



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

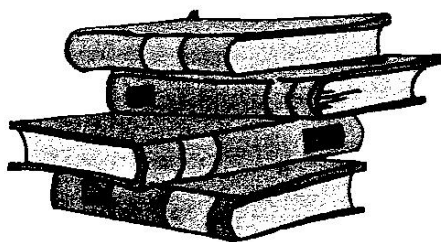
Volume 1, Issue No. 7

April 2002

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### Next Meeting

Date: April 28, 2002  
Time: 5:30 P.M.  
Place: University Baptist Church Great Room  
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston 77059  
Speaker: Marje Harris, Manager, Clayton Library  
Subject: Clayton Library Special Collections

## Clayton Library Manager to Speak at April Meeting By Dick Warren

The Bay Area Genealogical Society is fortunate to have Marje Harris as guest speaker on April 28th. She is the Manager of Clayton Library, which is the genealogical research unit of the Houston Public Library. Her talk will describe special collections that the library has and how to use them.

Not only is she knowledgeable, having obtained a BA in Library Science/Education from the University of North Texas and a Master of Library Science from Texas Woman's University, she is also a very proficient and entertaining speaker. Her credentials are long and varied from being a Genealogical Records Searcher (certified by the Board of Certification of Genealogists) to teaching classes at Rice University's continuing

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## From the President

by Carolyn Hellen



Our guest speaker for April will be Marje Harris, Manager at Clayton Genealogical Library. Marje is an accomplished and entertaining

speaker. She has been with the Houston Public Library System for 26 years and at Clayton for 21 of those years. Marje has followed the growth of Bay Area Genealogical Society since its beginning and asks about it often.

The attendance at the March meeting was the lowest we've had so far. I hope you will all make a special effort to attend the April meeting to welcome Marje, show her how well we are doing, and how much we have grown. I imagine the beautiful spring weather has many of you working in the yard, out in your boat, visiting the parks, taking a drive, etc., but stop early on the 28th, so you can hear Marje speak.

The Baytown Historical and Genealogical Society has also been a great supporter of BAGS. You will remember that the president and several others attended our first meeting to welcome us. Now they have donated a microprint reader to the society. I hope we will be able to place it in the library at the University Baptist Church until we have a home of our own. As Robert de

Berardinis said at the last meeting, getting microprint is inexpensive and sometimes free.

Speaking of Robert, he did an excellent job of showing us how to research on the World Cat database, which is available through the library system. If you did not receive a copy of the handouts, call Dick Warren at 281-461-1472 and ask him to bring you a copy at the next meeting.

We are working on our cookbook. Please bring your favorite recipes and any old photos of people eating to the next meeting. If you did not pick up your quarterly at the last meeting, be sure to pick it up at this next one. The yearbook will also be available at the April meeting, which is another reason for you to attend. It will be so helpful for finding telephone numbers, mailing addresses, and e-mail addresses for our members.

Our seminar on Family Tree Maker is coming up on Saturday, April 27th. The cost is \$30.00 per person. For anyone who would like to attend, please call the Sergeant-at-Arms, Roy Hellen, at 281-486-0406 to register. The society is furnishing dessert and drinks so, if you can help with the seminar, please call Roy.

As you read this, I am in Fairbanks, Alaska, where the temperature is 30 degrees below freezing. See you at the seminar, *Carolyn*

### **BAGS Officers**

|                                    |              |                           |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| President, Carolyn Hellen          | 281-486-0406 | CRHellen@worldnet.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 Sec., 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 | dotcrabb2@juno.com        |
| Historian, Karla Chenault          | 281-282-9805 | karlam@prodigy.net        |
| Registrar, Neil Miserendino        | 281-286-8243 | psrambling@aol.com        |

### **BAGS Newsletter Staff**

Newsletter Chairman, Ralph Hall  
Editor, Nate Grimes  
Assistant Editor, Tammy Frey  
Production, Linda Carrington  
Mailing, Carol Moody  
Consultant, Carole Varnado



## Committee News



### Newsletter Update

by Ralph Hall

Your newsletter committee appreciates the many articles sent for publication. Please keep them coming! We feel the need to explain several things, however.

