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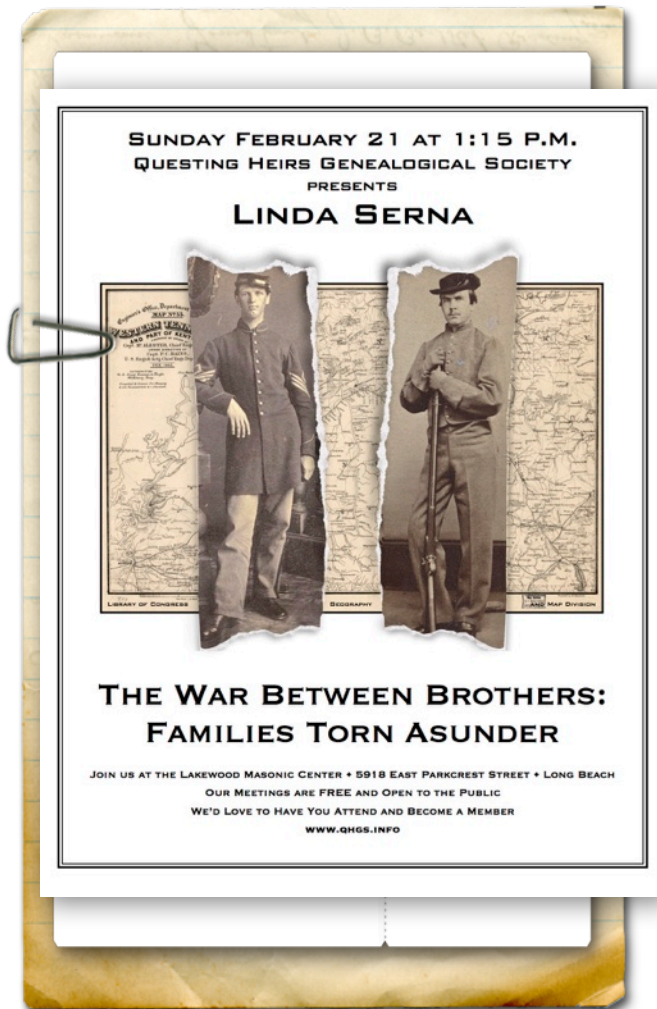
NEWSLETTER

FAMILY + HISTORY = GENEALOGY

QHGS Meeting on Sunday February 21

“The War Between Brothers: Families Torn Asunder”

“Research in Land Records”



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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 16)**

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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

QHGS is an

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Donations are tax-deductible.

QHGS

is a member of the California State Genealogical Alliance



and the Federation of Genealogical Societies.



“The War Between Brothers” “Genealogical Research in Land Records”

MEETING AGENDA

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Starting at 1:15 p.m., Linda Serna will present **“The War Between Brothers: Families Torn Asunder,”** a lecture that looks at the Civil War in a unique way. Linda will explore what life was like for civilians as well as soldiers, talk about states with divided loyalties, and examine medicine during that era. She will also discuss prison camps and trace some of the migrations that occurred after the Civil War. After our break, **Connie Moretti** will present **“Land Records: Deeds and Indexes.”**

Have you tried to find an ancestor’s surname in deed book indexes and given up, asking yourself “Why aren’t these things in alphabetical order?” Have you looked at actual deed records on the FamilySearch website and thrown up your hands in frustration, wondering “What does the term ‘grantor’ mean? How is the grantor different from the grantee? Who is buying/selling this land anyway?” If you’ve read through a deed from beginning to end, you may have other questions as well, like “What are chains?” and “How can I find this piece of land today?” Connie Moretti’s presentation will help you answer these questions! She will explain puzzling terms and help you understand indexing systems which were used by county clerks to record your ancestors’ land transfers.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

LINDA SERNA



Linda has been involved with genealogy in researching and writing family stories for over 30 years and was honored to work on the PBS program “Genealogy Roadshow.”

CONNIE MORETTI



A Torrance native and third-generation Californian, Connie Moretti claims to have done genealogy all her life due to a story-telling grandmother who enrolled her in the Covered Wagon Club at Knott’s Berry Farm in the 1940s. Connie is the former editor of the *South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Newsletter* and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She learned about land records, one of her special interests, while earning a Real Estate License.

