



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 2, Issue No. 2

October 2002

Breaking Through the Salt Water Curtain

Locating Your Ancestor's Home in Europe

At our October meeting, Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski will speak on researching overseas ancestors. Mr. Von-Maszewski was born and raised in Europe. He received his BA and MA degrees in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. He did additional work in American studies at the University of Colorado and in genealogy through Brigham Young University.

Mr. Von-Maszewski has produced several publications: Index to the Trail Drivers of Texas; The Volkfest in Brenham, Texas; A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47, a translation of the experience of an early German traveler in Texas; German Emigration Ships to New Orleans, 1865-1869; and most recently, Voyage to North America, 1844-45, a translation with notes of Prince Carl of Solms's Texas diary; Solms coordinated the movement of German settlers into Texas and became the founder of New Braunfels. His current project is the translation and compilation of letters and diaries by a group of German-Texans who served in Waul's Texas Legion in the Civil War.

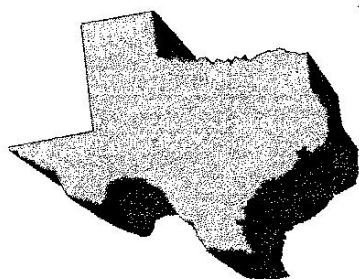
Mr. Von-Maszewski was president of the German-Texan Heritage Society for several terms, and in the year 2000 he was invited to Germany to speak on emigration as well as on the commercial relationship between the port of

Bremerhaven, Germany, and the port of Galveston in the 1800s. Professionally, Mr. Von-Maszewski is a Certified Genealogical Records Searcher (CGRS) and the manager of the Genealogy and Local History Department at George Memorial Library, Richmond, Texas. Mark your calendar and make plans to be at the October meeting to learn from this experienced researcher. This is one you won't want to miss!



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From the President

by Carolyn Traweek Hellen



The things this society can accomplish never cease to amaze me. According to Carolyn Farmer, we now have over 2,000 names in our Surname Database and, as Paul Harvey would say, "now for the rest of the story." Carolyn's committee, Stephanie Struby and Dick Warren have compiled these names into a format that includes your surnames and BAGS ID number. A booklet will be printed with these surnames placed alphabetically in the front. Your name, address, telephone, and ID number, as they appear in the yearbook, will be printed in the back. These booklets will then be sold at the Texas State Genealogical Society in Galveston.

This is a common practice for genealogical societies. It is like sending out a giant query with all of your surnames listed at once. One advantage is that someone who is also researching your family may contact you. Who knows, someone else may have that vital link that you need, or you may have the name of a grandfather they have been searching years to find. If for any reason you do not want your name and surnames printed in the booklet, please contact me immediately. The booklet will go to press within the week.

When you turn in your five-generation chart, will you please pencil on the back the name you are known by in the society? This is especially important for

charts that begin with a woman's maiden name. Do not write on the front; just write it in pencil on the back.

Do you have a filing cabinet in your garage or attic that you don't use? We need one in which to store genealogical files. It will be kept in the church library until we have a permanent home. Please let me know if you have one to donate.

We will be selling subscriptions to *Family History Magazine* at the October meeting. The cost of the subscription is \$28.95 per year. Thirty percent of the subscription price will be donated to our society. Samples of the magazine will be available. There will also be a few copies of the new *Handy Book for Genealogists* for sale.

Our society will have a table at the Texas State Genealogical Society Convention on November 2nd where we will be giving away our brochure and free pencils. We will also be selling our **surname book** and *Family History Magazine* subscriptions. **Help is needed!** If you aren't registering for the convention, but would like to come to Galveston and work at the booth for a couple of hours, please give me a call.

Members of the society are meeting the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of each month to work on scrapbooks. If you're interested in scrapbooking, even if you've never before attempted it, join us at 6:30 pm in the room across from our usual meeting room to find out what it

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BAGS Officers

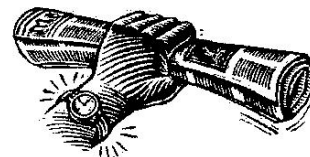
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Distribution, Linda Coltharp, Flo Cox, and Donna Maloney



Committee News



Hospitality Committee

Leslie Fehlman, Chairman

Our thanks to the following people who brought refreshments and greeted the guests and members coming to the September meeting: Rosanne Frazier, Ann Davidson, Oleta Teas, Joanne Truman, Delores White and Jean Ponder. Thanks for the recipes. We still need the "Pot Luck" recipes for our cookbook. Please put them in the *Hospitality* bag.

