

Bay Area Genealogical Society **Newsletter**

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

Volume 1, Issue No. 6

March 2002

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Next Meeting

Date: March 24, 2002
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Place: University Baptist Church Great Room
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston 77059
Speaker: Robert de Berardinis
Subject: Periodical Source Index

Director of Clayton Library Friends to Speak at March Meeting

Robert de Berardinis will be the guest speaker for our March general meeting. Mr. de Berardinis is a retired grocery company executive and transplanted thirteenth (13th) generation Louisianan. He and his wife Julia live in Houston.

Genealogy is his passion and French research his expertise. He has four books ready for publication this year: *Index to French Superior Council Records; French Officials, Officers and Soldiers*



Robert de Berardinis, Director of Clayton Library Friends

1710-1770; Analytical Index to Documents Concerning Military and Civilian Personnel in French Archives Concerning the Province of Louisiana; and Some of the Ancestry of Michel Billeaudeau of Ville Platte, Louisiana. He is currently serving his second term as a director of Clayton Library Friends.

Mr. de Bernardinis has authored almost 60 articles that have been printed in state and national genealogical publications. In addition to his writing, he has lectured in five states on French and Spanish language genealogy.

His subject at the March meeting will be the Periodical Source Index, what it is, and how to use it in your genealogical research. The public is always invited to attend the meetings and asked to join after visiting twice.

From the President

by Carolyn Hellen



A special thanks to all of you who showed up on Friday to help Newsletter Chairman Ralph Hall get the February issue to the Post Office. I am very proud of our newsletter and look forward to it getting better and better as more of you submit articles you have written or read to Editor Nathan Grimes.

In my twenty plus of years of research, I was often told to check with Percy on different subjects. However, I did not know who Mr. Percy was or how to find him until I went to a meeting of Clayton Library Friends, heard a talk on the Periodical Source Index, and was introduced to PERSI. For those of you who have never met Mr. Percy, be sure to come hear Robert de Berandinis speak about the PERSI files at our next meeting in March. You might discover a completely new area of research.

Have you ever written newspaper articles or do you happen to know Mary Alice Cherry personally? If so, please call me at your convenience (281-486-0406).

I have recommended Ancestry.com to many of you, and now feel I must tell you about

something that has come to my attention from one of our members, Norma Parnell. It seems there is a problem trying to unsubscribe. When you sign up and pay by credit card, they automatically renew your membership each year. Once you decide you do not want their services, you have to personally call and tell them you want to cancel your membership, even if they call you and you tell them no thanks. This is supposedly on your "terms and conditions" statement, which is five pages long, and the part about canceling is on the fourth page. As with everything else, you always have to read the fine print. Norma just happened upon this information when visiting the Jones Family Genealogy Forum and as it says at the bottom, "Buyer Beware."

See you at the March meeting.

Carolyn

The first Medal of Honor was awarded during the Civil War. One of "Andrews' Raiders," Private Jacob Parrott of the Ohio Infantry, received the very first Medal of Honor. In all, 1521 Medals of Honor were bestowed on soldiers in the Civil War.

BAGS Officers

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BAGS Newsletter Staff

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Mailing, Carol Moody
Consultant, Carole Varnado

Houston Genealogical Forum Visit

Members of the Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS) visited the Houston Genealogical Forum on March 2 to hear Marje Harris, head librarian at Clayton Genealogical Library, speak on "Problem Solving Techniques." The program kept the audience's attention for over an hour due to the content and the interesting and entertaining speaker.

The Houston Genealogical Forum has been active in promoting genealogy in the area for forty-four years. The BAGS group was welcomed by the president and were invited to join the Forum.

The program was very informative and the trip a huge success. Plans were to have lunch at Luby's Restaurant before traveling home but due to circumstances beyond our control, the trip was cut short with no time for the restaurant. So President Hellen along with the Sergeant-At-Arms Roy Hellen, prepared twenty-four "Bag" lunches at 6:00 a.m. the morning of the trip and Bayland Community Center provided a room in which the group could enjoy their meal.



BAGS Group at Houston Forum

Warning: Genealogy Pox Very Contagious to Adults

Symptoms:

- Continual complaint as to need for names, dates, and places. Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children.
- Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses.
- Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail.
- Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins and remote, desolate country areas.
- Makes secret night calls. Hides phone bills from spouse.
- Mumbles to self. Has strange, far-away look in eyes.



No Known Cure

Treatment:

- Medication is useless.
- Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse.
- Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he can be alone.

