

OUR
46TH
YEAR

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY • 2015

VOLUME 48 • NO. 1

Topics at QHGS Meeting on January 18:
“What Your Speech Reveals About Your Ancestors”
and “Breaking Down Brick Walls: 3 Case Studies”



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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 St.,
in Long Beach, California.

(map on page 8)

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual: \$25.00

Family: \$37.50

Life (Individual): \$600.00

Life (Family): \$900.00

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the California State
Genealogical Alliance



and the
Federation of
Genealogical
Societies.



“Your Speech Reveals Your Heritage!” “Breaking Down Brick Walls: 3 Case Studies”

MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 18, 2015

Starting at 1:00 p.m., QHGS member **Dave Werts** will present a talk about how we speak and what our speech reveals about our ancestors. After our snack break, **at 2:30 p.m.**,



Ted Gostin will review three case studies where brick walls were successfully overcome, and from those experiences he will describe a series of research strategies that might be applied to other difficult-to-solve problems. The three case studies involved trying to determine the parents of an early, post-revolutionary American ancestor in New York State (Metcalf); trying to determine Juaneño Indian ancestry (from Mission San Juan Capistrano) in a California Latino family (Mireles); and trying to find any trace of a Polish-Jewish immigrant tailor in England in the mid-1800s (Stargatt/Stagratt).

ABOUT OUR FEATURED SPEAKER

TED GOSTIN

Mr. Gostin has been conducting genealogical research since 1980 and has worked as a full-time professional genealogist since 1994. He lectures widely on Jewish genealogy, Southern California resources, and naturalization and immigration records. Mr. Gostin is the author of *Southern California Vital Statistics: Volume 1, Los Angeles County 1850-1859* and the owner of Generations Press publishing company. He was featured on the Larry Lamb episode of the original BBC version of the popular genealogy television show “Who Do You Think You Are?” (clip at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWp3LilH45k>). Mr. Gostin is also an active member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

PROGRAMS NEXT MONTH

Our presentations on February 15 will be “**California’s Role in The War Between the States**” given by Connie Moretti and “**Finding Your Ancestors in Civil War Prison Camps**” given by Mary Anne Vincent.

CORRECTION

Jon Stroosma’s name should have been included on the list of “New Members of 2014” in the December *QHGS Newsletter* supplement. The editor apologizes for this error.

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

January's the time to make New Year resolutions, and for genealogists like us it's a great time to look at our piles of "stuff" and decide to do our genealogy in a different way in 2015. I've been looking at goals and suggestions that other genealogists have posted on their websites. Here are a few you might consider adding to your "New Year Resolutions" list.

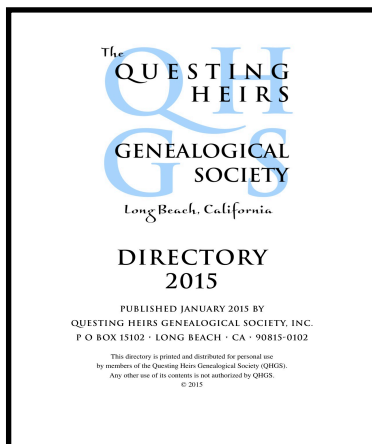
I resolve:

- to get my genealogy notes, documents and information organized by following a logical filing plan and doing one family (or person) at a time
 - to use the FamilySearch® website and go to my FamilySearch Center more often
 - to watch a genealogy webinar
 - to listen to a genealogy podcast
 - to set one realistic goal and work on it to completion
 - to scan and label family photographs
 - to go on a research trip
 - to attend a seminar
 - to get my DNA tested
 - to cite my sources
 - to volunteer to transcribe a cemetery
 - to perform a "Random Act of Genealogical Kindness" for someone asking for help on a message board
 - to write a "52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks" journal or start a blog
 - to go to Jamboree in June
 - to contact elderly relatives and set up time for interviews and/or stories
- Let's make 2015 the year we keep all our genealogy resolutions! —Terry Hamilton

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEMBER DIRECTORY

It's 2015, QHGS members—time to get your new Directory! This year we've added photos, surnames of interest, and research areas to the directory entries. I hope this will make it easier



to get to know who's sitting next to you at meetings, and to contact members with similar research goals. And as long as we're talking about membership, let's try to increase the number of people who belong to Questing Heirs in 2015. Do you know friends, neighbors or relatives who are working on a genealogy project and who might be interested in joining our club? Why not bring them to a meeting! Right now 78 people are members. Let's make 2015 the year we raise our membership total to 100. Only 22 new members will do it—we just have to get out there and recruit. Please join me in this effort.
—Kathy Latham

