



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

**No Meeting
in November**

Due to unforeseen circumstances with our Zoom account, our November meeting is cancelled. We hope to see you at our December meeting which will be in person only with a potluck style gathering. More details on what to bring in our December newsletter. Come share a success story!

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.



*Florence-American Cemetery and Memorial
Florence, Italy*

Photo taken in 2014 by Tina McKillip

QHGS President's Message Bob Prager



I try to write a brief note every month that's amusing enough to make you want to read it and that contains a nugget of information which might be new to you. As it happens, I'm also on the Board of the Risley Family Association (my mother was a Risley), and at our 2024 reunion it came to the attention of the group that I was doing so. (I suggested asking for amusing/interesting stories about people's Risley ancestors for that newsletter, and was immediately put in charge of doing so – and contributing as many of my own as possible!)

I did put the story of my grandfather's drivers license in both newsletters, but I'd really like to see some new material. Does anyone have a family story about anyone in their tree that would be fun to share? Please send it in – if you'd like, we'd be happy to edit it! Some suggestions – anyone have a musical ancestor? Does your family have a tradition of only driving certain brands of automobiles? How about holiday traditions, or the time that (fill in the blank). See you in December!

From QH Member, Jeff Transue



This is the story about William Davis Walton. William was my grandmother Carrie Walton Transue's grandfather, which makes him my 2nd great grandfather. A few years ago, Larry Jett found William in my family tree and that was the first time I had ever heard of him. Now that I am retired, I have more time for genealogy and to find out about William.

He was a Quaker and his religious beliefs would not allow him to pick up arms. He was very patriotic and believed in the northern cause. William may of gotten his beliefs of slavery from his father, Dr. Sydenham Walton who was part of the Underground Railroad helping slaves in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. William wanted to do his part so he joined the Union Army, June 17, 1861.

He served in the Hospital Corp of the 33rd regiment of the 4th Pennsylvania Volunteers, serving three years and rising to the position of Ward Master. William saw some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, including Antietam, the greatest single day for the loss of life in the Civil War.

After researching William, I found a book about the letters he had written home to his family. There are 38 of his handwritten letters in the book and in one of the first letters dated 1861, he felt that the war will be over soon. I love the optimism of this young man but the war will spill blood for another 4 years.

The Monroe County Historical Association published this book in 1999. They have been closed due to restoration and I emailed them months ago hoping to find a copy of the book, but no response. I was almost ready to give up when I received a phone call from Julia at the Historical Association.

I ordered a few copies for kids and grandkids to keep his memory alive. I also found copies of a magazine, Civil War Times, dated August 1997 and his picture is on the front of the magazine and the book. The ambrotype was sent home from Baltimore, September 4, 1861. I was very lucky to find such treasures related to my family's past and I am proud to be the great great grandson of such a good man.



From QH Member, Pat Prager

A New Approach - Genealogists always tell us to revisit portions of our tree where we've hit a brick wall or think we can go no further because millions of new records are added every day. I do that, but sometimes the brick wall is how to find a person in a record that already exists like a census record.

I was working on a timeline for my grandpa for the years before and after the 1930 census (a time period during which he changed his name!). I have never been able to find him in the 1930 census even though I knew where he was supposed to be (in or near Whittier, CA). While working on the timeline, I thought I should recheck the census again. I did the same thing I always do - wildcards, trying this and that name combo from the 2 names I know he used, etc.

I was reminded of this quote, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results". I went back to my timeline and let my mind wander - "how can I do this differently and not insanely?!" A light bulb went off!!! I have been searching a census for an "unknown" name. What if instead, I searched for a "known" place! It had never occurred to me until then to look for the place he was supposed to be (If his journal calendar page wasn't lying) instead of looking for his name(s). I had no idea which name he was using at the time (he might have been using a totally different name altogether!) and/or what combo of the 2 names I know.

So, I searched the census by ED number/place and found one for the school where he was working (and I suspected also living at), and there he was (with a slightly different combo of names and initials). He was claiming to be 18 yrs older than he was or someone made a transcription error so searching using his BD might have been hindering me as well as the name.

Finally, after all these years, I found my elusive grandpa just by using a different approach - try it! Once I found the census, tumbling the brick wall, I also found a directory for 2 years before in the side bar next to the census record! - same job/same place - narrowing things down as to when he changed his name and what iterations of it he used along the way.

Thank you, Jeff Transue and Pat Prager for sharing your stories. Who is next?

[QH Board Nominations for 2026-2027](#)

Nominations will be taken from Questing Heirs members and voted on at our annual General Meeting now rescheduled for December.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!



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



Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board

- President.....Bob Prager.....(2024-2026)
- 1st Vice President – Programs.....Diana Transue.....(2024-2025)
- 2nd Vice President – Membership.....Sandy McDonald.....(2024-2026)
- SecretaryNina Gustin.....(2024-2025)
- TreasurerCynthia Day-Elliott.....(2024-2025)
- Director – HospitalityTina Yanis.....(2024-2025)
- Director – Acting NewsletterChristina 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 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