



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 891447  
Houston, TX 77289-1447

Volume 1, Issue No. 5

February 2002

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## Next Meeting

Date: February 24, 2002

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Place: University Baptist Church Great Room  
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston,  
TX 77059

Speaker: James Reed

Subject: Civil War Research

## Finding Your Civil War Ancestors

James Reed will be our featured speaker at the February general meeting. Mr. Reed is Chairman of the Continuing Education Program at San Jacinto College Central Campus and is also Director for Information Technology at the Aerospace Academy for Engineering and Teacher Education in Clear Lake City. The Aerospace Academy is an education-industry-government collaboration and was developed to address the shortages of engineers and other high technology practitioners plus the mathematics and science teachers needed to produce that work force. He has had many speaking engagements and traveled extensively with this position.

If you are interested in your Civil War ancestor, then this is a meeting you won't want to miss. An avid historian for years, Mr. Reed's interest became focused on the Civil War when he began researching his genealogy and found that three out of four

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## From the President

by Carolyn Hellen



We are now approaching two hundred members. What an awesome thought and a huge responsibility for all of us!

From the first, my goal was to have the Bay Area Genealogical Society made up of the people and run by the people. This goal has been fulfilled beyond my wildest dreams.

Everyone has been so cooperative. We have one of the best looking websites on the internet, a newsletter and quarterly that are sure to take first prize at the state convention in Galveston in November, and speakers that make us all sit up and take notice. The support you have given to each of the chairmen and their projects has been wonderful.

Help is still needed with the **surname** and **cookbook** projects. If you have any questions concerning these projects, call the chairman (see committee articles) or myself and we will be happy to discuss them with you. These projects can only be successful through your efforts.

We couldn't ask for better programs. Dick Warren has done an outstanding job finding topics and speakers from whom we can learn and that are interesting. I hope you all enjoyed the talk on maps and atlases as much as I did. Bruce Krewinghaus is such an enthusiastic speaker, you couldn't help but enjoy his talk. I'm sure the lines at Clayton Library are very long in the atlas and map section since his presentation.

At our February meeting, we will hear from James Reed as he talks about the War between the States. Mary Ann Clingan had him speak to the genealogical group at her church and promises a talk that you will enjoy.

Paula Parke will be conducting a seminar on how to use Family Tree Maker. She is an area representative of Borderbund Publishing Company and an excellent teacher. You won't want to miss this if you use or plan to use Family Tree Maker. You will be notified later regarding the dates and times.

I'll see you all at the February general meeting.

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### **BAGS Officers**

President	Carolyn Hellen	281-486-0406	CRHellen@att.net
1st Vice President	Carolyn Farmer	281-480-6419	cafarmer@houston.rr.com
2nd Vice President	Dick Warren	281-461-1472	dick@merlins-web.com
Recording Secretary	Diane Thompson	281-337-3672	dst@hal-pc.org
Corresponding Sec.	Tammy Frey	281-286-1486	tfrey99@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Dottie Crabb	281-326-4076	dotcrabb1@juno.com
Historian	Karla Chenault	281-282-9805	karlam@prodigy.net
Registrar	Neil Miserendino	281-286-8243	psrambling@aol.com



## Committee News



### Newsletter Committee

by Ralph Hall

Your Newsletter Committee is at work defining the best way to have the newsletter printed and mailed. Costs and convenience of reading (i.e., folds) will be of importance. We will keep you updated.

Volunteers are needed for March 15, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the Freeman Memorial Library to help prepare the March newsletter for mailing. Any news or other items are due by **March 1, 2002**, to Nate Grimes at [nategeneal@aol.com](mailto:nategeneal@aol.com). Thanks!

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### Letter from the Editor

By Nate Grimes

Many thanks to the folks who have been planning their whole lives around publishing the BAGS newsletter, namely, Carole Varnado, Kay Cherry, and Linda Carrington. Unfortunately, such intense activity leads to burnout rather quickly and we don't want that! Therefore, at their request, we have solicited and cajoled some new crewmen to handle this task.