First, if you are planning to send an article that you have read in print somewhere, be aware that it is probably copyrighted. In layman's terms, that simply means that whoever wrote, printed, or published it has ownership rights to it. It's kind of like a patent or trademark. In order for us to use such material, you must first obtain approval to reprint it from the source. It may be a newspaper, book, newsletter, etc., but we still need their approval. Many sources only want assurance that they will get proper recognition in any reprints. Others may want money! As you may be aware, people are sued over copyright infringements every day. So, again, we cannot use the material if you don't send a written copy of the source approval with it.

Second, regardless of the article type or length you send us, it must be edited for grammar and spelling along with, perhaps, a bit of a rewrite to get it to fit into the space we have available. By no means do we intend to change the purpose or intent of what you have sent, so don't be alarmed if we've had to "massage" your submission a bit!

Thanks again for the interest in your newsletter.

### Hospitality Chairman

by Leslee Fehlman

Many thanks to the following folks for bringing supper to the March 24th meeting:  
Doreen Brubaker, Ann Bullock, Martha Brimester, Nina Connelley, Ann Fogelman, Rosanne Frazier and Gary Garrett.

### Jack Rowe Funeral Home Project

by Jeanine Lawrence

Six society members helped to begin the work of recording information gleaned from the 1958 records of each death the funeral home processed that year. Carolyn Hellen designed the form used to record the data.

The next step will be to transfer the data from the forms into the computer for compiling and printing. In the future, we hope to be able to publish this information and distribute it to libraries and those interested in genealogy.

Jack Rowe Funeral Home is located in League City at 1625 E. Main Street between Hwy. 3 and Hwy. 270.

If you would like to donate a few hours of your time to help record this information, please sign up at the next monthly meeting or call Jeanine Lawrence at 281-334-6100.



*Genealogists never lose their jobs,  
they just go to another branch!*



## Committee News Continued



### Clayton Library Trips

by Jeanine Lawrence

This is a reminder that the next trip to Clayton Library will be Thursday, May 9th. The University Baptist Church allows us to use their vans for these trips, and we greatly appreciate it. 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 next General Meeting on April 28 or by calling me at 281-334-6100.

You may want to put the following dates on your calendar for later trips: June 13, July 11, and August 8. These are great trips! Bring a sack lunch and have a blast from the past!

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### Editor's Corner

by Nate Grimes

The Newsletter Committee met to hash out the duties of each individual and provide a timeline of when each step was to be completed. The purpose was to be able to let other volunteers step in when someone had to be out of town and know what their duties would be and when it had to be done.

To accomplish this, we worked out a timeline that would place the newsletter in the mail in time for the board members to receive it on Friday or Saturday prior to the board meeting which is always on Monday prior to the general monthly meeting. This means that articles for the next month's issue will need to be submitted

to Editor Nate Grimes by the Tuesday or Wednesday following each monthly meeting. The dates from now through September are: 4/30, 5/22, 6/26, 7/24, and 8/28. The timeline included September as a suggestion to the new committee members who will take office then.

Please do not submit your articles to anyone other than Nate Grimes. Doing so causes a delay in getting the newsletter published in a timely manner.

Member Nina Connelley is planning on publishing a Family History book and wants to know how to go about getting it bound and published. Maybe one of you who has been down this road could write an article for the newsletter that addresses that. Or, maybe we could make it a part of the August member participation program and let members bring in their books that they have published. We would appreciate your ideas on this.

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### Message from the VP

By Carolyn Farmer

The surnames received from 37 BAGS members have been submitted for insertion into the Quarterly and put on the BAGS website.

