

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Newsletter



Dear Questing Heirs Members,

As we step into another month of discoveries, I'm continually inspired by the dedication and curiosity of our members. Whether you're breaking through a brick wall or uncovering a long-forgotten family story, your work keeps history alive. This issue is packed with member insights, research tips, and updates from the wider genealogy world. We hope it sparks new ideas for your own quests!

Diana Transue, editor

Those of us with Irish ancestry have something to look forward to the 1926 census of the **Irish Free State** is to be released this April. The records include names of individuals, relationship to the head of household, age, sex, birthplace, religion, occupation, and ability to speak the Irish language. **The Irish National Archives** is in the process of digitizing the 700,000 return sheets for release 100 years after they were collected.

All of **my direct Irish ancestors** had left the island by then, but some relatives remained, and it'll be interesting to see where and how they lived after the War of Independence (1919-1921) and the Irish Civil War (1922-1923). Unfortunately, if your ancestors lived in **Northern Ireland**, you're temporarily out of luck! You'll have to wait until January 2027.

Bob Prager, President



Christmas 1949

Culinary Chronicles: Cabbage Rolls

Cabbage rolls appear in many cultures under different names, yet the dish remains remarkably consistent: seasoned fillings wrapped in cabbage leaves and cooked slowly until tender. For generations, this practical meal made use of ingredients that were affordable, filling, and easy to store, especially during winter months.

As families migrated, cabbage roll recipes traveled with them, adapting to new ingredients while preserving familiar techniques. Variations in spices, grains, and sauces often reflect regional origins and family preferences passed down informally rather than through written recipes. In this way, food traditions can offer subtle clues to ancestral roots and everyday life.

Traditional Cabbage Rolls (Brief Recipe)

Ingredients:

Green cabbage, ground meat, cooked rice, onion, garlic, egg, salt, pepper, paprika (optional), tomato sauce, lemon juice, or vinegar (optional)

Method:

Soften cabbage leaves in boiling water. Mix remaining ingredients (except sauce). Place filling in leaves, roll, and arrange seam-side down in a pot or baking dish. Cover with tomato sauce and a small amount of lemon juice or vinegar if desired. Simmer or bake at 350°F for 60–90 minutes, until tender.

Members are invited to share **any family recipe** along with a **short story or memory** connected to it. Recipes passed down through generations, adapted over time, or associated with particular ancestors are especially welcome. Submissions may be sent to the newsletter editor for possible inclusion in a future issue.



Stories Behind the Stars is a nonprofit project honoring the families of World War II service members who made the ultimate sacrifice—known as Gold Star families. The project preserves personal stories, photographs, and histories that reveal the lives behind the names and provide valuable resources for genealogists and historians. These stories are hosted on Fold3 and can be read in full without a Fold3 membership. Volunteers are urgently needed to help document and preserve these histories before the voices of the Greatest Generation are lost. [Stories of fallen WWII heroes | Stories Behind the Stars](#)

Looking Ahead: Our Next Speaker

Our monthly meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 15, at 2:00 p.m.**, at **St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church**, 5306 E. Arbor, Long Beach, CA 90808. Members may also attend **via Zoom**.



Christine Cohen **“Homesteading - Land for All”**

Homestead application packets from 1862 - 1934 are great sources of genealogical information. These applications list family members and statements from neighbors, plus notations of previous residences. Plus, pages from the family Bible, birth, marriage or death certificates, newspaper clippings, and witness affidavits. Union Civil War Veterans had to provide proof of military service and immigrants had to provide naturalization documents.

Christine’s interest in genealogy began in 1977 with the airing of the TV mini-series “Roots”. Her enthusiasm was piqued when she was given a typed pedigree chart, commissioned by her maternal grandfather, of their Dutch heritage from the New Netherlands in the 1650’s. Christine is a native Californian, and a graduate of UCLA in Political Science. She has moved to Oregon for retirement and is pursuing her genealogy journey full time.

Christine is a long-time member of the Whittier Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) and currently is the Program Director. She is a member of the Tualatin Chapter of the DAR, the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, APG and the Society Delegate for NGS.

Snack Reminder for Cynthia, Jerry and Nina!

January Program Recap: **“What to Do with Your Stuff-Planning for the Future of Your Genealogy and Artifacts”**

Presented by Peggy Jude

At our January meeting, Questing Heirs welcomed speaker Peggy Jude, who presented an engaging program titled **“What to Do with Your Stuff—Planning for the Future of Your Genealogy and Artifacts.”** She discussed the importance of planning ahead for both everyday possessions and historically significant items such as photographs, documents, and heirlooms, encouraging members to consider family value as well as monetary worth. Ms. Jude shared practical strategies for organizing and labeling materials, communicating wishes to family members, and identifying local archives and organizations that may help preserve historically important items. We thank Peggy Jude for her thoughtful and practical guidance on a topic that resonates with genealogists and family historians.

RootsTech March 5-7, 2026

Registration for online or in person:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

RootsTech 2026 Highlights

RootsTech, the world's largest family history conference, brings together genealogists from around the globe to share knowledge, explore added resources, and strengthen research skills. The conference features sessions on topics such as methodology, DNA research, record preservation, and emerging technology, with both in-person and virtual attendance options available.

RootsTech continues to be an important gathering for the genealogy community, offering inspiration and practical tools for researchers at every level. Members who participate are encouraged to share insights and discoveries in a future issue of the Questing Heirs newsletter.

Message from the Membership Chairman

January is our membership renewal month, and this is a friendly reminder that **annual dues are now due**. To continue receiving the Questing Heirs newsletter and enjoying all the benefits of membership, please be sure your renewal is submitted this month.

We would also love your help in welcoming new members to our society. If you have a friend or family member who is curious about genealogy, invite them to join us and share the fun of learning, researching, and discovering family stories together. Our membership levels are **\$30 per year for an individual** or **\$45 per year for a family**.

A membership form can be found on the **backside of this newsletter (page 5)** for easy reference. We look forward to another year of exploring our past with you!

Warm regards,
Sandy McDonald
Membership Chairman

About Questing Heirs Genealogical Society

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Website: www.qhgs.info/ | Facebook: www.facebook.com/QuestingHeirs/ | Email: questingheirs@gmail.com

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QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBER APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

I am a:

- New member
 Current member renewing

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Member Type:

Individual (\$30) \$ _____

Family (\$45) \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total Paid \$ _____

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31.

Please take a few minutes to list/update your top five surname and location preferences so our Program Chairman can engage speakers who will interest you. Also, the information will be printed in the directory.

Surnames you are researching:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Areas of your research (countries / states / counties):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____