Current volunteers include Ralph Hall (chairman), Linda Carrington (layout), Tammy Frey (organization), Nate Grimes (editor), and Neil Miserendino (address labels). Should any of you feel that you have time to lend, especially in preparing the newsletter for mailing, please

contact Carolyn Hellen at 281-486-0406. The more hands, the easier the work!

If any of you did not receive a newsletter this month or know of someone who didn't get one, please contact Neil Miserendino at 281-286-8243.

Please note that the **deadline** for submission of newsletter material for **March only** has been changed to **March 1st** because of Spring Break. Submissions should be sent to me at [nategeneal@aol.com](mailto:nategeneal@aol.com) or put in the *Newsletter Editor Bag* at the February general meeting. Any format will be accepted, but e-mail without attachments is preferred.

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### Corresponding Secretary Report

By Tammy Frey

We want to be able to offer our sympathy or condolences in support of our fellow BAGS members. We can do that if you let us know of those who are experiencing illness or loss. Please encourage and support these fellow members.

*Condolences to:* Dorsey Kastetter on the death of her mother and Ruby Cubley on the death of her father.

*Illness or surgery:* Marilyn Hughes and Anna May Heser

If you know of a BAGS member who is ill or who has experienced the loss of a loved one and would like for us to send a card, please contact Tammy Frey at: [tfrey99@hotmail.com](mailto:tfrey99@hotmail.com) or 281-286-1486.



## Committee News Continued



### Five Generation Ancestor Charts

By John McCall

Our Bylaws state that active members need to submit a five generation chart. I believe this is an incentive program that will help the society members help each other. Even if you are new to genealogy and have only three or so generations, write them on a standard five generation chart and place it in the *Librarian Bag* at the February monthly meeting. If you prefer, you may leave off information concerning living relatives.

Future plans call for the society to publish the charts for everyone's benefit. If you do not want your information published, please indicate so at the top in red. Please put the main surname in the right hand corner of the chart as they will be filed in the records under that name.

If you have the time to help with this project or if you have questions, contact me at lassie@wt.net or 281-476-5682.

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### Quarterly Update

by Resa Hennings, Editor

The first "Bay Area Genealogical Society Quarterly" has been printed and is currently being distributed. If you have not received your copy, please pick it up at the February general meeting.

We are trying to hold down postage expenses by distributing the quarterly at meetings. However, if you are unable to attend, please get in touch with me (281-326-4936 or send an e-mail to hennings@firstnethou.com) to make

arrangements to have your copy mailed to you.

Preparation of the second issue of the quarterly is now in progress and we need your help! Please put items in the *Quarterly Bag* during the general meetings or submit to me (see above) any articles, anecdotes, family histories, queries, or any interesting genealogical material you may have. Member contribution and participation is vital to producing a good publication. **Please help today!**

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### Hospitality Committee

By Leslee Fehlman

Our thanks to the following people who brought food to the January meeting: Jackie Wittachen, Pat Bates, Leona Cook, Dottie Crab, Nate Grimes and Jinny Mason.

**Hospitality** on the BAGS application form means bringing food in small portions for 30-40 people to a monthly general meeting once a year. Fill in the month you choose or I will call when I need you. I need six people for each general meeting. If you have the recipe, please bring it. Our Heritage Cookbook will include some of the fine recipes from our hospitality volunteers.

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*Research Tip: To find your Confederate Civil War soldier, first look in "Roster of Confederate Soldiers of 1861-65" by Janet B. Hewett. With this information, look in "Units of the Confederate Army" by Joseph H. Crute, Jr. (Gen 973.742) to see what his unit did.*



## Committee News Continued



### E-Mail Committee by Mary Ann Clingan

A great deal of effort has been put forth to ensure that we have everyone's e-mail address. After you receive this newsletter, an e-mail will be sent out to every e-mail address we have on file that just says, "TEST." If you do not receive this test e-mail, please contact me by e-mail at [clingan@hal-pc.org](mailto:clingan@hal-pc.org) or call 281-487-2197.