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

QHGS TOPICS NEXT MONTH

SUNDAY MARCH 20

Our March meeting will focus first on writing family history with **“Beyond the Family Tree: Bringing Your Family Stories to Life,”** presented by **Marion Werle**. After the break, **QHGS** members **Dave Werts, Bridget Dole, and Kathy Latham** will discuss book publishing, writing workshops, and family history articles in historical society journals.

HANDOUT FROM JANUARY LECTURE

ADVANCED GOOGLE TOOLS

The handout from January’s meeting is on our website at http://www.qhgs.info/meetings_past.html. You will find a link next to the title of Francie’s presentation.

OCJGS PRESENTS MARCH LECTURE

TUESDAY MARCH 8

The Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society presents Megan Lewis, reference librarian at the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, March 8, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback Street, Newport Beach. Cost: \$5.00 at the door. If you had family or friends in Europe or North Africa during WWII, this lecture will be of interest to you.

PAPALUCCI’S FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY MARCH 22



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! We will eat Italian food and help QHGS at the same time on **Tuesday, March 22, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at our favorite ristorante, Papalucci’s, located at 4611 E. Second Street in Belmont Shore. You don’t need a flyer to attend—just show up and eat with your QHGS gen-pals.

CVGS PRESENTS MARCH SEMINAR

SATURDAY MARCH 12

The Conejo Valley Genealogical Society presents Tom W. Jones, CG, Ph.D., on Saturday, March 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1600 East Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks. Tom is back by popular demand, and he will give four lectures. Cost is \$40 for non-members if received before March 2. Flyers will be available at our February meeting.

FINANCE REPORT

Christine Elia

December Income
\$51.17
December Expenses
\$35.00
F & M Bank Balance
\$7,837.31,
of which \$2,374.06
is restricted to
educational expenses

REFRESHMENT REPORT

Sandy Hollandsworth

**Our
February
Hosts**

will be

**Frances LIEBZEIT,
Penny NUGENT,
Maxine PITTS
and
Sue TISDALL**

Many thanks to our
January Hosts
Sandy McDonald,
Tina McKillip,
Cathy Rokicki and
Diane Transue

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

Attendance at
January’s meeting: 64

**A Warm Welcome
to our
new members:
JoAnn
Wintenburg
and
David Hensley**

Learning Opportunities

LEARN ONLINE WITH WEBINARS

Minnesota Genealogical Society

“Naturalization: The Law, the Process, and the Records,” by Tom Rice, CG on **Wednesday, February 3, at 5:00 p.m. PST**. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1801770075998184193>.

Illinois State Genealogical Society

“Reconstructing Black Community Life Through Benevolent Societies,” presented by Angela Walton-Raji on **Tuesday, February 9, at 6:00 p.m. PST**. Benevolent societies had a major impact on the social fabric of African American communities, and a rich community history can be discovered by recognizing them in African American cemeteries throughout the nation. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8291948619192469250>.

Legacy Family Tree

Go to <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> to learn more about the following **webinars which will be presented between February 10 and February 24**: “The Scots-Irish in America,” “Getting Started with Microsoft Word,” “Problem Solving with FANs,” and “A Guided Tour of Cyndi’s List 2.0.”

Southern California Genealogical Society

Go to <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html> to register for the following webinars: “Scanning and Photo Retouching for Beginners,” by Tom Underhill on **Saturday, February 6, at 10:00 a.m.** and “The Family Historian’s Publishing Primer,” by Nicka J. Smith on **Wednesday, February 17, at 6:00 p.m.**

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

“The Value of Working with a Professional Genealogist,” by Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FMGS, FUGA, on **Tuesday, February 16, at 5:00 p.m. PST**. It’s a sensible step to hire a family history professional because we can’t always make it to all the locations that hold records we need to research our family history. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1786591317987205378>.

LECTURES AT THE L A PUBLIC LIBRARY

Genealogy Garage Workshop

“Tips for the Family Detective” will be presented on **Saturday, February 20, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the Genealogy Dept., LL4, at the Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles. Your family or ancestor has disappeared? Time to brush up on your sleuthing skills! You may not become a Miss Marple, but this workshop will aid you in finding those lost relatives...in surprising places! Choose a family or person and bring their information for individual assistance from veteran genealogist Donie Nelson who will reveal some fascinating places and techniques to use when you encounter a “missing person” in your family tree. To RSVP, go to the History Reference desk or call 213-228-7000, and ask for “History.” Please give us your name and an email address or phone number so you can be notified in case the workshop is cancelled. For information, go to <http://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/genealogy-garage-tips-family-detective>.

