



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 2, Issue No. 3

November 2002

De Berardinis to Speak on Land Records

We are again fortunate to have Robert de Berardinis as guest speaker on November 24th. His subject is one that many look forward to hearing about: Land Records.

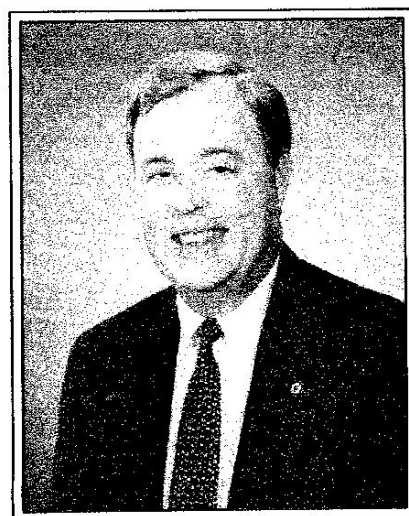
Mr. de Berardinis is an example of a true friend in the Clayton Library Friends organization. Marje Harris, Manager of Clayton Library, said, "Without his expertise, it would be very difficult for us to acquire some of the foreign records. We are very lucky to have him." He speaks both French and old French and is working closely with the Spanish Consulate to acquire the Le Gajos also known as the Cuban Papers. The papers have nothing to do with Cuba but are called this because they are documents of the Spanish government that were stored in Cuba for safekeeping during the turbulent times of war. They will be invaluable for research once they are received. Among the many records de Berardinis has helped acquire for Clayton Library are the English and Welsh Vital Records from 1837-1930. He is currently serving his second term as a director of Clayton Library Friends.

An avid genealogist, he has written four books: *Index to French Superior Council Records; French Officials, Officers and Soldiers 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 has authored over 60 articles that have been printed in state and national genealogical publications. In addition to his writing, de Berardinis has lectured in five states on French and Spanish language genealogy.

The meeting will be at University Baptist Church and will begin at 5:00 pm. Make plans now to attend and bring a friend.

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From the President

by Carolyn Traweek Hellen



As you read this, I will be sitting on the verandah of my 1829 plantation home in Alabama with a cup of tea, watching the turkeys waddle by and visiting my "stuff." I will be

thinking of you and all that is going on with the society and of how fortunate we are to have such enthusiastic members and volunteers. Without you, this society would cease to exist. First Vice President Resa Hennings will conduct this month's meeting. If you have announcements you would like to have made, contact her at resa@resa.us.

We learned a lot about German records at the last meeting and were fortunate to have Wolfram Von-Maszewski as a speaker. After all he told us about the George Memorial Library in Richmond, I would love to get a group together to visit it. If you are interested, let me know.

The workday last month was so successful that I had trouble distributing the work fast enough. A special thanks to Mary Carlisle, Polly and Doug Wilson, Flo Cox, Leslee Fehlman, Carolyn Farmer, Neil Miserendino, Resa Hennings, Oletia and Bill Teas, Joy Foster, Wanda Yelverton, Leo Waltz, and Roy Hellen for their participation.

The Texas State Genealogical Conference in Galveston had some very interesting speakers. We did very well with our booth, selling the *Handy Book for Genealogists* and magazine subscriptions to the *Family History Magazine*. If you haven't ordered

yours yet, be sure to bring your checkbook to the next meeting. We only have until December 15th to get all our orders in at the current sale prices. The *Handy Books* are only \$49.95. They were selling for \$62.50 at the conference. If you already have one, plan on getting another for a special Christmas gift. The magazine subscriptions are \$28.95 for one year, plus you get a bonus magazine when you subscribe. The subscriptions are usually \$41.60 per year or \$6.95 per magazine. The society gets to keep \$8.95 for each subscription we sell. Everton Publishers have been extremely helpful to us as a society.

I hope all you seamstresses have your sewing machines down and are getting ready for this year's Gay Nineties Holiday Party. There is more about the party in a separate article. See you at the December meeting after I finish visiting my "stuff."

Carolyn

HAL-PC Guest Speaker

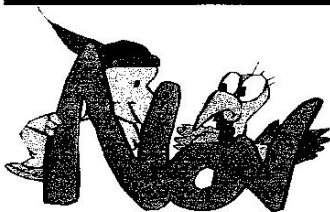
Our new web master Leo Waltz will be the guest speaker at HAL-PC's next general computer special interest group on Friday November 22nd. "The Life of a Web Master" will be his topic. You are all invited to this monthly program which is held the 4th Friday of each month at 9:30am at 450 Medical Center Blvd. in Webster, Texas. If you would like to learn more about websites or being a web master be sure and attend.

