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

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**Ice Cream Social Meeting: June 15, 2025  
Beginning at 2:00 PM PDT**

**In Person at Pan American Park**

Arbor Road & Charlemagne Ave.

**Ice cream courtesy of Cynthia Day-Elliott**

**Bring your own lawn chair & beverage.**

Sharing topic: old photo or album with short story

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**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](mailto:questingheirs@gmail.com)

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

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**Happy Father's Day!**



## QHGS President's Message Bob Prager



My paternal grandparents both immigrated from Europe to New York City, and lived there all their lives, so I knew records would be stored in one of the City's systems. (I should point out that New York City and New York State run completely separate records and archive systems, and some City records are held in its archives, while others are preserved by the Board of Health – and they don't appear to talk to each other.)

Other complications? I grew up just outside the City, so I have a good mental map of its five boroughs from the middle of the last century – but the actual boundaries are surprisingly recent. My father was born in 1905 in what is the Bronx today (also the county name). When I first entered that into a family tree program, it argued with me and refused to accept it – Bronx County was created in 1914! He was actually born in New York County, which today is just Manhattan Island, but then extended across the Harlem River.

Most of us have faced moving boundaries in various parts of the US and Europe, but I expected New York City to have resolved its borders by about 1850 – I was wrong! In any case, I finally found the records needed for that branch of my family, but it was more complicated than I had originally expected. See you in the park in June!

### [When an Ancestry.com "Hint" Finds a Gem for You](#)

**Submitted by Tina (Barbaro) McKillip**

While browsing through my family tree on Ancestry.com and checking for "hints", I saw one for a newspaper article for Bertha Barbaro (my paternal grandmother's married name). It was from the Daily News in New York, New York on June 3, 1943 in a column written by Ed Sullivan. I wondered if this was Ed Sullivan from television fame but I was more interested in the article.

Bertha Lawson grew up in Sackets Harbor, New York and moved to Brooklyn, New York after marrying my grandfather, Antonio Barbaro in 1933. I didn't think the name Bertha was an Italian first name so I was pretty sure this article was going to be about my grandmother.

Bertha wrote to Ed Sullivan through his daily column "*Little Old New York*" saying her son had found a medal presented to Gertrude Ederle by the City of New York in 1926 (see photo on Page 1 of New York City parade for Gertrude) and that she would like to return it to her. Bertha said it didn't seem right for such a medal to be laying on the sidewalk. Signed, Bertha Barbaro, Brooklyn.

Ed's reply was "Not many movie scripts pack as much drama as Mrs. Barbaro injects in four lines .. That would be the medal that a riotous New York presented to Miss Ederle on August 27, 1926 for swimming the English Channel".

Wow! My grandmother had only one son and I was convinced that this was my father, Anthony.

I did some research and found that Gertrude Ederle was an Olympic champion and the first woman to swim across the English Channel on August 6, 1926. She was only 20 years old at the time and mostly deaf from childhood measles. She died on November 30, 2003 in New Jersey at the age of 98 years young.

I called my father (who is 90 years young) and asked if he had found the medal on the sidewalk. "Yes", he answered. He was eight years old, had come home for lunch and found it on his way back to school lying on the sidewalk. He did remember it belonged to a swimmer. Either Gertrude was never contacted by Ed Sullivan or Gertrude didn't want the medal as my father had it for many years. Unfortunately, he doesn't know what happened to it.

Ed Sullivan wrote for the Daily News (known as the city's largest tabloid) throughout his broadcasting career and eventually hosted *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

### [Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem \(BIRLS\)](#)

**Editor Tina's Note:** I've received first responses for all but one veteran file requested in different weeks in February. It took about six weeks for the letters to arrive stating the files would be sent on a DVD unless otherwise requested in paper form. I went through my family tree again recently and found three more veterans who have "C" files and requested them on June 2nd thru the BIRLS website at <https://www.birls.org> - Anticipation is keeping me waiting.

### [Wondering How To Use the FREE FamilySearch website?](#)

This blog has many pages of how-to videos.

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/category/about-familysearch/how-to-use-familysearch/>

### [Updated Genealogy Collections](#)

Keep up to date with new collections of indexes and records:

Ancestry.com at: <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/recent-collections>

FamilySearch.org at: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/tag/about-familysearch/whats-new-at-familysearch>

### [Do You Have New York State Ancestors?](#)

If so, Reclaim The Records has won their Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit to release the full New York State Death Index 1880-2017 to be published online for FREE. Keep updated by subscribing to their newsletter: [newsletter@reclaimtherecords.org](mailto:newsletter@reclaimtherecords.org)



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



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**QHGS Volunteer Positions**

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

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

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To join, please contact Membership Chairman at:

[Questingheirs@gmail.com](mailto:Questingheirs@gmail.com)