Hispanic Saturdays Genealogy Research

Join us on **Saturday, February 20, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in the Genealogy Dept., LL4, at the Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles, for the assistance you need to further your research. Our experts specialize in California, Colorado, Mexico, New Mexico, and Texas. Presented by the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America–Southern California.

African American Genealogy

“African American Genealogy: Challenges and Resources” will be presented on **Saturday, February 27, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the Meeting Room, LL4, at the Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles. **Due to space limitations only the first 20 people who arrive will be accommodated.** LAPL genealogy librarian Julie Huffman will discuss resources available to help search for your African American ancestors: Freedman’s bank records, slavery insurance policies, African-American newspapers and more! For information, go to <http://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/african-american-genealogy-challenges-and-resources>.

Genealogy Events in Southern California

OCCGS GENEALOGY BASH

The **Orange County California Genealogical Society** will present its **Book Faire and Genealogy Bash** featuring **Lisa Louise Cooke** on **March 5, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, at the Huntington Beach Central Library Theater, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. OCCGS maintains a 20,000+ collection of genealogy books at the Huntington Beach Central Library. They get donations on a weekly basis and have many duplicates that they sell at bargain prices at the Book Faire. There will be **over 1,000 books and periodicals on sale**, and there is **NO FEE to visit the Book Faire**. There will also be two FREE beginning genealogy classes given at the Bash, which the public is welcome to attend; but remember that seating is limited. **Lisa Louise Cooke** will present four lectures: **Google Tools & Procedures for Solving Family History Mysteries**: Discover Google tools and processes for using them to solve the genealogical challenges you face. You'll walk away with exciting new techniques that you can use right away. **Google! Everything New that You Need to Know for Genealogy**: Google continues to evolve and change every day, so Lisa will give you an update on the most recent Google changes. **How to Reopen and Work a Genealogical Cold Case**: Become a genealogical detective in this vital session. You'll learn to track ancestors like a criminal cold case detective, sniffing out holes in your research and getting missing information on the record with cutting edge technology. **Future Technology and Genealogy**: As technology speeds ahead into the future, there are five key strategies that you can employ right now that will make the ride easier, and the results more exciting than ever. Early registration fees for Lisa's lectures: \$35 for OCCGS Members and \$40 for non-members. The **deadline for early registration is February 26**. Late registrations after February 26 and at the door will be \$45. A lunch may be ordered no later than February 26 for an additional fee of \$10. **Registration flyers will be available at our February meeting**. You may also register online at <http://www.ocggs.com/>.

SO CAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Corona Genealogical Society

"Naturalization Records: What You can Learn from Them," presented by Len Enlow on **Monday, February 1, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Corona Public Library, 650 South Main Street (at 6th), Corona.

Orange County California Genealogical Society

"Passenger Lists—Did They *Really* Come on That Ship?" by Joan Lowrey at 11:00 a.m. and "Prep for SLC," by Joan Rambo at 12:30 p.m., on **Saturday, February 6**, at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach.

Conejo Valley Genealogical Society

Open House and tour of the library at 5:00 p.m. followed by "Getting Started in Genealogy" by Dick Humphrey on **Tuesday, February 16, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**, at the Grant R. Brimhall Library, 1401 East Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

Genealogical Society of North Orange County

"Is There a Baby Catcher in your Bloodlines?" by Jane Neff Rollins on **Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.** at Yorba Linda Community Center, 4501 Casa Loma Ave. (at Imperial), Yorba Linda.

South Bay Cities Genealogical Society

"How to Resolve Conflicting Evidence," by Lorna Rice on **Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.** at the Katy Geisert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance.

South Orange County Genealogical Society

"Who is That? Why Did Your Ancestors Associate with Apparent Strangers?" by Jean Hibben, CGSM, PhD on **Saturday, February 20, 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

"Stories of Women Homesteaders" and "Finding 19th Century Land Records with 21st Century Tools," by Jamie Mayhew on **Saturday, February 20, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier.

Working in Long Beach: Oilfield Roustabouts

If your ancestor came to Long Beach looking for work in the oil fields, you might find him mentioned or pictured in the following online resources.

Brown's Court Apartments in Signal Hill

<http://brownscourtapartments.com/signal-hill-oil-workers/>

Click on the link above, and you will see a large photograph showing five oil field workers as well as the Union Oil Company's "Classification and Wage Scale of Oil Field Employees." The photo has four readable surnames written on it: Horne, Wilson, Sullivan and Roneok.