FINANCE REPORT

Christine Elia

November Income
\$735.14
November Expenses
\$200.33
F & M Bank Balance
\$8,249.88,
\$2,749.06 of which
is restricted to
educational expenses

REFRESHMENT REPORT

Sandy Hollandsworth

**Our
January
Hosts**

will be

**Bridget DOLE,
Jeanette JONES.
Kathy LATHAM
and
Sue TISDALL.**

Many thanks
to all of
our members
who brought their
Christmas Specialties
to the Pot Luck.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

Members
attending
December's
meeting: 26

A Warm Welcome to our New Member:

Laurie Gilmore
and our guest:
Esther Friedman

Genealogy News on the 'Net

NEBRASKA HOMESTEAD FILES ONLINE

The following announcement was written by the folks at the Homestead National Monument: “The **Homestead Final Certificate Land Entry Case Files of Nebraska are online and available at Ancestry.com**. Homestead National Monument of America, along with Family Search International, Fold3.com, Ancestry.com, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the NARA have been working for over a decade to digitize the Homestead Land Entry Case Files and make them available. The Homestead Final Certificate Land Entry Case Files, accumulated by the General Land Office, were intended to prove that those who received a portion of the public domain through the Homestead Act of 1862 fulfilled the requirements of this law. These records describe improvements made to the property, including houses constructed, wells dug, crops planted, trees cleared and fences built. Some case files include records of military service, evidence of naturalization, and much more. In all, thirty states distributed public land under the Homestead Act. The preparation and digitization of records from the other homesteading states is under way.” —*Eastman's Newsletter*, 5 December 2014

NEW AMSTERDAM GENEALOGY

The following announcement was written by New York City's Department of Records and Information Services: “As the first step in its efforts to **digitize** and make available to the public the historical records of New York City government, the City's Department of Records and Information Services (DoRIS) announced today that it is releasing its first online collection of 17th century historical manuscripts, showing the early development of the city's government: ordinances drawn from the **Records of New Amsterdam for the period of 1647 to 1661**, and their corresponding translations, maintained by the Municipal Archives and Municipal Library.” Access the New Amsterdam digitized collection at <http://www.archives.nyc/>.

—*Eastman's Newsletter*, 2 December 2014

TEXAS GENEALOGY: COLLIN COUNTY

Collin County Clerk, Stacey Kemp, and her staff have been awarded the **2014 Best Practices Award** from the National Association of County Recorders, Elections Officials and Clerks (NACRC), according to county officials. The award was for **Genealogy Corner**, an online, publicly accessible archive that offers a wide variety of online research tools for anyone interested in the history of Collin County. More than 8,000 records, dating from 1864 to 1949, have been scanned and indexed; and they are now searchable online, including:

- **Historical marriage licenses**, dating back to 1864
- **School Census records**, dating back to 1941
- **Collin County elected officials**, past and present
- **Birth indexes**, dating back to 1903 with some delayed birth records from the 1800s
- **Death indexes**, dating back to 1903
- **Marriage indexes**, dating back to 1864
- **Interactive Cemeteries locator**

You can access “**Genealogy Corner**” at http://www.co.collin.tx.us/county_clerk/genealogy/Pages/default.aspx. —*Eastman's Newsletter*, 18 November 2014

OHIO GENEALOGY

The Ohio Historical Society has changed its name online to “**Ohio History Connection**” at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/>. This site has countless resources to help people researching ancestors in Ohio. Are you interested in African-American Ohio history? Go to <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/> and take advantage of the material available. If you are tracing an Ohio ancestor using newspapers, be sure to access <http://www.ohiohistoryhost.org/ohiomemory/odnp/newspapers>. Do you use historical photos to augment your genealogical records? More than 4800 pictures collected between 1935 and 1939 by the Federal Writers' Project for use in the *Ohio Guide* are available at <http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p267401coll34>.

Genealogy Education and Local Events

WEBINARS

Illinois State Genealogical Society: “Using Google Earth for Genealogy,” presented by Lisa Louise Cook, on **Tuesday, January 13, at 6:00 p.m. PST.** Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2933074072977427457>.

