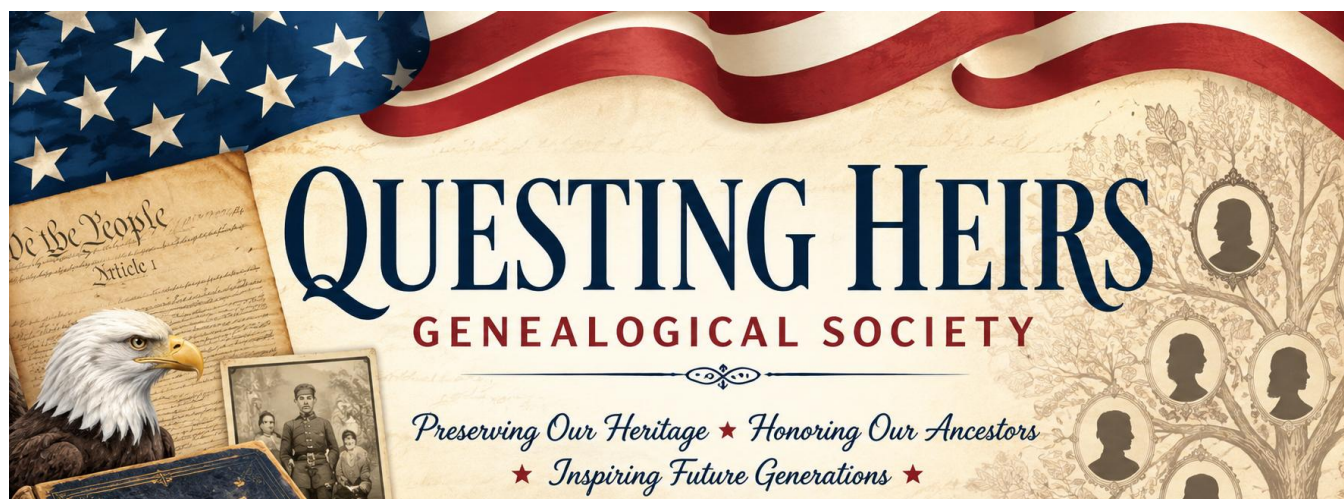




From the Editor

Summer is the perfect time to reconnect with family history. As families gather for reunions, picnics, and holiday celebrations, take the opportunity to ask questions, identify old photographs, and record family stories before they are forgotten. Every memory preserved today becomes a gift for future generations.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our June activities and community outreach. We also hope you'll help spread the word about our **Free Beginner Genealogy Class** on **Saturday, September 26**. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors who have always wanted to discover their family history. Together, we can inspire others to begin their genealogy journey.

Happy researching and have a wonderful summer! **Diana Transue** Editor



President's Message

When I was 10 years old, my family went up to Oneida, New York (of course Oneida is NOT in Oneida County – it's in Madison) to visit my maternal grandparents. My grandfather, Howard Clinton Risley, was a twin, and his brother, Hubbard Benton Risley, lived in Little Falls, New York, a bit less than 50 miles away.

We drove over to visit, my grandparents with us. There were a number of relatives there, and my brother and I were the youngest in the room. I listened – without much interest – as the discussion turned to family history. I do remember someone saying that we didn't have anyone famous in our ancestry, someone pointing out Thomas Dewey (remember the Chicago Tribune's "Dewey Defeats Truman"? – Hubbard's wife was Leah Bell Dewey – but one of the other Risleys said that that was by marriage, so it didn't count.

Ignoring research showing that most of those with Northern European ancestry are descended from Charlemagne, I can take two things away from this memory:

1. Nobody in the room had done any serious genealogical research, but relied upon what they had been told about their family's history, and
2. I really wish I had started thinking about my own ancestry decades ago. Here was an opportunity to talk with close relatives who knew family stories (which have probably disappeared forever) and were willing to share some of them! Little need to persuade them to discuss them...

Hubbard and Leah never had children, so many of the details of their lives -- the parts of their life stories which make them interesting -- probably didn't get passed down. I remember a few of them which I will try to add to Ancestry. Don't delay! Talk to your children and grandchildren but write little snippets down! Don't wait until you have the time to write your own autobiography, because few of us ever do that! **Bob Prager**

June Ice Cream Social in the Park

Our June meeting was a wonderful afternoon of friendship, family history, and storytelling as a dozen Questing Heirs members gathered under the shade trees at Pan Am Park.

A special thank you goes to **Cynthia Day-Elliott** for providing a delicious assortment of ice cream treats that everyone enjoyed on a beautiful summer day.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was our "Show and Tell," where members shared treasured family heirlooms and genealogy discoveries.

Jackie Riley displayed a beautiful family heirloom quilt that has been lovingly preserved through generations. **Chris Elia** brought a fascinating collection of Carnation Dairy memorabilia, sharing memories of her father, who delivered milk for the company for many years. **Nina Gustin** introduced an excellent new book on getting started with genealogy, while **Sandy Pribble** shared delicate Victorian-era crystal salt dishes that have remained in her family.