Member Updates

Tammy Frey, Chairman

Thanks to those of you who have made us aware when one of our members is in need of support and encouragement. Please keep these fellow members in mind: *Illness or surgery*: Stephanie Struby, Marilyn Hughes, Nancy Irle, Katie and Ray Merritt; *Serious illness in family*: Shirley Lindquist.

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: tfrey99@hotmail.com or 281-286-1486.

Yearbook Chairman Report

Joanne Truman, Chairman

We are in the process of updating the yearbook. We will be adding pages with names and addresses of new members and also our list of speakers and topics for the coming year. As the project stands now, we will ask everyone to turn in their yearbooks, and I will take them apart and add the new pages. The books will then be returned to their owners. Our other option is to distribute the new pages and let members insert them into their books themselves. Comments on this project are welcome.

The Quarterly

Resa Hennings, Chairman

There is some confusion about the "Surname Index" that appears at the end of each of our quarterlies. The index is a list of the surnames that were mentioned in the articles in that particular issue of the *Quarterly*. Many of our members seem to think the **Quarterly Surname Index** has something to do with the Surname Database that our Society is compiling. It does not--they are two separate things--one has nothing to do with the other. One is an index to the *Quarterly*, the other is a listing of our members' ancestors.

The next issue of the *Quarterly* will be distributed at our December meeting. Please send me your queries, original articles, family histories, etc., to be included to: Resa Hennings, 439 Bayou View Drive, El Lago, Texas 77586; or email to: resa@resa.us.

From the President

Continued from Page 2

is all about. If you would like help getting started, bring half a dozen pictures of a single event with you.

The church's chef will again cater our holiday party in December, unless you have another idea. Dick Warren is trying to get a committee together to plan the event and really needs your help. One thing different is that you will be encouraged to bring a gift for our society, so please start thinking now about what you could bring. Read more about this in another article on page 6. So much to say and so little space to say it!

See you at the next meeting!

Carolyn

The Five-Generation Chart, Part II

by Neil Miserendino

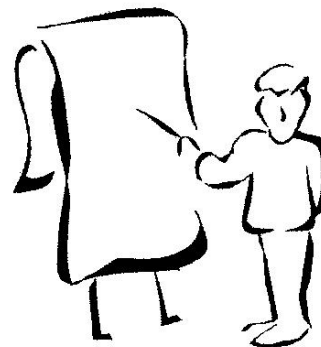
All of the members of BAGS have been asked to provide a five-generation family chart. This is the second article in a series about this project. In this installment, I will list the most common geographical areas in which members need help researching.

According to the five-generation charts that have already been submitted, the most common state where members have ancestors on which they do not have enough information is Alabama. The next most common states that contain missing ancestors are Georgia, Texas, Ohio, New York, Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

By looking at the five-generation charts for countries in which members need help locating

missing ancestors, I have identified the top four. Those four countries are Germany, England, Ireland and Canada.

Depending on the space available for the next installment of this series, I will write about how we can research in Alabama, and which members are researching in that state. If you wish to be included in that list, then remember you have less than one month to submit your five-generation chart before I write the next article.



Houston Area League of Personal Computer Users

Clear Lake is fortunate to have a satellite center for HAL-PC. You are able to take computer classes without having to fight the downtown traffic. All Clear Lake classes are "hands-on," with one student per computer. They are held at the Clear Lake office located at 400 Medical Center Blvd., Suite 200, in Webster. Classes at beginner and intermediate levels are offered which are geared to the senior adult and/or first time user. Every class you take is only \$10.00, but you must first join HAL-PC.

The cost of membership is \$40.00. This buys you a beautiful monthly magazine and the use of their

facilities and teachers. It also entitles you to the unlimited HALNET Internet service for a modest \$10.00 per month. Some of you are paying \$20.00 to \$40.00 per month to use the internet.



