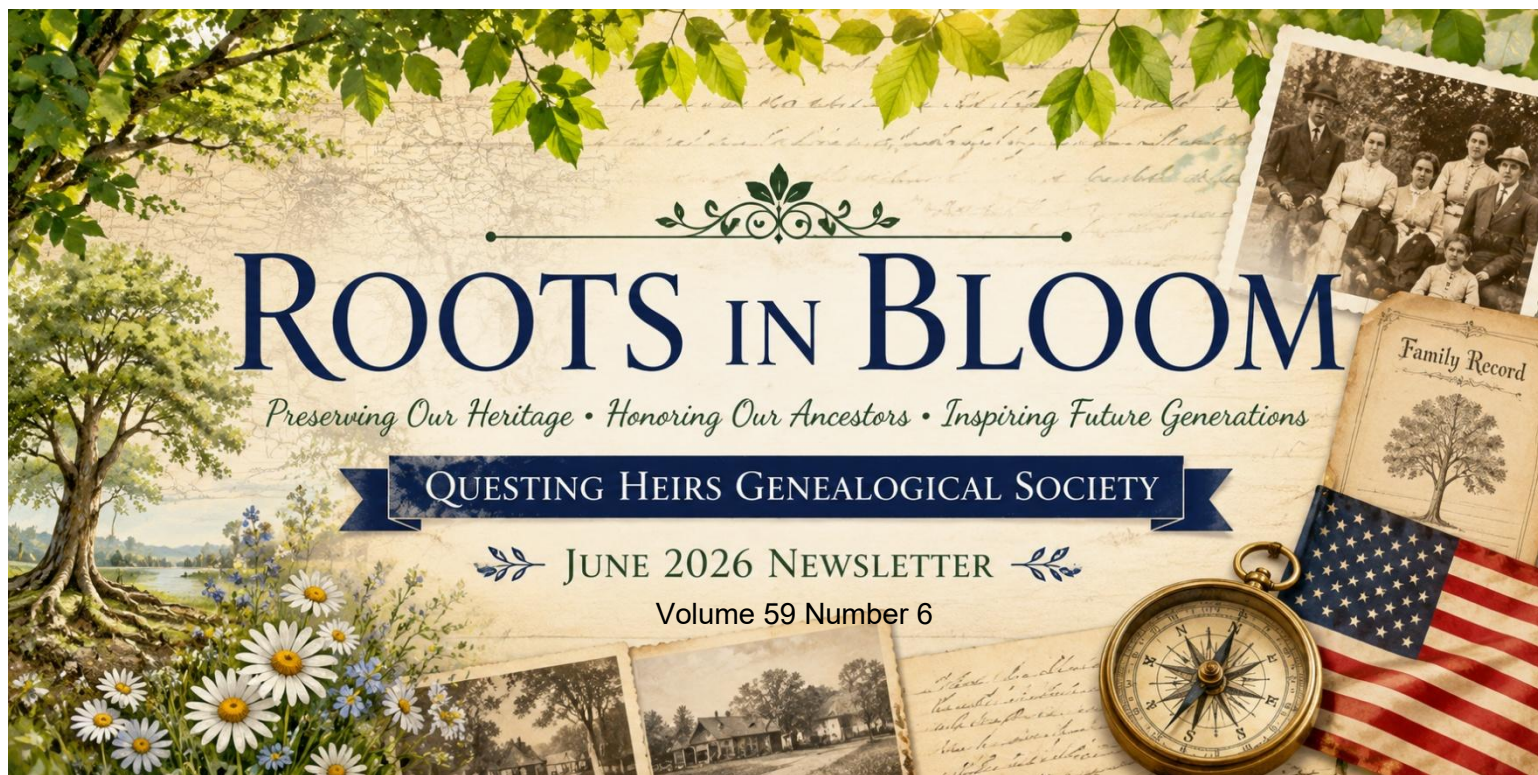




🍷 🌿 QUESTING HEIRS JUNE MEETING 🌿 🍷

Join us for our June gathering on Father's Day weekend!

📅 Sunday, June 21, 2026

🕒 2:00 PM

📍 Pan Am Park, directly across from St. Thomas of Canterbury Church (our usual meeting location)

We'll be meeting outdoors under the big shade tree. Just look for the Questing Heirs banner!

🍦 Ice cream will be provided by Cynthia Day-Elliott.

🍹 Please bring your own drink.

🪑 Bring a lawn chair or folding chair.

We invite everyone to share something from their genealogy journey:

- A recent discovery
- A favorite ancestor story
- A family heirloom or photograph
- A research success (or challenge!)
- An interesting genealogy adventure

This will be a relaxed afternoon of fellowship, storytelling, and family history fun.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date!