Legacy Family Tree: Go to <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> to learn more about five webinars which will be presented in January.

Southern California Genealogical Society: Go to <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html> to learn more about two webinars which will be presented in January.

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society: “Researching Your Swedish Heritage in Living Color Using ArkivDigital,” presented by Kathy Meade on **Tuesday, January 20, at 5:00 p.m. PST.** Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6233649651065875970>.

WAGS SEMINAR

Whittier Area Genealogical Society will present its **32nd Annual Seminar** on **Saturday, January 31, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. The **featured speaker** will be **Geoffrey D. Rasmussen** who will give four presentations: “Digital Research Guidance and ‘To Do’ Lists,” “Googling Around with Google and Other Technologies,” “Timelines and Chronologies: Secrets of Genealogical Success,” and “Technology and Techniques for Researching a Common Surname.” Geoffrey is a dynamic speaker about all forms of genealogy technology; and, as host of the Legacy Family Tree webinar series, he has spoken virtually in nearly 100 different countries. He has authored books and articles, has created videos and websites, and is the developer of the Legacy Family Tree software program. For more information about this seminar, please go to <http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags/seminar.html>. Registration flyers are available on the entryway table at QHGS meetings.

LOCAL AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETIES

Orange County California Genealogical Society: “Exploring FamilySearch—The Very Best FREE Genealogy Website!” and “Probate Records: My Favorite Record Type!” by Randy Seaver, **Saturday, January 3, 10:00 a.m.** at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach.

Corona Genealogical Society: “Lineage Societies,” presented by Eric Siess, **Monday, January 5, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Corona Public Library, 650 South Main Street (at 6th), Corona.

North San Diego County Genealogical Society: “Advanced Google Tools for Genealogists,” by Francie Kennedy, **Tuesday, January 13, 10:00 a.m.**, at the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad.

South Orange County Genealogical Society: “The Orange County Archives,” by Chris Jepson, **Saturday, January 17, 10:00 a.m. to noon** at the LDS Church Building at 27978 Marguerite Parkway (Between Medical Center Drive and Hillcrest Drive), Mission Viejo.

Whittier Area Genealogical Society: “WWII Return of the Dead,” by Bill Beigel, **Saturday, January 17, 1:00 p.m.**, at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier.

Los Angeles Westside Genealogical Society: “Emigration Records: Tracking Immigrants from the Other Side,” by Ted Gostin, **Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m.**, at the Los Angeles Family History Library, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles.

Genealogical Society of North Orange County: “Civil War Genealogy” by Mary Ann Vincent, **Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 p.m.** at Yorba Linda Community Center, 4501 Casa Loma Ave. at Imperial, Yorba Linda.

Resolutions Our Ancestors Might Have Made

1. No man is truly well educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. Therefore, I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well educated in the coming year.

2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.

3. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.

4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church—either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all, or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.

5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every 10 years—just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.

6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.

7. I resolve to join a religion that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.

8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.

9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.

10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

11. I resolve to not clutter up good farm pasture with headstones which will just get broken or fade with time anyway.



12. I resolve to never give the correct accounts of misdeeds in the family; so, although I know Uncle Lem shot that guy and was tried for murder, my kids will be told he stole a cow.

13. I resolve to never clear the family cemetery of brush and tangled weeds, thus keeping out anyone doing that silly genealogical work.

14. I resolve to always alternate my kids' and wife's first and middle names when the census taker comes around, just to give him practice with his spelling.

15. I resolve to come from Ireland, where there are no records, or, if there are, they can only be examined by visiting the exact village, pleading with the local clergy (who is hostile to anyone not of his belief), and/or handing over a fee equal to or exceeding your yearly income for one hour's research which may not find anything.

16. I resolve that I shall be absent on the day of the census.

17. I resolve that, if unable to be absent on census day, I shall endeavor to be enumerated twice.

18. I resolve that I shall name my children using only initials which the enumerator shall record incorrectly.

19. I resolve that when I die my children and/or wife will be instructed to give the wrong details for my death certificate.