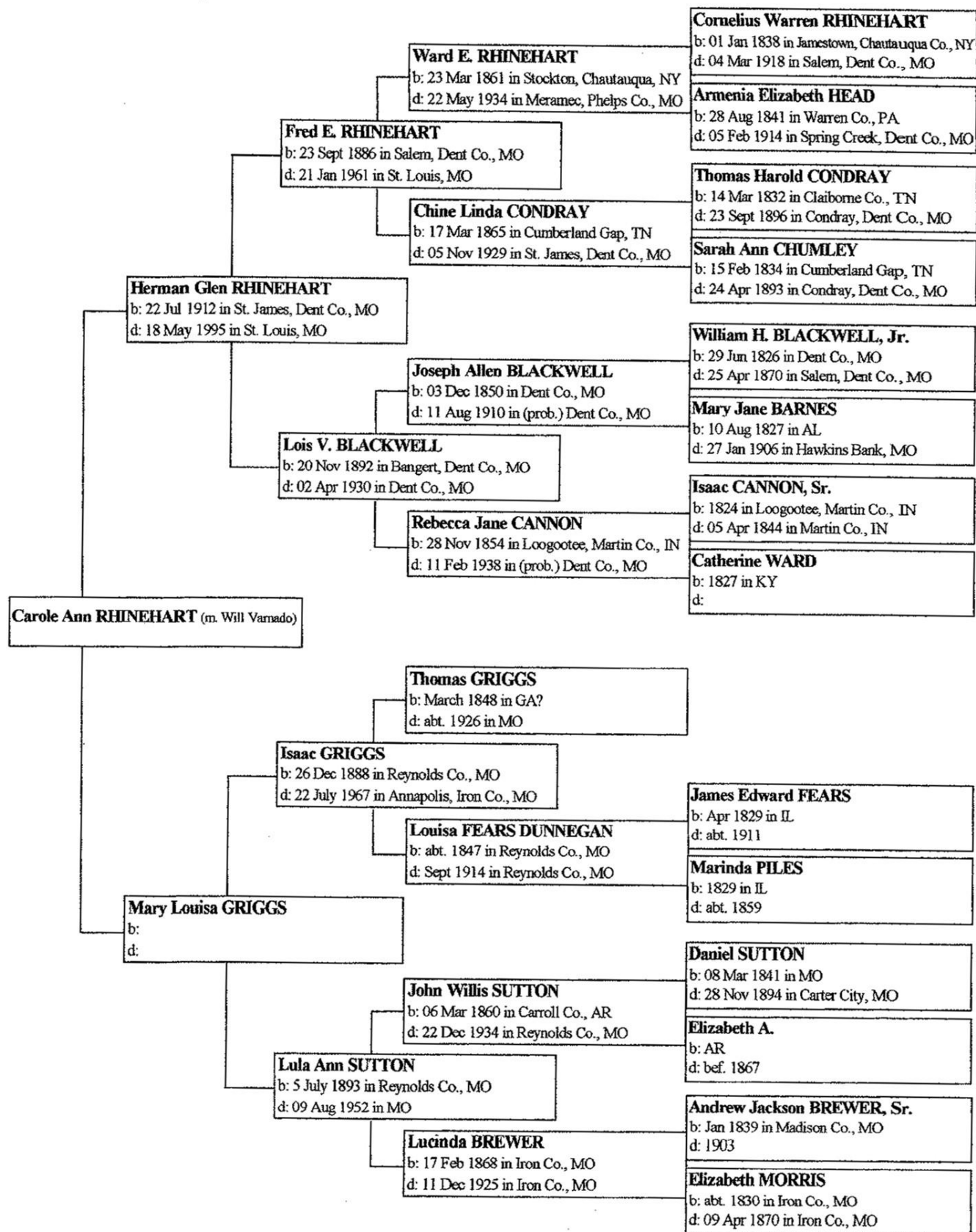
After you have shown proficiency in the use of the computer, courses are available in File Management I and II, Keyboards, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, and more detailed classes in PrintShop Digital Imaging and Digital Camara, Introduction to the Internet I and II, and Web Page Design.

HAL-PC has won awards nationwide for its user group, technical excellence, and magazine. For more information on how to become a part of this organization, call the office at 281-326-0768. Be sure to mention Bay Area Genealogical Society.

Helpful Web Address

At our last meeting, Gay Carter shared her knowledge with us about the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* and how this finding aid can help genealogists. For those of you who did not get the web address, it is:
www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html.

