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QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FAMILY + HISTORY = GENEALOGY

QHGS Meeting on Sunday October 16 “Níl sé Blarney: Research in Irish Records” “Decoding the National Archives Online”



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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 86)**

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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

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Genealogical Alliance



and the
Federation of
Genealogical
Societies.



“Níl sé Blarney: Research in Irish Records” “Decoding the National Archives Online”

MEETING AGENDA

OCTOBER 16, 2016


Starting at 1:15 p.m., Barbara Randall, will present **“Níl sé Blarney: Research in Irish Records.”** Irish records are available, and many are online. More are becoming available each day, but there are challenges to Irish research, and the myths that records don't exist persist. Barb will show us where to look and how to research our Irish ancestors. **After our break**, Barb will return to teach us how to use the National Archives website, presenting her step-by-step lecture, **“Decoding the National Archives Online.”** The National Archives website can be very intimidating to use as a research tool. But it doesn't have to be! Learn what is available and how to increase your success when you search.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

BARBARA RANDALL



Barbara Randall is president of the British Isles Family History Society-USA and a board member of the Southern California Genealogical Society. She is also editor of the BIFHS-USA Journal. Barbara conducts workshops primarily in the southern California area. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), National Genealogical Society (NGS), Genealogical Speakers Guild, International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, New England Historical Genealogical Society (NEHGS), New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), and other local societies. Barbara is also a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) volunteer genealogist/consultant. She is a special education middle school teacher/coordinator with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Barbara blames her addiction to genealogy on a close friend who dabbled in it for years. Her first lessons accompanied her first Jamboree conference, and the passion was lit.

Sunday October 16th at 1:15 p.m.
QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
Barbara Randall

**“Níl sé Blarney”
It's Not Blarney:
Research in Irish Records**
JOIN US AT THE LAKEWOOD MASONIC CENTER
5918 EAST PARKCREST STREET • LONG BEACH • CALIFORNIA
OUR MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ATTEND AND BECOME A MEMBER
www.qhgs.info

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Announcements and Reports

L. B. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CEMETERY TOUR



The Historical Society of Long Beach will present its 21st annual Cemetery Tour on **Saturday, October 29**, at Sunnyside Cemetery (1095 E. Willow) and Long Beach Memorial Cemetery (1151 E. Willow). The tour features graveside presentations by professional and volunteer actors who relate the life and demise of the person lying in rest. Each year's program features a number of stories—some are individuals who helped shape the city's political past, others are ordinary people whose tales remind us that rich or poor, famed or nearly forgotten. Period costumes worn by all the performers further heighten the experience with an aura of authenticity. The tour is appropriate for families and all ages. There is nothing scary about the vignettes or the location. Tickets are for sale right now online, by phone, or on the day of the tour from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the entrance. Ages 4 and under \$1.00, ages 5-18 \$8.00, adult general admission \$20.00. For more information and to view presentations from previous years, go to the HSLB website <http://hslb.org/historical-cemetery-tour/>.

QHGS MEETING NEXT MONTH

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

Next month, QHGS will hold its **annual meeting**. Members present will elect four officers for our 2017-2018 term: President, 2nd Vice President in charge of Membership, and two Members-at-Large. We will also vote to accept two appointments made by President Terry Hamilton to fill vacant Executive Board positions. Tina McKillip has been appointed to serve the remaining term (to the end of 2017) as 1st Vice President in charge of Programs, and Sandy McDonald has been appointed to serve the remaining term (to the end of 2017) as Secretary. After voting, we will discuss member concerns and the future of **Questing Heirs**. **Our 50th Anniversary is only two years away**, so bring your ideas for our anniversary celebration. Do you want QHGS to host a seminar? have a genealogy teach-in for the community at large? Let us know!!!!

MIKE POWERS IS SEPTEMBER WINNER

QHGS GIVEAWAY

We have begun giving an item of genealogical interest to one of our meeting attendees. September's winner was member Mike Powers. He received a Questing Heirs Genealogical Society t-shirt.

