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QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FAMILY + HISTORY = GENEALOGY

QHGS Meeting on November 15

“Research at the National Archives”

Election of Officers for 2016-2017 Term



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OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

are held on the **third Sunday** of the month at **1:15 p.m.** at the Lakewood Masonic Center, 5918 E. Parkcrest St., in Long Beach, California. **(map on page 88)**

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual: \$25.00
Family: \$37.50
Life (Individual): \$600.00
Life (Family): \$900.00

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QHGS

is a member of the California State Genealogical Alliance



and the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

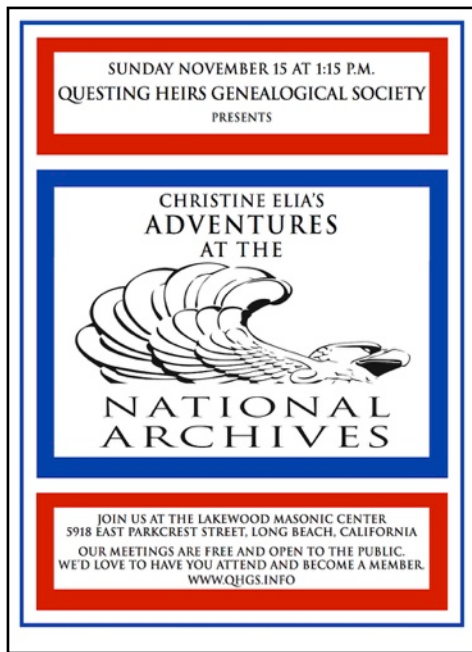


“Research at NARA in St. Louis” QHGS Elections for 2016–2017

MEETING AGENDA

NOVEMBER 15, 2015

Starting at 1:15 p.m., QHGS member **Christine Elia** will present a talk about the National Archives in Saint Louis. If you have ever wanted to research records housed at a NARA branch, this is the presentation for you! Chris will tell us about her preparation strategy and how she requested record files before she left California. She will also tell us what she found and how she helped others with their research. After our snack break the QHGS Annual General Meeting will be held. Nominees announced in October will be elected by our members. **The Beginner Class will meet after the General Meeting.**



ABOUT OUR FEATURED SPEAKER

CHRISTINE ELIA

Chris joined QHGS in 2008, and for the last two years she has served as our Treasurer. She enjoys traveling and meeting distant relatives wherever her excursions take her. Her research interests include immigration history, oral history, and her ancestors' military service. Her family's roots are in Poland, Lithuania, Sicily and Greece; and all of the family's direct ancestors immigrated to the U. S. between 1900 and 1912, settling in New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

NOVEMBER 15, 2015

Following is the **slate of officers for the 2016–2017 term** as presented by the Nominating Committee at our October meeting: **1st Vice-President, VACANT; Secretary, Christina McKillip; Treasurer, Mike Powers; Director-at-Large, Debbie Boughman.** The position of First Vice President remains open, and we hope to hear a nomination for that position (with the nominee's prior consent) from the floor at November's meeting. Members at the General Meeting will elect the officers listed above; and, after voting, member concerns will be addressed. Suggestions and comments about the future of Questing Heirs will be welcome.

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MILITARY RECORDS

November makes me think about the veterans in my family and their military records online. Isn't it amazing? There are so many military records out there that we can find. Usually we are so happy to find an enlistment that we don't think how it got online in the first place. At the seminar I went to last month, Dick Eastman really brought home how important digitizing is to put this information online. Let's get behind the 1812 pension digitization project sponsored by FGS. It's called "Preserve the Pensions," and it has digitized over 360,000 pages so far. FGS is halfway there—help them reach their goal. Go to <http://www.preservethepensions.org/> to make a donation now! —Terry Hamilton

DECEMBER'S ANNUAL POT LUCK

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

Our **annual December pot luck luncheon will be held at 1:15 p.m. on December 20**, so circle that date on your calendar. Look for an alphabetical list by surname in the December newsletter to find out which category of food you will be bringing to the party. See you there!

**DUES ARE PAST DUE
PLEASE RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

WANT TO EDIT THE NEWSLETTER?

IT'S YOUR CHOICE

The nominating committee has not been able to fill the office of 1st Vice-President; so, **your QHGS Newsletter editor offers this solution: if a QHGS member will take over the newsletter, I will volunteer for the office of 1st Vice President for the 2016-2017 term.** Being the newsletter editor has a distinct advantage—you don't have to go to board meetings! There are hundreds of newsletter templates online—it doesn't have to look the same—and I'll help you transition to January 2016; so, think about becoming the newsletter editor because I can no longer do both jobs at the same time.