Terry Hamilton brought a newspaper clipping featuring a childhood photograph of herself sitting on Santa's lap. **Cynthia Day-Elliott** shared the story of her husband's Civil War ancestor and an accompanying historic photograph that brought the family's history to life. **Bob Prager** talked about his plans to take over a family newsletter highlighting the Risely branch of his family in the eastern United States, and **Tina McKillip** shared her ongoing journey to obtain Italian citizenship through her ancestral roots.

The afternoon was filled with interesting stories, laughter, and inspiration as members learned from one another's family history adventures. It was a beautiful day, wonderful weather, and, most importantly, time well spent with great friends who share a passion for preserving our family histories.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting!

Help Us Spread the Word!

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society is excited to offer a **FREE Beginner Genealogy Class** on **Saturday, September 26, 2026**, from **9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon** at **St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church** in Long Beach.

Whether someone is just beginning their family history journey or doesn't know where to start, this class is designed to help. Participants will enjoy three short presentations, hands-on assistance from experienced genealogists, refreshments, and the chance to win genealogy door prizes, including an **AncestryDNA® kit**.

A class flyer is attached with this newsletter. We encourage you to share it with your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, church members, or anyone who may be interested in discovering their family history. If you have permission, please consider posting the flyer on community bulletin boards at libraries, churches, senior centers, recreation centers, or other public gathering places.

Together, we can introduce more people to the rewarding hobby of genealogy and help preserve family stories for future generations.

For reservations or more information, email questingheirs@gmail.com (Attention: Diana Transue).

July Program Preview



Special Delivery: Documenting Birth with or Without a Birth Record

Presented by Jane Neff Rollins



No Birth Certificate? No Problem!

Discover the many records that can help you prove an ancestor's birth—even when no official birth record exists. Join professional genealogist **Jane Neff Rollins** as she shares practical research strategies and lesser-known record sources that every family historian should know.

About the Speaker

Jane Neff Rollins is a professional genealogist, author, and nationally recognized speaker with more than 25 years of research experience. She is the owner of **Sherlock Combs Genealogy** in Montrose, California, and specializes in researching families from the former Russian Empire and Eastern European Jewish ancestry.

Jane is a frequent speaker at local, regional, national, and international genealogy conferences and has written articles for several genealogy publications. Her engaging presentations combine practical research techniques with historical insight, making them valuable for genealogists of all experience levels.

Join Us for This Informative Program!

Sunday, July 19, 2026

2:00 PM

Attend in Person:

St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
5306 E. Arbor Road
Long Beach, CA 90808

Or Join Us via Zoom!

Visit the Questing Heirs website or email questingheirs@gmail.com to request the Zoom meeting link.

For more information, visit the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society website or email

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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Genealogy Treasure of the Month

Have You Ever Heard of a "Him Book"?

While going through some family keepsakes with my daughter-in-law, we came across something I'd never seen before a **"Him Book."** At first, I thought someone had misspelled **"Hymn Book."** I was expecting church songs!

Instead, it turned out to be a scrapbook filled with photographs, notes, and memories of the young men her grandmother had dated before she met her husband. It was like discovering an early version of today's social media without the selfies!

As genealogists, we spend so much time searching for birth certificates, census records, and obituaries that we sometimes forget the most memorable discoveries are the personal keepsakes tucked away in a box or drawer.

So, do not overlook those old memory books, autograph books, or scrapbooks. They may not solve a family mystery, but they can tell wonderful stories and offer a delightful glimpse into the lives of our ancestors.

Have you discovered an unusual family heirloom? Bring it to a future meeting, we would love to hear the story!

Genealogy Website of the Month

Chronicling America

Did your ancestor make the local newspaper? You may be surprised by what you can discover!

Chronicling America is a **free** online collection of historic American newspapers provided by the Library of Congress. With millions of searchable newspaper pages published between **1777 and 1963**, it is one of the best free resources available to genealogists.

Newspapers can reveal information that may not be found anywhere else, including:

- Birth, marriage, and death announcements.
- Obituaries
- Military service
- Community news
- School activities
- Family reunions
- Court proceedings
- Local events

Search Tip: If you do not find your ancestor using a full name, try searching by surname only, use alternate spellings, or search by town and date.

Best of all, **Chronicling America is completely free!** Visit **chroniclingamerica.loc.gov** and see what stories

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

FREE BEGINNER GENEALOGY CLASS

Door Prizes • Refreshments

Learn • Discover • Connect!

Genealogy Door Prizes

Win an AncestryDNA® Kit and other genealogy goodies!

Refreshments Provided

Saturday, September 26, 2026

9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
5306 E. Arbor Road
Long Beach, CA 90808

Thinking about researching your family history?

Join us for a free beginner-friendly class featuring:

- Three short presentations
- How to get started with genealogy
- FamilySearch and other genealogy websites
- Military records research
- Hands-on help from experienced genealogists
- Volunteers available with computers to answer questions

FREE ADMISSION

Reserve your space:

questingheirs@gmail.com Attention: Diana Transue

Welcome walk-ins. Reservations encouraged.

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society