If you have not submitted your surnames to our database, please consider doing it soon! Several family connections have already been made just within the Society. Please refer to previous newsletters for the format.

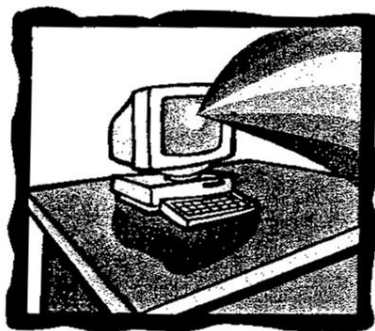
If you have any questions, contact me at 281-480-6419 or [cafarmer@houston.rr.com](mailto:cafarmer@houston.rr.com).

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# Using the Computer in Genealogical Research

By Carolyn Traweek Hellen

In this era of worldwide communication, the computer has become our means for gathering information on a wider scale than ever before thought possible. Now through the use of the Internet, with the click of a button, we can chat with someone or obtain genealogical data from a foreign county as easily as talking to your neighbor.



There is a great deal of genealogical information available on the Internet or, as some people refer to it, the Information Highway. Unfortunately, this highway has become almost as crowded and dangerous as the Houston freeways. The computer can be a most valuable tool when doing research, and it can also be your worst nightmare. Anytime you research and obtain information on the Internet, you should consider it a clue, and you should check, recheck, and prove every fact unless it is from an official agency. Otherwise, years later, you may find yourself at the top of the wrong tree and out on a limb.

If you have a personal computer, you will need a modem (which transforms electronic signals for your computer) and a telephone line that plugs into your computer. You do not need a separate phone line, provided you do not mind tying up your home telephone the entire time you are using the Internet. Because of this reason, many feel that this warrants a separate telephone line. The choice is yours.

One great thing about the Internet is that it is available to everyone, even those who do not own a computer. Almost all public libraries provide computers with an Internet server to the public for their use.

Once you have connected with an Internet company and you start up your program, your opening screen will let you choose an Internet option and then connect you with your server. When your server's page comes into view, you can then choose network sites. You might compare this to a telephone service for your computer screen. You type in an address known as a Web site, and your Internet service connects you to that number or Web site. Once there, the site has a home page that tells you what to do and how to

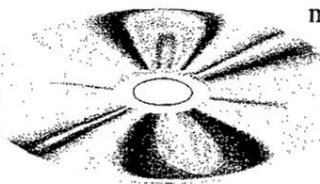
view information files available for you at that site.

You can look for subjects on the Internet by going to a search engine site. You have probably heard of one of the search engine sites such as Yahoo!, Excite, Alta Vista, Cyndi's List, and Infoseek, even if you are a novice. By going to the search command they give you and following the instructions,

you can enter the word "genealogy" and receive a vast number of genealogy sites.

You choose any of those sites by moving your cursor or pointer to that underlined or highlighted site and clicking the mouse. One such site was developed to work with the PBS TV ten-part genealogy "how to do it" series called Ancestors. To access this web site, type: <http://www.kbyu.org/ancestors/>. By linking together libraries and state and federal agencies (including the Library of Congress) with the genealogist, the information is obtained faster and cheaper than the old tried and true method of writing for the information and waiting for an answer that sometimes turns up a person not your ancestor.

Thousands of valuable records or databases are computerized but available only on CD ROM disks. These may be used only on computers with a CD ROM drive. With this drive in the computer, you can look at an incredibly huge collection of records valuable to genealogical research.



This is only the beginning stage of the information revolution. New files become available daily. Fortunately, libraries and Family History Centers have a huge number of CD's that are free for you to use. Clayton Library has a large collection of these CD's and the staff will be happy to show you how to use them and help you understand what you have found.

The Family History Centers of the Mormon Church (also known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) have trained people that encourage the use of their

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## Using the Computer in Genealogical Research Continued

files by helping you learn how to use their computers and the information found on their CD ROM's.