FINANCE REPORT

Chris Elia

September Income
\$1,937.31
September Expenses
\$82.57
F & M Bank Balance
\$6,963.84,
of which \$2,374.06
is restricted to
educational expenses

REFRESHMENT REPORT

Sandy Hollandsworth

Our November Hosts

will be

Larry AKAU
Kathy LATHAM
Penny NUGENT
and

Mary POISSANT

Many thanks
to our

October Hosts
Terry HAMILTON
Denise HOFMANN
Jeanette JONES
Maxine PITTS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

Attendance at
October's meeting: 40

A Warm Welcome to Our Guests:

Kathleen O'Daniels
Rita Rivera
JoAnn Wintenburg
Candy Wood

Webinar Classes and Local Events of Interest

LEARN ONLINE WITH WEBINARS

Minnesota Genealogical Society:

“Research Logs and Plans for Every Genealogist” presented by Lisa Alzo, on **Wednesday, November 4, at 5:00 p.m. PST**. Learn how to create and maintain research plans and logs to maximize your research time and increase success. This session will demonstrate key steps such as deciding on a format (Excel spreadsheet, Google Drive, or Evernote), creating the columns you'll need, designing the document, entering information, and using and maintaining your database. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4039512624611918849>.

Legacy Family Tree:

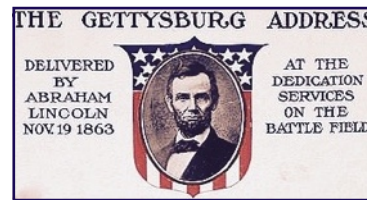
Go to <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> to learn more about the following **webinars which will be presented between November 4 and November 18**: “Researching with Karen,” “Organizing Your Genetic Genealogy,” “Bringing It All Together and Leaving a Permanent Record,” and “Mapping Madness.”

Southern California Genealogical Society:

Go to <http://www.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html> to register for the following webinars which will be presented on **Saturday, November 7, at 10:00 a.m. PST and Wednesday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m. PST**: “Building a Digital Research Plan” by Cyndi Ingle, and “Back Away from the Computer—You’ll Have More Fun Offline” by Nicka Smith.

Illinois State Genealogical Society:

“In-laws and Outlaws: Talking About the Family Skeletons” by Janet Hovorka on **Tuesday, November 10, at 6:00 p.m. PST**. If you don't have some family skeletons, you just haven't done enough family history research yet. Every family has heroes and scoundrels. How do you pass down this information to the next generations of your family in a healthy, safe way? Sometimes it is all in the way you frame it. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1041320337723100418>.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

On **Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**, the **Drum Barracks Museum** joins in the national remembrance and celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address given at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery on November 19, 1863. The event is sponsored by the Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2, Department of the Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and their Auxiliary, the ASUVCW. **Admission is free.** The Drum Barracks Museum is located at 1052 N. Banning Boulevard, in Wilmington.



SCGS GENEII WRITING CONTEST

The GENEii Writing Contest is open to the public and is presented each year by the Southern California Genealogical Society. **Entries must be received between November 1 and December 31.** The contest closes on December 31 for each calendar year. Prizes are awarded in two categories. Category 1 is for articles between 1,000 and 2,000 words in length. Category 2 is for articles under 1,000 words in length. Both categories are for family history or local history stories, memoirs, or character sketches. Submissions may be either unpublished or previously published. Winners are notified individually by May 1st of the following year. For more information go to <http://www.scsgenealogy.com/genecii/index.html>.