FINANCE REPORT

Mike Powers

August Income
\$117.75

August Expenses
\$265.08

F & M Bank Balance
\$5,796.17,
of which \$2,099.06
is restricted to
educational expenses

REFRESHMENT REPORT

Sandy Hollandsworth

Our October Hosts

will be

**Janice Miller
Susan Roberge
Linda Ryan**

Fred Speckmeyer

Many thanks
to our
September
host
The
QHGS
Nominating
Committee

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Latham

Attendance at
September's meeting:
47

A Warm Welcome to new members:

**Janice Miller
Craig Miller
and**

Madelyn Reynolds

State Spotlight: Genealogy in Iowa

Did your ancestors live in Iowa? If they did, here are some websites to consult which have content beyond the bounds of Ancestry.com.

Iowa Online Genealogy Records

An introduction to research sources
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Iowa_Online_Genealogy_Records

Iowa State Archives and Libraries

<http://statearchives.us/iowa.htm>

More Archives and Libraries in Iowa

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Iowa_Archives_and_Libraries

Iowa Genealogical Society

<http://iowagenealogy.org/>

Iowa Newspapers

The Iowa State Historical Society at <https://iowaculture.gov/history/research/collections/newspapers/iowa-digital-newspaper-project> has links to Iowa newspapers digitized on the Chronicling America database; and The Ancestor Hunt at <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/iowa-online-historical-newspapers-summary#.V1x6BOYrLdQ> has links to digitized county newspapers.

Links to Iowa Genealogical Societies

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Iowa_Societies

Prairie Roots Research: Exploring the History of Iowa's People and Places

This blog, written by Alice Hoyt Veen, CG, has a lot of information that can be used by beginners and advanced genealogists alike.

<http://www.prairierootsresearch.com/blog/>

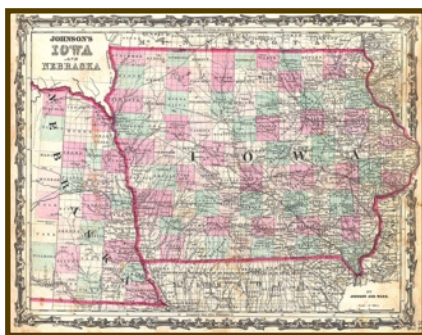
State Historical Society of Iowa

<https://iowaculture.gov/history>

African-American History in Iowa

Learn about the Underground Railroad in Iowa at

<http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath.cfm?h=no>



Iowa Death Records and Indexes

Many links to free and pay sites

<http://www.deathindexes.com/iowa/>

Des Moines Newspaper and Obituary Index

Free searchable database from the Des Moines Public Library

<http://libhip.desmoineslibrary.com:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile≡>

Iowa: Family History and Genealogy

<http://www.linkpendium.com/ia-genealogy/>

Des Moines High School Yearbooks

Digitized images from the Des Moines Public Library

<http://dmpl.org/our-collection/research/local-history/high-school-yearbooks>

Iowa GenWeb Project

<http://iagenweb.org/>

What resources might you find here?

- Iowa Family Group Sheet Project
- Iowa Genealogy Boards
- Iowa Gravestone Photo Project
- Iowa History Project
- Iowa in the Civil War
- Iowa in the Great War
- Iowa in WWII
- Iowa Old Press
- Iowa State Census Project
- Orphan Train Riders to Iowa
- WPA Graves Registration Survey

American Trails and Migration Routes

This free website has photos, maps, and information at

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tqpeiffer/Documents/American%20Migration%20Routes%20TOC.htm>. Learn about **The Ioway Road** and **The Dubuque-Iowa City Military Road**. The site also offers road trip plans so you can travel the trails your ancestors walked.

If any of these websites help you, please write an article for the newsletter about your discoveries!

—Penny Nugent

Genealogy Resources: German Town Genealogies

From the FamilySearch Wiki:

“An Ortsfamilienbuch (town family book or “OFB”) includes birth, marriage, and death data for all persons found in the local records during a specified time period, compiled into families. Sources may include the local parish registers, civil registration records, court and land records, and sometimes published material. In the printed book, this information is then arranged in a standardized format, usually alphabetically by surname and chronologically by marriage date. Family entries are identified by sequential numbers.

