



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

**Hybrid meeting: August 17, 2025
beginning at 2:00 PM PDT**

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

Speaker: Sara Cochran

There's a Lineage Society for that!

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

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E-mail: questingheirs@gmail.com

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In This Issue

Meeting Information	1
Photo of 1926 City Playground	1
President's Message	2
Speaker Information	2
Announcements	3
Legacy Family Tree Webinars	3
About Questing Heirs	4



Summer - On a Children's City Playground

ca. 1926 Photograph

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2006689875/>

QHGS President's Message Bob Prager



Have you ever tried to explain to someone who isn't into genealogy exactly how you're related to a "fourth cousin twice removed"? (I can hear the response: "And you can remove him again as far as I'm concerned!") Most "civilians" really haven't a clue just how knotty these things can become!

As an extreme and ridiculous example, the comic song "I'm My Own Grandpa" still carries a sort of niche popularity among those of us with a sufficiently warped sense of humor. The relationship in the song comes about through an extremely unlikely set of marriages within a family. If you're interested, several different recordings are playable on the internet, the lyrics are available there, and people have posted family trees explaining the relationships.

More realistically, additional complications occur when (for example) brothers and sisters in one family marry sisters and brothers from another family living just down the block. Family tree? More like a wreath!

But back to where I started – what's the most convoluted description of a family relationship on your tree?

We'd like to know!

Welcome: Sara Cochran

Topic Description: Was your ancestor a tavern keeper, postal worker, or teacher? There are lineage societies for that! What's a lineage society, and why should you consider them? This class reviews the benefits of joining these societies, provides tips for leveraging their resources, resources for finding societies you're eligible for, and tips for preparing your application.



Sara Cochran has been conducting genealogical research for over 25 years with her research taking her into nearly every state in the USA as well as Ireland, Italy, Austria, and Britain.

She holds a Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate, a Bachelor Degree in Library Science, and is an alumnus of the ProGen Study Group.

Sara began her career as a professional genealogist in 2016 after spending over 11 years working for a pre-employment background check company.

She especially enjoys breaking down brick walls for her clients, discovering the stories of black sheep ancestors, and helping individuals preserve their photographic legacy.

Sara has her own website appropriately titled: theskeletonwhisperer.com



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

Important Update from Editor Tina: I recently received letters in response to four requests previously submitted and was instantly disappointed as I was waiting for a DVD with lots of information. I went on the BIRLS website and to my surprise found that in late July 2025, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) instituted a drastic change in how they are answering the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for copies of deceased veterans claim files. The VA is now refusing to provide ANY copies, and instead are releasing what they deem "releasable genealogical information". For the files I've ordered, this one page of information is nothing more than what I see in various military or vital records.

The above is a very short summary but you should visit their website to get all the details.

<https://www.birls.org/updates>

The takeaway is that this change affects ALL claims submitted thru the BIRLS website. Reclaim the Records is actively investigating options to fight this change.

Information regarding the appeals process is on the BIRLS website. Next of kin should appeal now but the rest of us might want to wait for any Reclaim the Records update before our own 90 days appeals deadline.

[Free! Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

[Recordings available for free for 7 days](#)

[From Statutes to Stories: Finding the Law for Family History](#)

Presented by Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL, FUGA - Tuesday, August 19, 2025 @ 5:00pm PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/from-statutes-to-stories-finding-the-law-for-family-history/>

The laws our ancestors lived by can tell us much about life in earlier times. Finding those laws, and the stories they tell, can be a daunting task, but—from colonial statutes to today, from the halls of Congress to the statehouses of 50 states—the choices legislators made about what laws were needed give a rich and deep context to family history.

[Ancestors on the Move: Migration from Farms to Cities, 1870-1920](#)

Presented by Annette Burke Lyttle, CG - Wednesday, August 27, 2025 @ 11:00am PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/ancestors-on-the-move-migration-from-farms-to-cities-1870-1920/>

Entries in late 19th and early 20th century immigrant passenger manifests often include cryptic number and letter codes. Most genealogists simply look past them. Learn how to interpret these codes and what significant details they can reveal about your ancestor's immigration and naturalization experience. Discover additional information about aliens who were detained or deported. This presentation is heavily illustrated with examples from New York and Philadelphia alien passenger lists and the handout includes a glossary of the terms, codes, and abbreviations found on these manifests.



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



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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.

To join, please contact Membership Chairman at:

Questingheirs@gmail.com