20. I resolve that I and most of my family shall die just before death certifications begin to be used in a parish where easy access to vital records ceased the year previous to my descendent's research project.

posted at <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/FAMILIA/2008-01/1199982949>

Genetic Genealogy News from John McCoy

Here's a popular question: **“How accurate are the relationships estimated for your autosomal DNA matches?”** When your results come back from the Family Finder or a similar autosomal DNA test, there will be a list of “matches” who are supposed to be your second cousins or third cousins. Without more information, this is nothing to get excited about! The relationships are only very rough estimates. From experience, I can tell you that the actual relationships are often much more distant.

If the estimated relationship is first cousin or closer, the estimate is probably believable, but be sure to consider possibilities such as “half first cousin”, “first cousin once removed”, etc. Always contact any matches who are this close! The connection will be fairly recent. You should be able to figure it out if both sets of grandparents are known.

For more distant relationships, such as second cousin, there is more uncertainty for the estimate. There are several reasons for this. First, the rate of recombination undoubtedly varies among individuals, and this will affect the size of the chromosome segments passed down intact over a period of several generations. However, this effect probably can't be measured in real families. Second, there is significantly less recombination in men than in women, but again, the available figures are averages and may not apply to real families. A third source of uncertainty is the theoretical possibility that some chromosome segments contain structural variations that suppress recombination, in such a way that a segment might be passed intact through many generations. If this happens, genetic tests would suggest a much closer relationship than actually exists. I have a strong suspicion that this is the explanation for most of my “third cousin” matches, where our pedigrees don't intersect at least back to 1800 (our ancestors weren't even on the same continent), and there are no surnames in common.

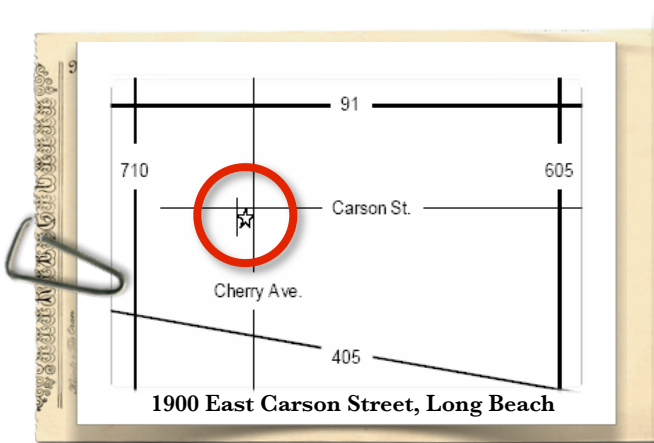
In short, estimated relationships such as second or third cousin may turn out to be far more distant, often

so far back that you can't be sure you have found the correct explanation. So, if the number of generations is estimated to be less than 3, or if the predicted relationship is closer than second cousins, that's when you should get really excited. For more distant relationships, be curious, but don't get hung up on the exact number of generations.

Another popular question is **“How long does a shared DNA segment have to be to be considered ‘real’?”** There has been a lot of discussion of this problem. Depending on which test you took, you might find that you share one segment of, say, 15 cM with someone, plus a few segments around 3 cM each. If you then find someone else who also shares those small segments, is that evidence of common ancestry, or just statistical noise?

CeCe Moore, well known genetic genealogy blogger and guru, **found a way to investigate this problem.** She found a set of autosomal DNA tests where three generations of the same family, including some cousins, had all taken the same test. With permission from the individuals involved, she looked for short segments (less than 5 cM) that were shared between known cousins, and then checked to see if those segments were actually present in their grandparents. Any segments shared among the cousins that were not also found in the grandparents would have to be statistical artifacts rather than evidence of a common ancestry. What she found was striking: **while there were many small segments that were shared among various individuals in this extended family, not one of them smaller than 5 cM had actually been passed down from prior generations, while all of the larger segments that were shared among the cousins could be easily followed back to the prior generations!** So, at least as a rule of thumb, it is now very clear that we should ignore matching segments less than 5 cM in length. You can study CeCe's brilliant and thorough analysis for yourself at <http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/>. Look for the blog dated December 3, 2014. —John McCoy

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc.



Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall

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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**, (714) 821-6914; and **Cerritos**, phone (562) 924-3676. Call before you visit as their hours may change from time to time.