“There are two categories of online resources: (1.) bibliographies of printed and digital town genealogies and parish register indexes and (2.) town genealogies and parish register indexes fully searchable online. Some are digital versions of previously printed books, but most were created for the Internet. An online town genealogy may be a work in progress rather than a complete reconstitution of all local families. The preface usually explains the status of each compilation. Some books (i.e., the OFB Schlesisch Drehnow) have been created to provide a gathering place for information about families from a particular locality where few original sources, such as parish registers, survive. In this case, they function more like a database than a traditional town genealogy book. Users can add information to a book or make corrections by contacting the book administrator or webmaster.

“The Internet has made it possible to publish online databases that function as OFBs. They are usually searchable by name and locality. Some cover several villages or a specified geographical area rather than just a village, with the intent of collecting all extant genealogical information in one place. An example is the Memelland OFB at <http://www.online-ofb.de/memelland/>. Translate the Memelland webpage into English by clicking on the British flag in the left-hand sidebar. Over 365 online town genealogies are



currently accessible at <http://www.online-ofb.de/>. They follow a standard format. Books published on other websites often have very different formats, so the reader needs to study each individual publication. Usually, a minimal knowledge of German is required. All town genealogies on this website are searchable for individuals by surname or place.”

Step-by Step User's Guide

Access the home page on <http://www.online-ofb.de/>. Choose the locality, either from the alphabetical list found under “Funktionen” on the left, or from the main page. Localities are listed from north to south, with separate sections for German communities in other countries. The main page includes geographical and historical information, a list of sources used, and a tool bar with three search options: Gesamtliste der Familiennamen— List of all surnames; Geburtsorte auswaertiger Personen—Birthplaces of persons from other localities; Sterbeorte weggezogener Personen—Death places of those who moved away.

Click on a surname. A list of persons with birthdates (if known) comes up. Click on a person of interest. This brings up the individual or family page.

Some entries may show cross-references to other online OFBs with a red notation “Es gibt (eine) aehnliche Person (en) im OFB (town name).” This means that a similar person is listed in another online town genealogy on that server. This could be the same individual who had lived in another locality, or someone else with a similar name and age.

“Keine Angaben!” means “no information given.”

For a large alphabetical listing of town genealogies go to <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Ortsfamilienbuch>.

A longer version of this article with more town links is on the FamilySearch Wiki at https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Town_Genealogies_and_Parish_Register_Inventories_on_the_Internet.

THREE WAYS
TO SAY
“JOHN”



Italian: Giovanni



Turkish: Yahya



Hungarian: János

What’s in a Nick-Name?

We all know that our ancestors’ given and surnames were NOT altered by immigration officials at Ellis Island, but what happens to your research strategy if the relative you are looking for decided to change his name himself between censuses? How can you find someone hiding behind the brick wall of a new name?

One solution to this puzzle might be to Anglicize the original name yourself so you can get a better idea of what you are looking for! Was your ancestor’s name Giovanni Muraro? Look for a “John Mason.” If he was Yahya Ekmekçi, look for “John Baker.” János Szabó could change to “John Tailor,” **This process can work both ways.** For example, if you do not know your immigrant ancestor’s original name and cannot find him in ship manifest databases, work backwards. Someone known in Michigan as Will Cherry might have appeared as Boleslaw Wisniewski on a ship list.

You can find your ancestors’ **name equivalents** with the help of these online websites:

Behind the Name has meanings and derivations of given names at <http://www.behindthename.com/>.

Behind the Name—the Etymology and History of Surnames is devoted to surname equivalents at <http://surnames.behindthename.com/names/source/occupation>.

English Versions of Foreign Names is a 147-page free pdf document available to download at <http://dvhh.org/genealogy/given-name-cross-ref-lookup.pdf>. It has Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish,

Slovakian, Russian and Yiddish given names arranged in spreadsheet format, and it’s easy to use.

Changing a name can be one way to confound future researchers, but adopting a **nickname** can be just as confusing. A good example of this is your *QHGS Newsletter* editor’s grandmother, Mary Wilhelmina Little. Mary was called “Minnie” during her lifetime, and that’s the name on her tombstone as well. The only place where her formal name appears is on her baptismal record. Likewise, your editor’s grandfather did what many Italian “Vincenzos” did: he adopted the nickname “Jim” in the U.S. Many of our ancestors are identified by a formal name in one census and by a nickname in the next census. For example, 1900’s William Francis may be 1910’s “Bill,” 1920’s “Frankie,” and 1930’s “W. Frank.”

