



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

**No Meeting in April
Easter Sunday**

In This Issue

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**

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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.



**Questing Heirs Leprechaun
Glenn Haas
at our March 2025 meeting**

QHGS President's Message Bob Prager



I watched a presentation on the moving boundaries of Europe since 1869. Both of my paternal grandparents were caught up in this. They were each born in Europe prior to 1870, but I haven't found records of their births.

My grandmother was born in 1867 in Alsace-Lorraine, then a part of France (although she spoke a German dialect). The area became part of Germany in 1871 after the Franco-Prussian War. She emigrated in the late 1880s. After World War I, the territory was returned to France.

My grandfather's situation is more complicated. He was from what was then Breslau in Silesia, part of the Prussian Empire (and Germany after 1871.) After World War II, it became part of Poland and reverted to its Polish name, Wrocław. (He was also Jewish, and those records were sometimes kept separately. Records would most likely be in German. Or Yiddish. Maybe Hebrew? Probably not Polish.

And where are these records? The principle is that records are *most probably* in the country that holds the land today. French records from Alsace are in one of several repositories there, written in French. Or Alsatian. Or Latin. Original Prussian records are *most likely* in Poland – unless they were moved to Berlin, as some of them were! I'm presently working on finding them.

From QH member, Pat Prager:

I am mostly Irish so researching most of my family lines can be challenging in more ways than one. One issue is that most of my surnames are very common and another is that the Irish were very prolific, especially those Catholics, so they used up a lot of names naming their kids. Then the next generation did the same thing, and you now have 14 first cousins with the same name, etc, etc. Boy am I grateful for even a scrap of paper or a bit of lore to help figure out which is mine!

In any case when Publishers Extra recently had free-access for a bit I went searching for my great grandfather, Michael J Murphy, and I found this article (not my guy). I laughed out loud as it reminded me of the courtroom scene in "Miracle on 34th Street" with all the Kris Kringle mail:

From the Greenfield Daily Recorder (Greenfield, MA) on Wed., April 6, 1904, Page 2

The Chicago law firm which advertised that there was a fortune awaiting Michael J. Murphy, if he would communicate with them, knows now how many Michael J. Murphys there are in the United States. Since the advertisement was inserted, an extra postman has been carrying a daily load of letter to the firm's office, all signed Michael J. Murphy.

DAR Patriot Application Report from QH member, Sandy Pribble:

John “Stephen” Pribble 1736 MD – 1804 OH

I am a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. I joined the DAR by copying my second cousin's DAR application on my mother's side to an ancestor named Henry Burnley. I'd never heard the name Burnley or knew who any of my mother's ancestors were past my grandparents, but I was in! Once you are a member of the DAR you can submit “supplemental” applications to document other Revolutionary War patriot ancestors in your lineage. I really wanted one with my last name “Pribble”. I started working on it in 2015 and was not successful until 2022. I learned a few things along the way:

- To qualify as a DAR ancestor, a direct line descendant must have documented military service in the Revolution which began with the Battle of Lexington, 19 April 1775, and ended on 26 Nov 1783, the date that the British evacuated New York City. My 3rd great grandfather, Bernard Pribble wasn't born until 1783, and my 4th great grandfather, Stephen Pribble, was 40 years old at the beginning of the war and I did not find any military records for him. I did find service records for James Pribble, Stephen's oldest son by his second marriage, and for John Pribble, Stephen's son by his first marriage. Lesson Learned: cousins and uncles aren't direct ancestors and don't count for DAR.
- Next, I learned that a DAR ancestor could also qualify with documented Patriotic or Civil Service from 1777-1783. This included everything from signing the Declaration of Independence, participating in the Boston Tea Party, being a member of any level of the American government. These roles included any state, county, or town officials, Town Clerk, Selectman, Town Treasurer, Judge, Juror, Sheriff, Constable, Jailer, Overseer of the Roads, Justice of the Peace, etc. Patriotic Service was documented by citizens who signed an oath of allegiance to the American cause, who provided food, assistance or supplies to the American troops, or paid taxes to the American government. I did not find any of these types of records for Stephen Pribble, but I was new at genealogy research at the time.
- A couple of years after I started working on Stephen Pribble's application, I learned that patriotic service can also include having someone serve as your substitute in the military. In James's Fold3 pension application he stated that he served as a substitute for Stephen, his father! That was great, but now I had to prove that James, my 3rd great-granduncle, was the brother of my 3rd great grandfather Bernard, and both were sons of Stephen Pribble. After not finding online records that would help, I searched for Pribble books online and found one on the FamilySearch website called “The gap between the early and later Prebles”. It documented several branches of the Pribbles and the authors were able to connect them all and trace them back to Thomas Pribble of Kent, England who arrived in Maryland in 1684. The book also contained a copy of a letter written by John Stephen Pribble IV, listing his family history as his father John Stephen Pribble III had told him. He listed his parents, his grandparents and all his siblings. Stephen Pribble Jr was his grandfather, my patriot! He also said his father was one of four sons of Stephen Pribble and his second wife Clemency Bond; James, John Stephen (his father), Benjamin and Bernard (my 3rd great grandfather. Jackpot!! Lesson Learned: Family history books and county history books hold a wealth of genealogy information! This book also showed that James Pribble married his first cousin Margaret