There are several reasons which may have prevented a member from receiving their e-mail:

1. Your address has not been given to me,
2. The address was inadvertently typed wrong, or
3. Some e-mail providers will not forward group e-mail unless the person sending the e-mail is already in the address book on your computer. If you need help putting this into your computer, please contact me and help will be provided.

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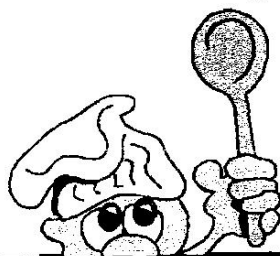
### Heritage Cookbook By Carol Moody

BAGS will be publishing a Heritage Cookbook with recipes passed down through the membership's families and recipes their family enjoys. You are invited to submit as many recipes as you wish along with information about your family and ancestors. If you have special memories concerning times spent with your family or anything that pertains to food with your relatives, please include it with your recipes.

The society is about people and with your help we can make this project a success. Kay Cherry produced a recipe book for her relatives with pictures depicting taffy pulling and other food related scenes. If you have such pictures to share, we will include them.

You may submit your recipes and stories by e-mail, regular mail, or placing them in the *Cookbook Bag* at the general meetings. Recipes can be typed or hand written.

We would like to complete this project before August, so please act now. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Please send recipes,



stories and pictures to: Carol Moody, Cookbook Editor,  
2254 Nancy, Alvin, TX  
77511, 281-331-3459, or  
[cmoody1273@aol.com](mailto:cmoody1273@aol.com).

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### Yearbook Update By Joanne Truman

The 2001-2002 Bay Area Genealogical Society Yearbook is in progress. We plan to include the By-laws in the yearbook; therefore, as soon as the Bylaws are approved by the general membership the yearbook will be completed, assembled, and distributed. The books will be spiral bound and help will be needed to get them ready.

Anyone who is interested in helping with the final assembly process is asked to call Joanne Truman, Yearbook Chariman at 281 474-7019, or e-mail me at [JTruman342@aol.com](mailto:JTruman342@aol.com).



## Committee News Continued

### Surnames Database

by Carolyn Farmer

Please continue to submit your **Surnames** and the earliest dates and states in which they were found. Either send by e-mail or place your list in the *Vice President's Bag* at the February general meeting. The first segment of this database will be placed on our website as part of the 2002 Surname Database Project.

Your name and e-mail address will be the only identification listed on the website. If for any reason you do not want your name and e-mail address on the website, please notify me immediately.

The preferred format is as follows (this is an example only):

**YOUR NAME, TELEPHONE #, and E-MAIL ADDRESS**

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME FRAME</u>
Blackstone	MD, VA, GA, TX	1670 - present
Wagner	GA, MO	1850-1900
Traweck	VA, USA	1699 - Present

This is an excellent opportunity to get your ancestor names published for FREE! Currently, I have input from only thirty members out of nearly 200! Help make this project a success.

### Library Project

By John McCall

One of our goals as a society is to assist Clayton Library in any way we can. At this time, the Library is in need of volunteers for three different projects which will allow staff members more time to assist patrons. They need help upstairs on Saturdays assigning machines to people interested in using the microfilm and microprint readers. For the same reason, help is needed downstairs re-shelving books on Saturdays.

The third project is an ongoing one of clarifying information in the 1910 census. This would entail going through the census page by page and making notes. This project needs people with



**During our January general meeting, Bruce Krewinghaus gave an excellent talk on using maps for research.**

good eyesight who don't get dizzy easily.

A training session, made up of ten volunteers at a time, will be held for each of these projects at the library. Once you are trained, you will be asked to donate at least two hours a month. A recognition banquet is held yearly for those volunteering. You will hear more about this at the training session.

