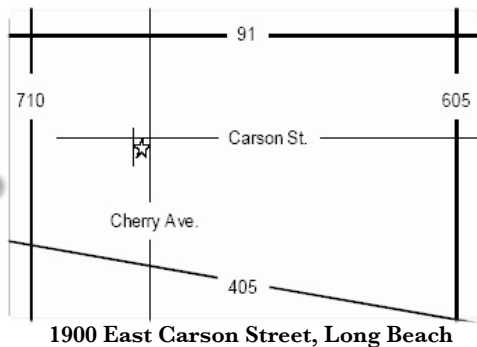
[other-places-to-look-for-birth-data/](http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/09/25/birth-certificates-and-27-other-places-to-look-for-birth-data/#more-3117)

[#more-3117.](http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/09/25/birth-certificates-and-27-other-places-to-look-for-birth-data/#more-3117)

This overview is abridged from “The RootsWeb Guide to Tracing Family Trees: Lesson No. 6: Birth Records.” The entire article is online at: <http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson6.htm>. RootsWeb Guides to Tracing Family Trees are written & compiled by professional genealogists Julia M. Case, Myra Vanderpool Gormley CG, and Rhonda McClure.

Our new Beginning Genealogy Class starts next month after the May 18th meeting.

This is the last “Beginning Genealogy” article that will appear in the *Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Newsletter*.



1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach



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	llcutterryan1@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 MAY NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 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: pages 25 and 30, Kathy Latham; page 27, photo of Frances Parker posted by Colbert Moran Funeral Home; page 31, birth records: Margaret George, David Ball and O'Dea; all other illustrations are from http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page and are in the public domain.

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