If you have been wondering which nicknames derive from which formal names, use the websites below. They list formal names followed by the nickname:

Family Tree Magazine: <http://familytreemagazine.com/article/Your-Female-Ancestors-Nicknames>

About Genealogy: <http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/nicknames.htm>

and http://genealogy.about.com/library/bl_nicknames.htm

Family Search: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Traditional_Nicknames_in_Old_Documents_-_A_Wiki_List

U. S. GenWeb: <http://usgenweb.org/research/nicknames.shtml>

—Penny Nugent

Working in Long Beach: Firemen and Police

Long Beach Fire Department

To search for ancestors, see the following online resources:

City of Long Beach, California

“Long Beach Fire Department History—The Early Years”

http://www.longbeach.gov/fire/about_lbfd/history.asp

Quoting from the article: “On May 27, 1902, the Board of Trustees, called a citizens meeting at City Hall, with Mr. Jacob Kuhrts, an experienced Fire Commissioner from Los Angeles, as the principal speaker. From his expert knowledge of the necessity of organizing a trained group for the purpose of combating fires, the Trustees gave the go ahead signal to organize the first Fire Department since Long Beach had become a City.” Read the full-page article to see names of early fire department officers as well as volunteers.

Long Beach Firefighter’s Museum

<http://www.lbfdmuseum.org/main.htm>

California State University Dominguez Hills

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

Quoting from the press release: “5,000 digitized photos depicting 70 years of the Long Beach Fire Department, beginning in 1898, are now accessible online through the California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) Department of Archives and Special Collections. The collection represents the history of firefighting in Long Beach. Pictures include businesses and homes damaged by fires, oil fire devastation, plane and car crashes as well as images documenting the construction of the city’s fire stations, LBFD fire trucks and other apparatus over the decades, and fire personnel.”

Long Beach Police Department

To search for ancestors, see the following online resources:

Long Beach Police Historical Society

<http://www.lbphs.org/1600.html>

Click the “about” tab on the home page and explore sections of the website. The online photo gallery has old pictures, one of mounted patrolman Thomas Borden taken in 1906 and another of Curly Lancaster on a motorbike in 1915. *The Tin Star Intelligencer* is the monthly journal of the LBPHS, and 52 issues from 2009 to 2013 are posted in pdf format on the website. They contain historical information, old photos of Long Beach City Marshals, Police Chiefs, and patrolmen, as well as pictures of historic documents.

Long Beach Mounted Police

<http://www.longbeachmountedpolice.com/history.htm>

A great panorama photograph from 1948 is posted on this website.

Long Beach Public Library

Photos from the Long Beach History Collection are in the **LBPL Digital Archive**. Go to <http://encore.lbpl.org/iii/cpro/app>, click on the “Long Beach Photos” selection, and type “police” in the search box. This will bring up historic photos of Long Beach police chiefs and police activities.

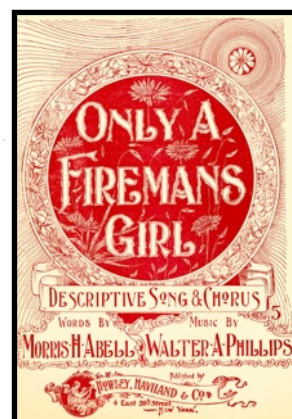
Historic Police Department, Long Beach, California, by Russell R. Bradford, may mention your ancestor. It is available for purchase at Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0&link_code=hom&tag=quesheir-20.

—Penny Nugent

SERVING IN THE CITY



1894



1897



1896

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc.



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 free of charge and open 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 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 22ND

The newsletter has been published since 1969 by Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc. 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 illustrations: page 80 Barbara Randall; page 81 Floyd Farrar; pages 84 and 86 Penny Nugent; September 18 meeting photos by Kathy Latham. All other illustrations are in the public domain and come from the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, or Wikimediacommons.

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Kathy Latham
(562) 422-7645.

QHGS September 18 Meeting



Linda Serna gave two dynamic presentations
about the genealogical uses of DNA.
Can you find yourself in the group photo below?

