



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

**Holiday Meeting
December 21, 2025**

St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church

**Join us for a holiday gathering & potluck
in person only**

**Sandwich fixin's will be provided along with drinks.
Bring a dish of your choice to share with the group.**

**Share a short (2-3 minute) story of your choice.
Bring a friend who is interested in genealogy.**

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/](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.



Festive Christmas Tree

A handmade gift by Tina's classmate, Liz W.

Photo taken by Tina McKillip

QHGS President's Message Bob Prager



I was thinking about my Hartford ancestors and realized they lived there during the transition from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in Great Britain and her colonies. In 1752, Wednesday, September 2nd, was immediately followed by Thursday, September 14th in order to correct an error in the length of the solar year of 1 day every 128 years which had been building up since Roman times. Some newspapers at the time showed both dates (“old style” and “new style”) on their front page.

What I hadn't been aware of was a much larger one-time change in the length of the year. The year 1751 was only 282 days long because the date a new year started was also changed. It was moved from March 25th (Lady Day, 9 months before Christmas) to January 1st. As a result, 1751 began on March 25th and ended on December 31st. An interesting example which looks strange to our eyes: three consecutive court records from Hartford are dated 27 December 1636, 21 February 1636, and March 28, 1637 – and they are not misfiled!



[A Note from the Editor: Tina McKillip](#)

I have enjoyed putting the newsletter together for the last couple of years. I love the writing process but struggle with the word processing skills. I'm old school and my typewriter knows it. I am grateful that QH member, Diana Transue will be taking over the newsletter and bringing her ideas, information and stories.

I know there are several members (at least) who have stories to tell. It can be a paragraph or a whole page. Jeff Transue, a new member and Diana's husband, has brought us two great stories of his ancestors. Now it is your turn to share.

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

Questing Heirs members will vote at our General Meeting this month.

Membership dues are due in January. The form will be emailed.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays!

Great News from Reclaim The Records

New York State Death Index 1880-2017

<https://www.NewYorkDeathIndex.com>

The index is searchable and includes full name, date of death and place of death (not place of residence). This is important! You need to know which town, for submitting a death certificate request. I heard that a request to the New York State Office is currently a five year wait.

This index also lists others with the same surname which could give you clues to relatives known or unknown. Check out the index and hope you find your ancestors.

New Records at FamilySearch.org

Illinois, County Naturalization Records 1800-1998

Maryland, Naturalization Records 1792-1931

Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston Tax Records 1822-1918

Oklahoma, School Records 1895-1992

RootsTech Online: March 5-7, 2026

There will be 200+ **FREE** online sessions with digital syllabi and class handouts.

Register here: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online/>

Free! Legacy Family Tree Webinars

A Dozen Names for Alcina: An Identity Case Study

Presented by Margaret R. Fortier, CG - Wednesday, December 17, 2025 @ 11:00 am PST

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/a-dozen-names-for-alcina-an-identity-case-study/>

Alcina Furkey's birth name and her parents' identities were unknown in 19C Vermont. Alcina had many forenames: Alcenia, Arsena, Christina, Elcena, Elena, Jane, Josephine, Julia, Lucy, and Reusta, and Rosanna. But none of them was her baptismal name. Reconstructing her birth family, together with a connection found in deeds and the clues in Catholic records, led to her real identity.



**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