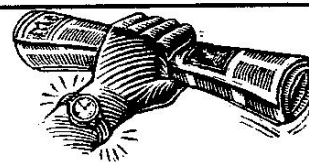
Remarks:

The unusual nature of this disease is—the sicker the patient gets, the more he enjoys it.

Source unknown. Submitted by Carolyn Farmer.



Committee News



Hospitality Committee

by Leslee Fehlman

We thank the following people who brought refreshments to the February meeting: Cyndi Jones, Carol Moody, Lorna Nelson, Carla Chenault, Lawana Ermel, JoAnne Truman and Kathleen McConathy.

Member Participation

by Nate Grimes

The BAGS Board has decided that, in the interest of keeping our meetings to a reasonable length of time, the member participation part of the program will not be presented at every meeting. Instead, a "hip pocket" program will be kept on call to use if a program is unexpectedly short. Also, our August meeting will have no outside speaker but will be conducted solely by members.

Therefore, I am looking for members to volunteer to give a talk in August on something you know about that would benefit the general membership. The talk should be from 10 to 20 minutes. Possible subjects include:

1. Documentation/filing of source information,
2. GEDCOM files – Genealogical Data Communication (data exchange between computer programs,
3. Your genealogical software (e.g., PAF, Family Treemaker, Roots, etc.),
4. Data sources (genealogical societies, Internet, library, interviews, etc.),
5. Using the Census and Soundex,

6. Data organization – useful forms,
7. Document scanning for insertion into computer database and for printing,
8. Document archival,
9. Julian Calendar vs. Gregorian Calendar,
10. Ahnentafel charts,
11. Useful websites, and
12. Adoptions – search for birthparents or birthchildren.

These are only some of the possible subjects. If you have another idea for a talk or would be willing to talk on one of the above subjects, please contact Nate Grimes at nategeneal@aol.com or call 281-990-0644.

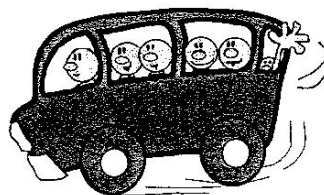
Trip to Clayton Library

By Jeanine Lawrence

The society's next trip to Clayton Library will be Thursday, April 11th. University Baptist Church allows us to use their vans for the trip to Clayton. We leave from the church parking lot at 9:00 AM and return by 4:00 PM. You may reserve a seat on the van by signing up at the March meeting or by calling me at 281-334-6100.

Trips to the library have been scheduled through August so put the following dates on your calendar: May 9th, June 13th, July 11th, and August 8th.

If you have never researched your family,



there are many experienced people who are willing to help you. Come join us for a fun trip.



March

Committee News Continued



Member Updates

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 will let us know of those who are experiencing illness or loss. Please encourage and support these fellow members:

Condolences to: Ron Hesel on the loss of his wife, Anna May Hesel.

Illness or surgery: Marilyn Hughes, the daughter of Ned and Wanda Yelverton.

In Memoriam: Anna May Hesel, charter member of Bay Area Genealogical Society, February 24, 2002.

If you know 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, contact Tammy Frey at tfrey99@hotmail.com or 281-286-1486.

County Coordinator Plans Research Trips by Nancy M. Irle

We have two people working to find ways for you to reach the library without driving in the Houston traffic. Check the dates and sign up to spend the day researching at the Clayton Genealogical Library in downtown Houston. Please see Jeanine Lawrence's article for more information.

As County Coordinator for BAGS, I have arranged for East Harris County buses. We have the opportunity for six buses during the next six months. Sign-up sheets will be available at the

meetings. We will leave University Baptist Church at 9:00 am and return about 3:00 pm.

A few restrictions apply to use of Harris County buses. Participants must be 55 years or older. No smoking or alcohol is allowed on the buses. Groups must pay for the driver's admission tickets, meals, and motel rooms.

Now, with that said, I would like to plan some trips to additional destinations that you would like. We can travel as far as Dallas to the north, Baton Rouge to the east, and San Antonio to the west. Some places which have been suggested were: Rosenberg Library in Galveston, George Library in the Rosenberg, Texas Room at the downtown library, State Archives at Liberty, and Wallisville Heritage Library. Give me some feedback on these places or other places you might think of as good research facilities. At any rate, let me hear from you via nan@pointecom.net or call 281-482-8261!

Sign up for all our trips. Save your gas and let the driver handle the stress.

Interested in Honoring Your Confederate Ancestor?

Since a lot of interest was shown during James Reed's program, "Civil War Research", at our February general meeting, some of you may be interested in becoming a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Several members of BAGS are already members of the UDC and are willing to assist you in documenting your Confederate ancestor. For more information, please contact Carolyn Farmer at 281-480-6419 or email cafarmers@houston.rr.com.