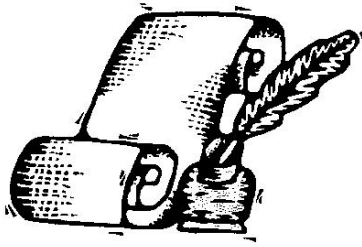
If you can help or if you have questions concerning volunteering please email me at [lassie@wt.net](mailto:lassie@wt.net) or call 281-476-5682.



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## Transcribing Old Documents

By Carolyn Traweek Hellen



One of the most rewarding experiences in researching is to find an original record concerning one of your ancestors. The next most rewarding

experience is being able to read the record you found.

To read the old records and interpret the handwriting, you must become familiar with the old styles of writing. The study of these writing styles is called paleography.

When trying to read difficult or unfamiliar handwriting, try the following suggestions:

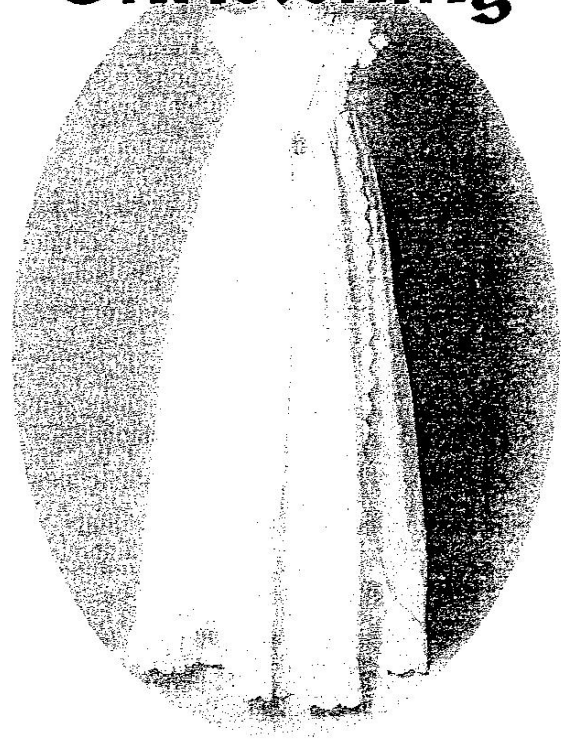
1. Do not try to read every word at first. Read through the text or a good portion of it and pick out any words or phrases you recognize.
2. Write out the document using the words you can make out and drawing a line for the words you can't. When you finish, read the document. Sometimes the missing words are evident by the context.
3. When you see a letter you don't recognize, compare it to letters in previous sentences.
4. Remember, the old way of spelling doesn't always correspond with today's spelling. Double letters often use the symbol "f" and "th" is often added to the end.
5. Keep an open mind.
6. Be careful. An error in transcription could change the entire meaning of the document.

Practice makes perfect; the more you read old documents, the easier it will become.

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**FYI:** *"Soldiers disease" was a Civil War euphemism for morphine addiction. Some 400,000 soldiers left the war addicted to morphine.*

## Presidential Christening



**Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1862. He was christened wearing this dress and little gold charm. Picture is from the FDR Library and Museum in Hyde Park, NY. Submitted by Kay Cherry.**

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## Civil War Ancestors Continued

of his great grandfathers participated in the war. He will share what he has learned about the Civil War and how to go about finding which battles they fought as well as other detailed information about researching the Civil War.

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**Deadline for  
March Newsletter  
is March 1, 2002**

We are on the Web!  
Check out the BAGS website at:  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txbags/baygen.html>



**Newsletter Committee: Linda Carrington, Ralph Hall, and Nate Grimes, Editor**

## Upcoming Events Calendar

Feb. 18, 2002

BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church

Feb. 24, 2002

BAGS General Meeting at 5:30 pm; University Baptist Church

Mar. 18, 2002

BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church

Mar. 24, 2002

BAGS General Meeting at 5:30 pm; University Baptist Church

April 22, 2002

BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church

April 28, 2002

BAGS General Meeting at 5:30 pm; University Baptist Church

Nov 1-2, 2002

Texas State Genealogical Society conference in Galveston,  
Texas