

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

**Hybrid meeting: September 21, 2025
beginning at 2:00 PM PDT**

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

Speaker: Barbara Coakley

**From Binders to Bytes:
Organizing Genealogy with OneNote**

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

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In This Issue

Meeting Information	1
Poster of Ringling Bros.	1
President's Message	2
Speaker Information	2
Jeff Transue & Bridget Dole book	3
QH Members Join DAR	4
BIRLS - Reclaim the Records	4
Legacy Family Tree Webinars	5
About Questing Heirs	6



Circus poster showing a photograph of five brothers.

Ringling Bros. , 1900. Buffalo: Courier Litho. Co. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2019635344/>.

QHGS President's Message

Bob Prager



I was recently reminded of a rather quirky database which is available for free – the National Desertion Bureau Card Catalog at <https://150yearsofcare.org/ndb-database/>. The National Desertion Bureau was opened in 1911 to help women track down husbands who had deserted their families. (I found 5 cases with husbands sharing my surname, but none were in my immediate family, thank goodness!) In order to publicize cases, the Yiddish language *Jewish Daily Forward* published a “Gallery of Missing Men” column with photographs and details about each case. Such announcements were not uncommon in newspapers of the time, but the *Forward* is the only one I’m aware of which routinely published photographs of the offenders. For more information on this topic (and a number of examples), see Gina Philibert-Ortega’s blog at <https://www.genealogybank.com/blog/missing-men-lost-husband-ads-in-newspapers-for-genealogy.html>

Last month I asked for convoluted relationship descriptions from Ancestry.com. How about “Husband of step granddaughter of 1st cousin 1x removed”? Imagine trying to explain that to someone with no background or interest in genealogy!

Welcome: Barbara Coakley

Topic Description: Tired of drowning in binders and scattered notes?

Discover how Microsoft OneNote can transform your genealogy research into a well-organized, searchable, and accessible digital notebook. Learn to capture records, create research plans, and keep everything at your fingertips—anytime, anywhere.



Barbara is a family history researcher, speaker, and author. Her interest in family history began over 35 years ago when she was given an envelope of family papers. Over the years, she traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe, visiting the homelands of her ancestors and conducting research. Her current focus is sharing the stories of her ancestors.

Barbara retired from teaching Continuing Education classes in Genealogy for Collin College in 2022 and now lectures on a wide variety of genealogy topics. Her genealogy education includes all of the major institutes, ProGen 49, and numerous conferences. Barbara is President of Genealogy Friends of Plano (TX) Libraries, and volunteers for the Texas State Genealogical Society and the Dallas Genealogical Society. She belongs to the DAR and national, state, and local genealogical and historical societies across the U.S.

A Tale of Two Families and Some Luck



My wife Diana started researching these two families for me, the Neuharts and the Molls. I had never heard of either family before. Both were gunmakers starting in the late 1700's making guns for generations near Allentown, Pennsylvania.

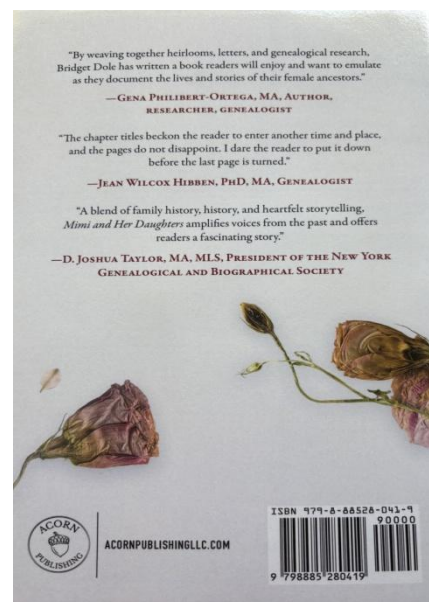
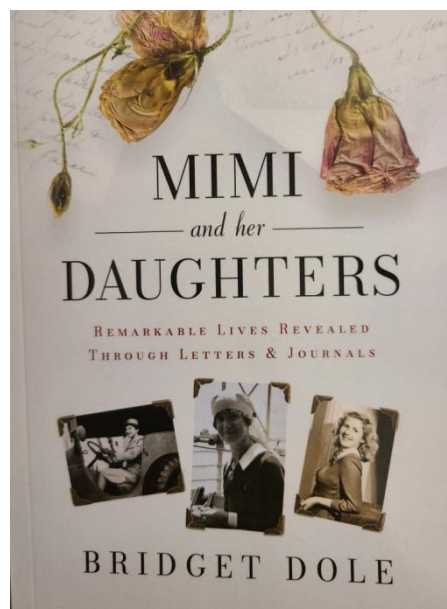
A couple of days after this research, I was mailed a catalog from Carol Watson Gun Auctions, which comes twice a year to me. Low and behold, what is in it, two guns made by the Moll family! What are the chances of this? Both guns were made in the early 1800's and were in good condition for being over two hundred years old. So Diana said "this was meant to be, you have to bid on at least one of them".