Six Months Review of Society

By Jeanine Lawrence

The Bay Area Genealogical Society was organized in 2001 with our first meeting in September with fifty-five people present. The new officers were installed. Mary Ann Vaca, from Commissioner Jim Fontano's office, gave an overview of ways Harris County could benefit the society. Elizabeth Ellis, President of the Baytown Genealogical Society, was welcomed as a guest. In September, Stephanie Struby started a website for the organization.

In October, Terry-Smith Bowers, District Representative for the State Genealogical



**Research Trip to Clayton Library in
February 2002 Church**

Society, spoke on the advantages of belonging to state and national organizations. Guest speaker Donald Pusch explained the new 1880 US Census on CD-ROM. There were seventy-three present. That month, Carole Varnado, Kay Cherry, and Linda Carrington put out our first newsletter and members attended the State Genealogical Convention in Tyler, Texas.

Mark Lambert, Archivist, presented a program about "Preserving Family Papers and

Artifacts" at our November meeting with sixty-two present.

In December, President Carolyn Hellen was asked to be guest speaker at the Baytown Genealogical Society. At the BAGS December meeting, "Getting to Know You" was the theme of our holiday dinner held in lieu of the regular meeting. Members dressed in costume entertained the audience of seventy-five plus by portraying their ancestors. Resa Hennings distributed our first Quarterly.

Bruce Krewinghaus gave an interesting talk in January, 2002, on "How Atlases and Maps can Help in Genealogical Research" to the eighty-eight in attendance.

In February, James Reed spoke on "Finding Your Civil War Ancestor" to the eighty-four in attendance at the meeting. Ralph Hall, Nate Grimes, and Tammy Frey began assisting Linda Carrington and Carole Varnado with the newsletter.

Each month, the Hospitality Committee organized members who provided a light repast to all members and guests attending.

There are one hundred sixty-one charter members with the present membership totaling one hundred ninety-two.

The eight officers and nineteen committee chairmen that make up the board meet monthly to formulate plans for the society.

*"If you cannot get rid of the family
skeleton, you may as well make it dance."
By George Bernard Shaw*

Bay Area Genealogical Society Membership Form

If you are interested in joining the Bay Area Genealogical Society, please fill out this form and send it with your check for \$10 for full-time student, \$20 for individual, \$25 for family, or \$30 for businesses and organizations. Make your check payable to **Bay Area Genealogical Society** and send to: Registrar, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447. If you have any questions about the society, please call our president, Carolyn Hellen at 281-486-0406. ☐ Check here for Renewal

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Check It Out



The Texas Genealogy and Family History Fair will be held in Huntsville, Texas on June 22, 2002 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Walker County Genealogical Society is sponsoring this fair at the Walker County Fairgrounds. For registration information, call (936) 295-5551 or 295-9483, go to www.DickensonResearch.com/wcgen.htm, or email info@DickensonResearch.com.

The Sixth Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference in Lufkin, Texas, will be held July 25-27, 2002. For more information contact fkanke@angelina.cc.tx.us or call 1-936-633-5206.

Ever wondered about the origins of your last name? Check out "American Surnames" at www.Genealogy.com/18_smith.html.

If your name originates in Europe, take the free "European Sources" course online at www.Genealogy.com/uni-immi.html#106.

For Genealogy Tips check out www.Genealogy.com/tipspage.html

If you have traced your genealogy back to Tudor England (1485-1603), then check out the website at <http://www.englishhistory.net/tudor.html>.



This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society. All officers are volunteers. Articles on genealogy are most welcome. Inclusion is based on space available and material is subject to editing. Mail to: BAGS, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447 or email to nategeneal@aol.com by the 5th of each month.

Bay Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 891447
Houston, TX 77289-1447



**Deadline for April
Newsletter is
April 5, 2002**

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



Upcoming Events Calendar

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 11, 2002 Trip to Clayton Library, leaves UBC at 9 a.m.
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
May 9, 2002 Trip to Clayton Library, leaves UBC at 9 a.m.
May 13, 2002 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church
May 19, 2002 BAGS General Meeting at 5:30 pm; University Baptist Church
June 13, 2002 Trip to Clayton Library, leaves UBC at 9 a.m.
June 22, 2002 Texas Genealogy and Family History Fair, Huntsville, Texas.
June 24, 2002 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church
June 30, 2002 BAGS General Meeting at 5:30 pm; University Baptist Church