Free Beginner Genealogy Class Saturday, September 26, 2026

Have you ever wondered where your ancestors came from? Would you like to learn how to start researching your family history?

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society is planning a Beginner Genealogy Class designed for those who are new to genealogy or would like a refresher on the basics. Participants will learn how to begin their family tree, find records, organize research, and discover helpful genealogy resources.

 Save the Date: September 26, 2026

 Location to be announced

Please tell your friends, family members, neighbors, and anyone interested in learning about their family history. More details and registration information will be available soon.

Dear Questing Heirs Members,

Summer is the perfect time to reconnect with family history. Whether attending reunions, visiting cemeteries, traveling to ancestral hometowns, or organizing treasured photographs and documents, every step helps preserve the stories of those who came before us.

In this month's newsletter, we share upcoming society events, research tips, member highlights, and ideas to inspire your own genealogy journey. We hope you will join us as we continue preserving the past for future generations.

Editor, Diana Transue

President's Message

Last month I mentioned "I'm My Own Grandpa", a song describing a confounding genealogical problem. But there are other songs pertaining to confusion for present-day genealogists. When I was in high school (many decades ago!), I heard a recording of Burl Ives singing "What was your Name in the States?"

What was your name in the States?

Was it Thompson or Johnson or Bates?

Did you murder your wife?

Have to fly for your life?

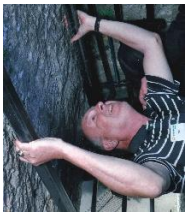
Oh, what was your name in the States?

The song originated during the Gold Rush era and referred to the ability of those who came out west to assume a completely new identity, escaping ties and previous personal history from back east. Debbie Reynolds sang a version of the song in the film *How the West was Won*, and versions can be heard on YouTube.

Do you have anyone in your family who changed names or identities in order to start over? Records of such activity – particularly during the 19th and early 20th centuries – can be sketchy at best, and confounding to the family historian! What do we do when an ancestor suddenly appears in various records with no hint where he came from? Even if it is possible to make the connection, it is often impossible to determine why he felt the need to create a new identity.

In any case, I hope to see you in the park for our June outdoor meeting!

Photo is me kissing the most unsanitary piece of rock in Europe -- the Blarney Stone. President, Bob Prager



Anna Duke Bailey Story



My 2nd great grandmother, Anna Duke Bailey, died in 1880 at the age of 39 after the birth of her 19th child. For many years, we didn't know where she was buried & it didn't show in the original cemetery index for the county that the local genealogy group had done. Recently her headstone showed up on "find a grave". As I was in that county in Wisconsin last month for my aunt's funeral, I made a point to honor my great-great grandmother by cleaning up her headstone & posting the gently cleaned marker. It's a reminder to periodically check out if new data has become available on your research.

Jackie Selden Riley, Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Member

Getting Started with Find a Grave

One of the most valuable free resources available to genealogists today is Find a Grave. With millions of memorials from cemeteries around the world, it can help researchers locate burial places, discover family relationships, and find clues that lead to additional records.

What Is Find a Grave?

Find a Grave is a free online database of cemetery records and memorials created by volunteers. Many memorials include photographs of gravestones, biographical information, family links, obituaries, and cemetery locations.

How to Search

Begin by visiting [Find a Grave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) and entering the name of the person you are researching. If the name is common, add information such as:

- Birth or death year
- Cemetery name
- City, county, or state
- Family member names

Even if you are unsure of exact dates, a broad search can often produce helpful results.

Exploring a Memorial

Once you locate a memorial, review all available information. A memorial may include:

- Full name
- Birth and death dates
- Gravestone photographs
- Obituaries
- Family relationships
- Cemetery maps or GPS coordinates

Pay special attention to linked family members. Parents, spouses, children, and siblings may be connected to their own memorial pages, helping you expand your family tree.

Using Cemetery Information

A cemetery can provide important clues about a family's history. Nearby graves may belong to relatives, and the cemetery itself may have records not available online.

When visiting a cemetery:

- Take photographs of surrounding graves.
- Record section and plot information.
- Look for military markers and family plots.
- Respect cemetery rules and visitors.

Requesting Photos

If a gravestone photograph is not available, Find a Grave allows users to request one. Volunteers often fulfill requests by visiting local cemeteries and uploading photographs.

Remember to Verify

While Find a Grave is an excellent research tool, information is contributed by volunteers and should be verified with additional records whenever possible. Census records, death certificates, probate records, and obituaries can help confirm the information you find.

A Valuable Genealogy Resource

Whether you are just beginning your family history journey or have years of experience, Find a Grave can provide valuable clues, connect family members, and help preserve the memory of those who came before us.

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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