Genealogy Events in Southern California



WAGS 33RD WINTER SEMINAR

The Whittier Area Genealogical Society presents **Thomas MacEntee** on **January 30, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Thomas MacEntee has been involved with genealogy and family history for close to 20 years and for the past two years has dedicated himself professionally to various aspects of the genealogy industry. He is sometimes called “King of the Genealogy Webinars,” due to his numerous online educational presentations. He will present four lectures: **Genealogy Do-Over: A Year of Learning From Mistakes:** Follow genealogist Thomas MacEntee as he basically starts his genealogy research from scratch but includes sound research practices and methodologies to create a better body of family history research. **Successful Collateral and Cluster Searching:** Researching non-direct relations as well as those friends and neighbors in your ancestors’ network can pay off in ways you might not imagine. **After You’re Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research:** Have you ever considered what will happen to your years of genealogy research once you’re gone? Learn how to ensure that your hard work carries on. **Genealogy: The Future Is Now:** Do you have trouble keeping up with technology, especially programs, apps and websites that other genealogists seem to be using these days? You’re not alone. After a quick review of how much has changed in the past 30 years, you’ll learn what’s hot, what’s now and how to prepare for the genealogy technology of the future. **Early registration** will be \$35 for WAGS members and \$40 for non-members. The **deadline for early registration is January 16.** Late registrations after January 16 and at the door will be \$45. A lunch may be ordered no later than January 24 for an additional fee of \$10. **Registration forms** will be available at the November meeting.

LOCAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Corona Genealogical Society:

Monday, November 2, Len Enlow will present “Naturalization Records: What You Can Learn from Them” **from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Corona Public Library, 650 South Main Street (at 6th), Corona.

Orange County Genealogical Society:

Saturday, November 7, Chris Jepson will present “‘Backstage’ at the OC Archives” at **11:00 a.m.**, and Linda Serna will present “Solving Mysteries: Step by Step” at **12:30 p.m.** at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach.

Genealogical Society of North Orange County:

Wednesday, November 18, Len Enlow will present “Understanding FamilyTree Maker” at **7:00 p.m.** at the Yorba Linda Community Center, 4501 Casa Loma Ave. (at Imperial), Yorba Linda.

South Orange County Genealogical Society:

Wednesday, November 21, Natalie Fousekis, PhD, will present “Nuts and Bolts of Oral History,” at **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:

Saturday, November 21, WAGS presents “Find My Past” by Christine Cohen at **10:00 a.m.** and “Is There a Baby Catcher In Your Bloodline?” by Jane Neff Rollins at **1:00 p.m.** Both lectures at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier.

Genealogy Garage Workshop:

Saturday, November 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. LAPL presents “Organizing Your Research,” by veteran genealogist Donie Nelson in the Genealogy Dept.–LL4, at the Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles. One of the biggest challenges for all researchers is how to organize your material so that you can find what you are looking for. For more information: <http://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/genealogy-garage-your-family-lapl-inner-sanctum>.

Liz Stookesberry-Myers: Research at the SLC British Institute

QHGS Past President Liz Stookesberry-Myers went to Salt Lake City in September, and she had a very exciting and fruitful research experience at the **British Institute's** Fall research seminar hosted by the **International Society for British Genealogy and Family History**. The ISBGFH website describes its Institute classes like this: "Our popular British Institute offers a week of total immersion into British research topics. Held annually in the Fall at Salt Lake City, Utah, British Institute courses are especially designed to help you develop your research skills in British and Irish records. With instructors there to guide you throughout the day, classes are held each morning followed by a full afternoon at the Family History Library, utilizing their outstanding British collections and applying the research techniques and analytical skills learned in your Institute class."

Liz tells the *Questing Heirs Newsletter*:

"I just spent a wonderful, inspiring and informative week in Salt Lake City learning how to be a successful researcher for my English ancestors! The **International Society for British Genealogy and Family History** held their British Institute at the Plaza Hotel next door to the Family History Library in September on the 21st through the 25th. Subjects included research in England, Scotland, and Ireland; and writing classes were also given. Everyone I talked with raved how excellent the sessions were and how much they were learning.

"I was truly a beginner because I have never even looked at England for relatives. After the sessions I feel ready and able to pursue those elusive progenitors. Before we arrived for our week at the ISBGFH, it was recommended that we read *Ancestral Trails* by Mark Herber, and *Tracing Your Ancestors in the National Archives*



by Amanda Bevan because not everything is on the internet; and we were told to be familiar with the websites *Ancestry.co.uk* and *Findmypast.co.uk*. We also needed to locate where our families lived via *GenUKI* and the FamilySearch Wiki.

"The instructors, Else Churchill and Alec Tritton, covered a wide range of subjects to launch our searches. We learned how and what Church and Parish documents were available, and I was glad that I was not an impoverished person transported across the pond! Being imprisoned as a criminal or debtor did not sound like much fun either.

We learned about Census Records, Electoral Records, and poll books. Non-conformist records were also available. The instructors showed us that 17th Century research is a real challenge, but they showed us strategies and assured us that we could be successful! They gave us information about where and how to look for almost everything!