California State University Long Beach University

Library: Digital Repository for Local Research

<http://symposia.library.csulb.edu/iii/cpro/CollectionViewPage.external;jsessionid=F532E5D86A9D85A700F4D8841715734A?lang=&sp=1000054&suite=def>

Quoting from this CSULB Digital Repository, Virtual Oral/Aural History Archives webpage, "Some of the interviews in this series were conducted as part of a project to study the impact of oil discovery on the development of Long Beach. Others were done as part of a project to document the history of Signal Hill. The experiences of these **nine narrators** illustrate the variety of people who came to participate in the oil boom that began in the 1920s."

<http://symposia.library.csulb.edu/iii/cpro/CollectionViewPage.external?lang=&sp=1000052&suite=def>

Quoting from this CSULB Digital Repository, Virtual Oral/Aural History Archives webpage, "This series of interviews was conducted as part of a project to study the impact of oil discovery on the development of Long Beach. The experiences of the **six narrators** illustrate many of the significant points of this historical development. Jake Briegel, Red Carey, and Everett Harris all came to Long Beach in the 1920s to seek better opportunities. Nahum Emery, born in



southern California, found similar opportunities. Charles Armin came to Long Beach at the end of the Depression and went to work for the oil workers union. Laura Carey, the wife of an oil worker, also lived the life of a 'boomer'."

American Oil & Gas Historical Society

<http://aoghs.org/states/signal-hill-oil/>

The Signal Hill oil boom is described in great detail.

Paleontological Research Institution

https://www.priweb.org/ed/pgws/history/signal_hill/signal_hill.html

A very good overview of the petroleum industry in Southern

California with special attention to Signal Hill.

Gendisasters: Events That Touched Our Ancestors' Lives

<http://www3.gendisasters.com/california/8535/long-beach-ca-oil-refinery-explosion-jun-1933>

A transcribed newspaper article re: the Long Beach Richfield oil refinery explosion of June 2, 1933, can be found here. Pictures of the event are included, and the names of the dead are listed. A newspaper article about an earlier oil well gas explosion which killed E. H. and H. H. Hanley, brothers, and H. S. Clark, on March 1, 1931, in Long Beach, is also posted on this site.

Critical Past: Stock Films

http://www.criticalpast.com/video/65675044362_blast-in-oil-refinery-towers-on-fire-fire-fighters-black-smoke

This site has 1 minute and 27 seconds of black and white film footage that shows the Richfield refinery fire of 1933.

California State University Dominguez Hills

<http://digitalcollections.archives.csudh.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/LBFiremen>

Archives box 31 contains pictures of the Richfield fire of 1933, the Fisher Oil Fire of 1924, and the Los Alamitos oil fire of 1927.

B. W. Coon Funeral Home Records 1922 – 1926

Now let's focus on one oil worker, **Fletcher Bownds**, whose name appears in an important QHGS resource: *B. W. Coon Co. Funeral Home, Long Beach, California Funeral Register, 1922-1926*. Fletcher's entry in the pdf abstract of this book (available on our website <http://www.qhgs.info/publications.html>) reads, "Bownds, Fletcher Died 5/9/1924, born 25 aug 1905. Residence 2121 E. 6th Steet[sic]. Shipped to Memphis, Texas. Parents: John Bownds (b. Mississippi), Susan Roberts (b. Texas)." The original record of Fletcher Bownds' funeral on page 146 of the register describes him as an oil driller's helper, tells where he lived in the city, and states that he died, aged 18, at Seaside Hospital from burns suffered in an oil field explosion.

To find more information about Fletcher Bownds, your editor went online and consulted the *California County Birth and Death Records 1800-1994* database at FamilySearch.org where she found his death certificate. It provided his birth date, the name of the oil company he worked for, the extent of his injuries, and the name of the town in Texas where his mother was born. It also revealed that he had lived in Long Beach for 6 months and had been in California for about 16 months. Lastly, it showed that an inquest had been held where the jury rendered a verdict, establishing cause of death as "burns of the third degree, covering over two-thirds of the body surface caused by explosion and fire on oil well." This verdict was approved by E. L. Green, Deputy Coroner.

One can also look for newspaper articles describing the explosion and fire that took Fletcher's life. *The California Digital Newspaper Collection, A Freely Accessible Repository of Digitized California Newspapers from 1846 to the Present* is available at <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?ap&p=home&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN-----1>.

