



**QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

**Hybrid meeting: February 16, 2025
beginning at 2:00 PM PDT**

**St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
or attend via Zoom**

**Speaker: Megan Clark Young
Pruning Your Family Tree**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

**St. Thomas of Canterbury
Episcopal Church
5306 E. Arbor Road
Long Beach, CA 90808
Between Bellflower Blvd. and
Clark next to Pan American
Park or via Zoom**

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Dues are \$30 per year for an individual or \$45 per year for a family.

Look for us on the Web:

<http://www.qhgs.info/>

or on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/>

[QuestingHeirs/](https://www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/)

E-mail: questingheirs@gmail.com

QHGS is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations are tax-deductible.

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Kind of strange when you're at the cemetery helping Pa and Gramma Transue to fulfill Find-A-Grave requests and find yourself on a headstone. Here's Oliver Allen.

QHGS President's Message Bob Prager



Hey everyone, did you know we have a “superpower”?

At least the National Archives says so! They're looking for volunteers who can read cursive, which they apparently see as an increasingly rare skill. They have over 200 years worth of documents which need to be transcribed. Those records range from Revolutionary War pension records to the field notes of Charles

Mason of the Mason-Dixon Line to immigration documents from the 1890s to Japanese evacuation records.

Did you help out by transcribing the 1950 census a while ago? Did you enjoy it? If so, you can obviously read poorly-written cursive handwriting, and you're likely to find transcribing old pension files to be more interesting, since they contain stories about people's lives, not just names and dates. If you'd like to see what the Archives offers those of us with the “superpower,” go to www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist

To volunteer, all that's required is to sign up online and then start. There's no application - just pick a record that hasn't been done and read the instructions. It's easy to do.

And let's not forget the opportunity at FamilySearch. They need people to read forms and documents and fill in indexing information (typically names, dates, and locations).

Future genealogists, biographers, and historians will thank you!

Welcome: Megan Clark Young



Pruning Your Family Tree

Megan Clark Young is a professional genealogist based in western Pennsylvania. She is employed as a forensic genealogist, specializing in heirship research for mineral rights.

She is also the owner of MACY's Genealogical Research and is the current president of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. She has over 25-years of experience researching her own Scots-Irish, English, German, and Swedish roots. Having made a lot of mistakes along the way, she enjoys presenting and blogging about her experience in the hopes that others will be able to avoid making similar mistakes.

BIRLS.org

Information on this site was in our January newsletter. If you go to their website, there is a lengthy explanation of what information is available and includes a searchable database of over 18 million American veterans who filed any one of several claims.

Your newsletter editor, Tina McKillip used the database to search for several of her deceased veteran ancestors. Follow their prompts, leaving the green check marks to include "like" names and don't use a middle name (or initial) unless you have a common surname or too many results. A results list pops up and then click "Expand Details" for the name that matches your ancestor.

Information available is date of enlistment & age, release date of active duty & age, how many months served, age at death, cause of death, Social Security number and likely military service number. Click the green bar "[Submit a FOIA Request Online for this Veteran's C-File--FREE](#)". The prompts will have you fill out your contact information and when done, Reclaim The Records will fax the request to the VA office for **FREE**. Your copies will most likely be mailed to you on a DVD in a couple of months. The VA may charge for copies but most likely not, according to the website.

I ordered two files on February 2nd and will wait anxiously for the results. One file was for my maternal uncle and the other for a cousin's paternal uncle. I've already found three other files to order. Let me know if you order any files and what documents you received.

Sign up for the Reclaim The Records newsletter to stay informed on their various projects.

[Future QH Presentations:](#)

March 16, 2025: Kate Penney Howard - [Using AI to Amplify Your Genealogy](#)

April 20, 2025: Easter Sunday - No QH Meeting

May 18, 2025: Sara Cochran - Photo Preservation

June 15, 2025 - Ice Cream Social

[To continue receiving the newsletter and enjoying our presentations, please mail in your membership dues or bring to our February meeting.](#)

Welcome to our new members: Marie Hale, Jeff Transue, Everett & Jeanne Tomlinson.

[In Celebration of Presidents Day](#)

Do you have an ancestor who was named after a President? [Our very own Questing Heirs President, Bob Prager's father, Theodore Prager was named after Teddy Roosevelt.](#)



**St. Thomas of
Canterbury
5306 E. Arbor Rd.
Long Beach, CA**



Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board

- President.....Bob Prager.....(2024-2026)
- 1st Vice President – ProgramsDiana Transue.....(2024-2025)
- 2nd Vice President – Membership ..Sandy McDonald.....(2024-2026)
- Secretary.....Nina Gustin.....(2024-2025)
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- Director – HospitalityTina Yanis.....(2024-2025)
- Director – Acting Newsletter.....Christina McKillip.....(2024-2025)
- Director– Publicity.....Jerry Hardison.....(2024-2025)
- Past President.....Terry Hamilton.....(2024-2025)

QHGS Volunteer Positions

- Digital Archivist.....Christina "Tina" McKillip
- Research/Historian.....Tina Yanis
- Social Media/Facebook Coordinator.....Jerry Hardison
- Webmaster.....Mike Powers

**Submissions for the March newsletter
must be received by February 25, 2025.**

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 Newsletter Editor, QHGS, P.O. Box 15102, Long Beach, CA 90815-0102, or emailed to Questingheirs@gmail.com. We are not responsible for the accuracy of material published but will gladly print corrections.

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In order to receive the monthly newsletter, one must be enrolled as a member of the Society.

To join, please contact Membership Chairman at:

Questingheirs@gmail.com