"The instructors also scheduled one-on-one time with each of us. They really knew their subjects and were able to answer our many questions. I liked that the class size was limited so that we felt we were getting the help that we really needed.

"The 2016 Institute has been scheduled again for next year in October from the 10th through the 14th. David Rencher will teach on Ireland, Darris Williams on Wales, Eric Stroschein on Methodology, and Paul Milner on England. If you have British ancestors, I highly recommend planning to be there in 2016!"

Thank you, Liz, for sharing your wonderful experiences with the members of Questing Heirs! Have Liz's descriptions inspired you? Do you want to go to Salt Lake City next year to study at the British Institute? If you do, you can find more information on the ISBGFH website at <http://isbgfh.org/>.

Genealogy Lessons at a Long Beach Cemetery

CIVIL WAR VETERAN STEPHEN A. COMBS

In honor of Veterans Day, let's find genealogical information about one of the Union soldiers buried in Sunnyside Cemetery.

Stephen A. Combs' gravestone doesn't give his date of birth or his date of death. It simply records that he belonged to the G.A.R. and was a soldier with the 25th Massachusetts Infantry, in Company D.

To find genealogical information—date of birth, date of death, parents' names, etc.—several online sources were consulted in the following order:

1. To establish the fact that Stephen A. Combs served in the Union Army, we consulted *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.

This source provided the following information: Stephen A. Combs, a boot maker living in Massachusetts, enlisted in Company D, Massachusetts 25th Infantry Regiment, on 9 January 1865 as a Private. He survived the war and was mustered out on 13 July 1865 at Readville, Massachusetts.

2. To find out if Stephen was a Civil War pensioner, we looked for him in the National Archives and Records Administration, *U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.

This source provided the following information: Stephen A. Combs filed for a Civil War pension on 25 March 1889 as an Invalid. He filed this application in Colorado. His widow, Amelia Combs, filed for a Civil War Widow's pension 25 years later, on 14 January 1914, in California.

3. Using information from source two, we looked at the *California, Death Index, 1905-1939* [database on-



line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.

This source provided the following information:

Stephen A. Combs, born about 1847, died on 3 January 1914, in Los Angeles county.

4. Finally, using information from source three, we found a digitized image of Stephen's death certificate on the FamilySearch® website at "California, County Birth and Death Records, 1800-1994," index and images, FamilySearch, Los Angeles, Long Beach > Death certificates 1911-1915 no 140-220 > image 1327 of 2208.

This source provided the following information:

Stephen A. Combs was born on 10 December 1846, in Haven Hill, New Hampshire. His father was Nelson Combs and his mother's maiden name was Cummings. Stephen died, aged 67, on 3 January 1914, at his home in Long Beach, California. He and his wife lived at 514 Ohio Avenue, and they had resided there for the 2 years that they had been residents of California. Stephen was buried in Sunnyside Cemetery, and the undertaker in charge of his interment was E. H. Cleveland.

To find out more about him we can use censuses to discover where he lived and search for marriage records to find out when and where he married Amelia. To learn about the Massachusetts 25th Infantry, we can read books and consult online websites that cover that unit's Civil War exploits. Additionally, we can look at microfilms of old Long Beach newspapers to find his obituary.

Stephen A. Combs' burial teaches us that a single gravestone may not provide any of the genealogical information we seek; but, its inscription can lead to sources that do provide the dates and names we need. —Penny Nugent

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc.



5918 E. Parkcrest Street



Lakewood Masonic Center 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**, phone (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 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 22ND

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 pnugento@icloud.com. We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published, but will gladly print corrections. Newsletter sources: page 81, The Graphics Fairy at <http://thegraphicsfairy.com/>; pages 87 and September/October Meetings photographs, Kathy Latham. All other illustrations are from http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page or the Library of Congress and are in the public domain.

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To join, please contact
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Photographs from Recent QHGS Meetings



First Meeting at Our New Facility



Pam Wiedenbeck



Sue Roe (L) Penny Nugent (R)

September 20, 2015

**Pam Wiedenbeck: “Beginning French-Canadian Genealogy”
QHGS Newsletter Editor Receives CSGA Publications Award**



Dick Humphrey



**Distant Cousins!
Patti Chamberlin and Tina McKillip**



Tina McKillip

October 18, 2015

**Dick Humphrey: “Find-a-Grave for the Family Historian”
Christina McKillip: “Finding the Genes in Genealogy”**