RECORD OF FUNERAL

No. 11 Date: 9 May 1924

Name of Deceased: Fletcher Bownds Order Given by: Coon

Change in: J. B. Bownds

Address: 2121 E. 6th Street

Date of Funeral: 10 May 1924

Residence: 2121 E. 6th Street

Place of Death: Seaside Hospital

Funeral Services at: Memphis, Texas

Time of Funeral Service: 5

Clergyman: ...

Certifying Physician: Coon

His Residence: ...

Number of Burial Certificates: ...

Cause of Death: Burns

Date of Death: 9 May 1924

Occupation of the Deceased: Oil Driller's Helper

Single or Married: Single Religion: None

Date of Birth: 25 Aug 1905

Age: 18 Years 8 Months 14 Days

Name of Father: John Bownds

His Birthplace: Mississippi

Name of Mother: Susan Roberts

Her Birthplace: Texas

Body to be shipped to: Memphis, Tenn.

Size and Style of Casket or Coffin: B. C. Co. Cremated

Manufactured by: ...

Interment at: ...

Lot or Grave No.: ...

Price of Casket or Coffin: Complete \$550.00

Price of Metallic Lining: ...

Outside Box: ...

Grave Vault: ...

Burial Slippers and Hose: ...

Engraving Plate: ...

Embalming Body (with Washing and Dressing): ...

Disinfecting Room: ...

Use of Catafalque and Drapery: ...

Holding Chairs: ...

Candlesticks and Candles: ...

Gloves \$: ...

Door Crape \$: ...

Carriage to Cemetery: ...

Wagon Deliveries: ...

City Calls (Coaches): ...

Death Notice in Newspaper: ...

Flowers: ...

Opening Grave or Vault: ...

Lining Grave: ...

Bereavement: ...

Text or Awaiting Charges: ...

Shipping Charges prepaid: ...

Removal Charges: ...

Cremation Charges: ...

Porters \$: ...

Personal Services: ...

Church Charges: ...

Total Amount of Bill: \$550.00

By Amount Paid in Advance: ...

Balance: ...

Entered into Ledger, page: ...

To Funeral Charges: Total \$550.00

By Cash: 9 May 1924 \$550.00

This database provided the following information from *Livermore Journal*, Volume 5, Number 35, 23 May 1924, page 2: "California News Briefs: Frank Giesinger and Fletcher Bounds [sic] of Long Beach are dead as a result of a fire which destroyed the Frye No. 2 well of the San Martinez Oil company on Signal Hill. Two others were seriously burned." The accident was also reported by *Madera Tribune*, Number 8, May 9, 1924, which added that both men were working on scaffolding. Googling the name of Fletcher Bownds/Bownds also uncovered another newspaper article, "Oil Derrick Fire Is Fatal to Pair," which was

published in the *Santa Ana Register* on Friday, May 9, 1924, and which is available on *Newspapers.com*, a paid subscription site.

RESEARCH TIPS:

Fletcher Bownds is a good example of how important it is to **research every child in a family—not only the child who is your direct ancestor**. Although he was unmarried and probably died without issue, he may have had siblings who did marry and who carried on the family name in Texas. If you were a descendent of one of those children and did not know the maiden name of their mother, reading Fletcher's funeral record would supply it.

Remember to **include audio resources when you search for information about your ancestors**.

Oral history projects are becoming popular, and many local universities, libraries, and historical societies have interviews available with old residents who live in the area. Some of these interviews are on cassette tape, some are available as transcriptions, and some have been digitized as podcasts.

—Penny Nugent

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc.



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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 MARCH NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 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 9 poster design: Penny Nugent; page 14, courtesy of Rice Digital Scholarship Archive at <http://hdl.handle.net/1911/77418>; QHGS photos by Kathy Latham. All other illustrations are from http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page or are in the public domain.

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QHGS January 17 Meeting



John McCoy leading a discussion of *Secrets: On the Ethics of Concealment and Revelation*



John McCoy leading a discussion of *Secrets: On the Ethics of Concealment and Revelation*



Francie Kennedy presenting her lecture *Advanced Google Tools for Genealogists*



We had a big turnout for the January meeting: 64 genealogists came to hear John McCoy and Francie Kennedy speak. Everyone learned a lot from Francie about using Google for genealogical searches, and we were all challenged by John to think about the ethical ramifications of telling secrets or keeping quiet about them. Can you find yourself in the pictures?