Ancestors of Carole Ann RHINEHART (Varnado)



Include BAGS When You Are Holiday Shopping

by Carolyn Hellen

Ground will soon be broken for the new library scheduled to be built in Clear Lake City. We are working to see that a section is reserved for genealogical research and to this end we have plans.

Many of you have files, papers, books, and other genealogical material that you could copy and give to the society, copyright permitting. At our holiday party, members will tell what present they are giving to BAGS as part of the program. You might pick an ancestor whose birth date you would like to commemorate and tell something about that ancestor. You do not have to wait until December to give your present. Just make a

note and share with us at the party what gift you have donated. If you would rather not be a part of the program, just inform the committee what you are giving so a list can be read.

The first item we need is a filing cabinet. Vertical files will be set up for all loose papers, and everything you give will be placed in this cabinet. All items will be stamped with "Bay Area Genealogical Society," or you may place a bookplate on the inside cover. The church has generously donated a portion of its library for our use until a permanent location is available. If you have not visited it please do so.



This 'n That

Is This Your Last Newsletter?

If you have not renewed your membership by the end of October, this will be your last newsletter. According to the bylaws, "any member whose dues remain unpaid at the last day of October will be dropped from the membership rolls." Don't miss out! Don't delay! Send in your membership renewal *today*. See the renewal form on page 7 for details.

2003 Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society Conference

from Dottie Crabb

The Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society will host a conference on April 25-26, 2003. The purpose of the conference is a joint celebration of the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase and of the 50th anniversary of the LGHS. Topics will cover pre-colonial and colonial history of Louisiana and genealogical topics. For more information on this conference, go to www.rootsweb.com/~la-lghs/.

Book Tip

from Leslee Fehlman

The Scotch Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania by Wayland F. Dunaway is the most authoritative and readable history of the topic and indispensable to the genealogist. It outlines the circumstances behind the settlement of the Lowland Scots of Ulster, their life in that province for two or three generations, and the reasons for their immigration to the new world. It also traces their migratory movements from PA through the Great Valley of VA to the Carolinas and GA.

Hot Tip for Inexpensive Computer

from Carolyn Hellen

Wal-Mart and Microtel Computer Systems have put together an inexpensive, basic home computer for Internet use, office applications, etc. It will retail for just under \$200. For more information on this system, check with your local Wal-Mart or see the October 4th article by John R. Delaney in *PC Magazine*.

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: _____

My Favorite Websites

By Joanne Truman

These are some of my very favorite websites for finding things when doing genealogy research. See what you can find and then check the next newsletter issue for more.

1. **www.google.com** Google is my online Wal-Mart. I give them first shot at everything. You can do a search for historical events, an individual's name, a race or culture, or anything you can think of, even recipes, if you are so inclined.

2. **www.glorerecords.blm.gov/** This site is very good for searching land records, and you can print a copy of the certificate from the screen. It does not have the original 13 colonies but still a good website.

3. **www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm** This one is very good for searching for an individual in a certain state or county or doing a search on a subject like "marriage records".

4. **www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton/** This one is for Clayton's card catalog AND film holdings. I check it all the time, print out the pages for what I'm interested in and take them to Clayton with me.

Upcoming Events Calendar

Oct. 21, 2002 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church
Oct. 27, 2002 BAGS General Meeting at 5:00 pm; University Baptist Church
Oct. 30, 2002 BAGS Work Day at 3:30 pm; University Baptist Church
Nov 1-2, 2002 Texas State Genealogical Society Conference in Galveston, Texas
Nov. 18, 2002 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church
Nov. 24, 2002 BAGS General Meeting at 5:00 pm; University Baptist Church
Dec. 23, 2002 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church
Dec. 29, 2002 BAGS General Meeting at 5:00 pm; University Baptist Church

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Next Meeting

Date: October 27, 2002
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: University Baptist Church Great Room
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston
Speaker: Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski
Subject: Breaking Through the Salt Water Curtain:
Locating Your Ancestor's Home in Europe

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 submissions to: BAGS, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447 or email to tfrey99@hotmail.com.

We are on the Web!

Check out the BAGS website at:

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



Deadline for
November Issue is
Nov. 2, 2002