You can bid online on the website, over the phone or in person at the auction. I didn't want any computer errors, so we decided to go out to the auction and bid in person. Diana had never been to the auction before. I think between the auction and free donuts, she had a fun time. We ended up bidding and winning both of the guns. We figured when would I ever have this chance again? Great family history to pass down to our grandkids.

The first flintlock is engraved by John Moll Jr. , has a 50 caliber smooth bore octagonal barrel, an opening brass patch box in the stock and the length is 57 inches long. The second flintlock is more basic with a length of about 58 inches, 64 caliber, smooth bore and a round barrel. It can shoot ball or shot, so instead of one bullet you could load six or seven small pellets for bird or small game.

My connection with these families is the wedding of John Moll Jr. and Elizabeth Neuhart. Elizabeth's grandfather was George Fredrich Nuehart, my fifth great grandfather. My fourth great grandfather, Peter Nuehart's brother Christopher, died in the battle of Long Island in 1776, story told that he died with one of the families' guns in his hands. Both the Neuharts and Molls made guns for the frontier families and Revolutionary War soldiers and also in the Army as gunsmiths who repaired the guns.

Congratulations to Questing Heirs member, Bridget Dole!



Bridget hopes that the book will serve as an example of how to write an engaging family history. She said "The writing of it has already served to teach me more about my family than I thought possible. There's something illuminating about taking people out of the context of who they were to us, and examining who they were to each other, and how they fit in with the times in which they lived".

Editor's Note: Her book is available online or by ordering at a Barnes & Noble bookstore.

Questing Heirs Members Join Western Shores DAR

LtoR: Terry Hamilton and
Jerry Hardison
introduced by Sandy McDonald



Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS)

Good News! On August 31st, Reclaim the Records sent an email that they have published 1.5 million NEW BIRLS records for 2020-2023. This database is only for deceased US veterans. It is time to take another look for names that weren't previously found in the database.

Update from Reclaim the Records regarding the limited information received in BIRLS requests.

"While we hope to have some updates on next steps by the end of August 2025, it is expected that this will be a multi-year effort to try to effect change for this record set as a whole. At this time we do have a particular recommendation for **anyone who is the child or next of kin for the veteran**, see "Appeal Advice for Veterans' Children and Next of Kin". If you are not next of kin, you should still appeal, but it may be useful to wait for our updates, before pursuing an appeal, as you have 90 days to file an appeal".

Visit their website to get details on how to appeal. <https://www.birls.org/updates>

Check out other databases that are on: www.reclaimtherecords.org

Mississippi Death Index 1912-1943

Nebraska Death Index 1904-1968

New York State Death Index 1880-2017

Free! Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Research Treasures from W.P.A.

Presented by Sharon Batiste Gillins - Wednesday, September 24, 2025 @ 9:45am PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/research-treasures-from-w-p-a/>

Whether researching a Depression-era ancestor or looking for historical context, there's likely to be something of interest to you in the records of the Works Progress Administration. This lecture explores a wide range of WPA projects that have special interest to genealogists and researchers including historical records surveys and some of the most comprehensive studies of American life that have ever been conducted. Also covered is how to access the WPA's published works as well as those that remain as unpublished manuscripts.

7 Essential Tips for Starting German Genealogy

Presented by Katherine Schober, MA - Wednesday, October 8, 2025 @ 5:00pm PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/7-essential-tips-for-starting-german-genealogy/>

If you're just starting out, German genealogy can seem incredibly overwhelming. Records in a foreign language, which are written in old-fashioned handwriting, are enough to make finding German ancestors seem near impossible to researchers looking to cross the pond. Luckily, there's help! In this session, learn the top seven tips to get you started – and confidently embark on – your German genealogy journey.

Betsy Grant: A Fight for Freedom, Land, Education and Love

Presented by Orice Jenkins - Friday, October 10, 2025 @ 11:00am PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/betsy-grant-a-fight-for-freedom-land-education-and-love/>

Sarah Elizabeth Grant, also known as Betsy, was born enslaved in 1837 in Greene County, Georgia. In 2022, a tweet from the Smithsonian Transcription Center shed light on a letter she wrote to the Freedmen's Bureau, showing up on the timeline of one of her great-nephews: Orice Jenkins. Further research by Orice revealed Betsy's complex story, as the daughter of an enslaved woman and a free man of color, who sued her enslaver after emancipation. Various resources were used to determine the identity of her parents, including DNA results, court records, Freedmen's Bureau records, newspapers, and the new Full-Text Search feature on FamilySearch.

Questing Heirs Needs You!

Two year terms starting January 2026 thru December 2027.

1st Vice President: Find speakers for most months of the year, send out contracts and give info to newsletter editor. Diana, our current 1st VP is willing to co-chair this with someone.

Newsletter Editor: Tina would like to "retire" from the newsletter to spend more time with other endeavors. A notebook with detailed instructions to guide you through the process. I will help find articles to put in the newsletter if someone with better computer skills is willing to put it together.



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



Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board

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- 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 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