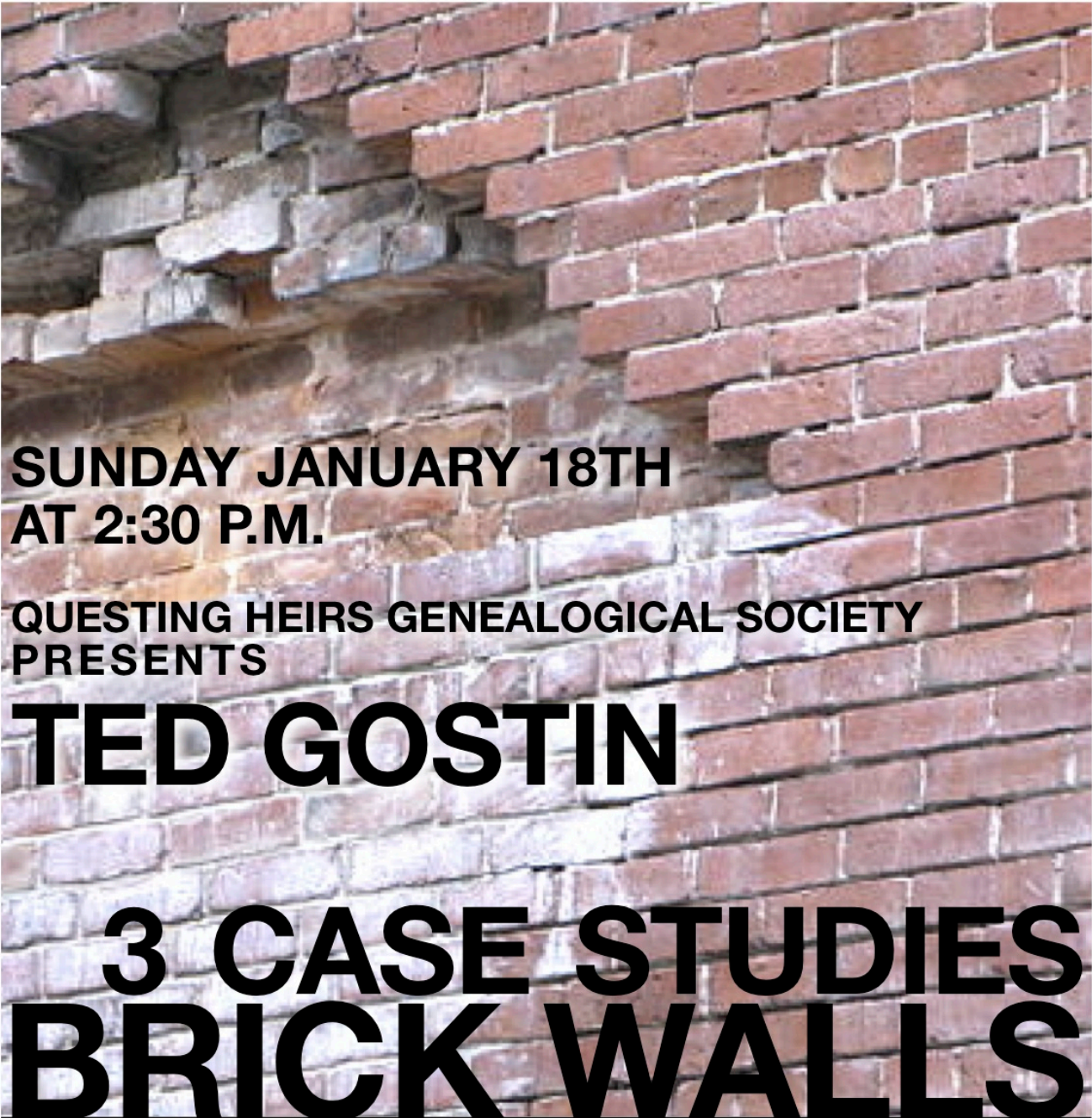
SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 21ST

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 kazooticsan@earthlink.net. We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published, but will gladly print corrections. Newsletter sources: page 2, photo and bio from Ted Gostin; all other illustrations are from http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page and are in the public domain.

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Membership Chair
Kathy Latham at
(562) 422-7645.



**SUNDAY JANUARY 18TH
AT 2:30 P.M.**

**QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS**

TED GOSTIN

**3 CASE STUDIES
BRICK WALLS**

**JOIN US AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH PARISH HALL
1900 EAST CARSON STREET • LONG BEACH • CALIFORNIA**

**OUR MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ATTEND AND BECOME A MEMBER.**

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