Pribble, resolving some of the confusion on the various family trees. This completed the information I needed!

Stephen Pribble is documented as a new DAR ancestor for his patriotic service of providing his son James Pribble as a substitute. Stephen was born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1736 and died after 1788 in Washington County PA. James was also born in Baltimore County Maryland and states in his pension application that as a boy, they moved to Washington County PA, where he served in the Revolutionary War. James died in 1851 in Pendleton County KY.

In addition to researching Stephen Pribble as a Revolutionary War Patriot, I found the records of his grandfather, Thomas Pribble in the Maryland Archives. Thomas Pribble was a carpenter who came to Maryland on the 20th of August 1684. His record of Indenture with Robert Shanks of Wapping, County of Middlesex, England said that he would work for Shanks for four years in exchange for passage to Maryland, clothing, food, and lodging.

Final Lesson Learned: Phone calls are great! A very bad copy of this indenture was found on Ancestry.com. I called the Maryland Archives and they very kindly made a new copy for me directly from the document and emailed it to me! It's the record showing the first Pribble in my family's arrival in America:

This Indenture made y^e 20th day of August Anno domi 1684 Between Thomas Pribble aged twenty and yeares and yeoward of his owne party and Robert Shanks of Wapping in the County of Middlesex Mariner on the other party Witnesseth y^e said Thomas Pribble doth hereby Covenant promise and grant to and with the said Robert Shanks the said Shanks to assigne from y^e day of the date hereof untill the first and next arrivall into Maryland and after for and during the terme of four yeares to serve in such service and employment as the said Robt Shanks or his assigns shall thinke proper to employ him according to the Custom of y^e Country in the like kind; in Consideracon whereof y^e said Robt Shanks doth hereby Covenant promise grant to and with y^e said Tho: Pribble to pay for his passage and to find and allow him meate drink apparel and lodging with other necessaries during y^e said terme and at y^e end of the said terme to pay unto him according to y^e Custom of y^e Country in the like kind. In witness whereof y^e parties abovesaid have subscribed their hands and sealed the day and year abovesaid written

Robert Shanks

BIRLS.org

Update: I'm still waiting for an email giving the status of nine V.A. files ordered in February 2025.

Have you sent in any claims? Let us know the outcome of your requests.

Sign up for [Reclaim The Records](#) newsletter to stay informed of their various projects.

[AI and Revolutionary War Pension Files](#)

National Archives through a partnership with FamilySearch says Artificial Intelligence (AI) has extracted text for all 2,322,137 pages of the Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, circa 1800-1912.

To search your ancestor: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/300022>

[FamilySearch New Full Text Search Announced at RootsTech 2025](#)

Here are the steps:

- 1) While signed in on FamilySearch, go to *FamilySearch Labs*.
- 2) On the "Expand Your Search With Full Text Card", click *Try It*.
- 3) A video is available on the page to help you learn the Full Text Search.

[Free! Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

[Finding and Fixing Tree Inconsistencies](#)

Presented by Wayne Shephard - Tuesday, May 13, 2025 @ 11:00am PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/finding-and-fixing-tree-inconsistencies/>

[Finding and Fixing Tree Inconsistencies](#) focuses on the honest mistakes we might make in recording data, how we can recognize them and what we can do to correct them.

FYI: When you find a document or newspaper article online, download it to your computer before adding it to your tree. In the event the resource disappears from the site(s), you will have a saved copy.

**Join us May 18th with Sara Cochran discussing
how to organize and digitize our photo collections.**



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



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- Social Media/Facebook Coordinator.....Jerry Hardison
- Webmaster.....Mike Powers

Submissions for newsletter articles should be emailed to us at: questingheirs@gmail.com and will be included in future issues as space allows.

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.

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Questingheirs@gmail.com