In 2001, they released the complete 1880 Census for the United States. The original 1880 Soundex was done in the early 1930s for the sole reason of determining how



many people would be eligible for Social Security, should it come into being. To save time and money, the Federal Government only Soundexed

families with children under the age of ten (10). If you use the available Soundex and do not know this, you may think that the family you are researching is not on that census. This new 1880 Census includes everyone and is very easy to use.

There are many other CD-ROMs available for your research including:

*Social Security Death Index.* This file contains vital information on over 50 million people who had Social Security numbers and whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration. Most of the information is from 1962-1988, although the files include some data from as early as 1937.

*Military Death Index:* This file lists nearly 100,000 U. S. servicemen and women who died in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, including dates of birth and death as well as residence, place of death, rank and service number.

*Civil War Soldiers:* This massive resource being created now is an index of some 5 million names of soldiers who served in the Civil War, on both sides of the conflict. The National Archives and National Park Service wants the public to be able to enter a soldier's name in the computers at Civil War battle sites and other resource centers and have the computer reveal details about that soldier, his unit, and its battles.



## Clayton Library Manager Continued

education program and Houston Community College.

She continues her education by taking classes from the National Genealogical Society, the Institute for Genealogical Research, the Houston Genealogical Institute, and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. She has also completed the Genealogical Home Study Program through the National Genealogical Society.

Her interests include many patriotic and hereditary societies of which she is a member including: Colonial Dames of America, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Magna Charta Dames, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

Ms. Harris has worked for the Houston Public Library for twenty-six years and has been at Clayton Library for twenty-one of these years. She is very qualified to speak on any subject concerning genealogy or the Library. Other topics she has spoken about include: colonial records of Virginia; introduction to research in England; Afro-American research; immigration, naturalization, and migration; Civil War research; probate records; research in Texas during the time of Spain and Mexico; migration trails; military records; and problem solving techniques.

Please come. If you are a beginner, it will help you get started. If you are experienced, it will help you climb brick walls.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### Who Were the British Home Children?

submitted by Carol Garrett Moody

Most of us do not realize that about 100,000 children from more than 50 British childcare organizations were sent to Canada from 1870 to 1940. These are known as "British Home Children." They were from 4 to 15 years old and were deported to work on farms until they reached the age of 18. Some were allegedly sent to Canada without the parents' knowledge or consent.

There are an estimated four million descendants of these children in Canada today. A Canadian psychologist has started a mailing list for these descendants to help with their research. Check the webpage at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~britishhomechildren/>; *Thanks to the Immigrant Genealogical Society.*

**Deadline for May  
Newsletter is  
April 30, 2002**

**We are on the Web!**

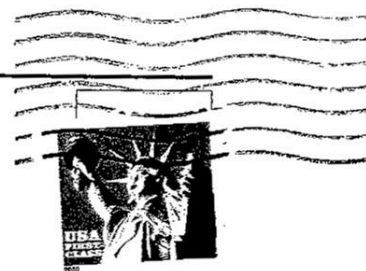
**Check out the BAGS website at:**

**<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txbags/baygen.html>**

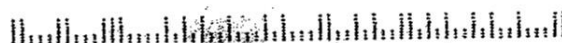


This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society. All officers are volunteers. Articles on genealogy are most welcome. Inclusion is based on space available and material is subject to editing. Mail to: BAGS, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447 or email to [nategeneal@aol.com](mailto:nategeneal@aol.com)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

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## Upcoming Events Calendar

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| April 22, 2002 | BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church    |
| April 27, 2002 | Family Tree Maker Seminar                                   |
| 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 17, 2002  | BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church    |
| June 23, 2002  | BAGS General Meeting at 5:30 pm; University Baptist Church  |
| July 11, 2002  | Trip to Clayton Library, leaves UBC at 9 a.m.               |
| July 15, 2002  | BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church    |
| July 21, 2002  | BAGS General Meeting at 5:30 pm; University Baptist Church  |

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