BAGS Officers

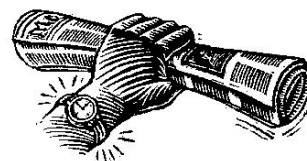
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Committee News



The Quarterly

Resa Hennings, Chairman

The Quarterly is in need of original articles, research tips, family histories, anecdotes, and queries. We especially need queries!! Please send your material to me at 439 Bayou View Drive, El Lago, Texas 77586 or by e-mail: resa@resa.us.

Surname Database Published

Carolyn Farmer, Surname Database Chairman

The first edition of the BAGS Surname Database has been published, and it is quite an accomplishment for our first year. The membership can be proud of their first major project. There were 2,142 surnames submitted for publication. The surname books were taken to the Texas Genealogical Society Convention in Galveston on November 1st and 2nd to be sold.

I would like to recognize and thank the following BAGS members who assisted with compiling the surname information: Neil Miserendino, Stephanie Struby, Carolyn Hellen, and Dick Warren. Members who assisted in the final assembling of the book were: Bill and Oletia Teas, Roy Hellen, Leo Waltz, Ron Cox, Polly and Doug Wilson, Dick Warren, Carolyn Hellen, and myself.

The first edition of the BAGS Surname Database will be available for purchase at the November 24th meeting for \$5.00 each. Get yours early as only 200 copies were printed this time.

Again, I want to thank everyone who contributed surnames and all the members who helped put the book in the hands of researchers. This project will continue so please keep contributing your "new" surnames to me for a second edition in the future.

Holiday Party

Dick Warren, Chairman

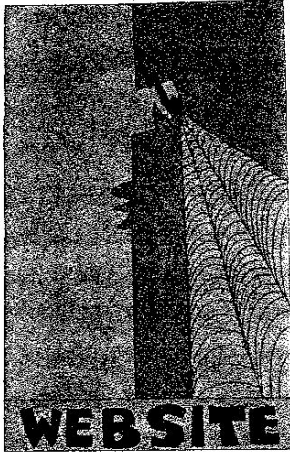
This year's **holiday party** will be held December 29th at University Baptist Church at 5:00 PM with a **Gay Nineties** theme. The cost for the evening will be \$10.00 per person, which will include food and entertainment. We will begin taking reservations and payments at the November meeting or call Jeanine Lawrence at 281-334-6100 by December 20th.

The 1890's period of our ancestry will be highlighted with costumes, food, decorations, and entertainment from that era. Members are invited to come in costume, dressed as one of their ancestors or perhaps as the occupation of one of their ancestors. The Gay Nineties theme may suggest some other mode of dress to you. Contact Ron or Lynda Cox at 281-332-3290 for locations of costume rental stores in this area, make your own costume, or borrow one from a friend. However, you are not required to wear a costume.

Joanne Truman is in charge of table decorations, and needs members to volunteer to decorate a table. There will be between 12 and 16 tables. If you are willing to volunteer to decorate one of these tables, contact Joanne at 281-326-2079. You can use your favorite antiques, musical instruments, flowers, clothing, or any other items that suggest that era.

Food chairman Wanda Yelverton is planning an 1890's menu. If you have a favorite recipe from that time, or any suggestions, please contact her at 281-326-2079.

Contact any one of the holiday committee members to volunteer or to offer suggestions. The committee is composed of Flo Cox, Leslee Fehlman, Lynda and Ron Cox, Joanne Truman, Oletia and Bill Teas, Polly and Doug Wilson, Resa Hennings, and Wanda Yelverton. We hope to see you there!



More of My Favorite Websites

By Joanne Truman

These are some more of my very favorite websites for finding things when doing genealogy research. Good luck with them. (Numbers 1 to 4 were in the October issue.)

5. www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlcl/pld/statelib.html This website is a base for links to all the state libraries in the USA.

6. www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/ This one is for the Texas Handbook Online and is very good for Texas research.

7. www.geocities.com/~colony/colony.html This site covers Colonial Louisiana History and Genealogy. Good site with links to various Louisiana history websites.

8. www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html This is the website for the Illinois State Archives Databases. It has marriage records from 1763 -1900, death records from 1916 -1960, Illinois State Land sales records and much more. You may want to search for a similar website for your state(s).

9. www.uq.net.au/~zzmgrinl/abbrev.html This is a website that has abbreviations used in genealogy. Nice little page - worth printing and saving.

10. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/rrhtml/rrhome.html> This website has railroad history and maps. This is a good site from the Library of Congress.

Committee News



Continued

County Bus Program

Nancy Irle, County Coordinator

Please update your calendar with these additional BAGS trips on the East Harris County Buses: **Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2003 - Rosenberg Archives and Library in Galveston, and Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2003 - State Archives and Library in Liberty.** Both depart from the Clear Lake Courthouse Annex at 9:00am.

If you have any questions or wish to join the fun, research, and inexpensive travel, please contact Nancy Irle at 281-482-8261.

BAGS member Shirley Reynolds showing pictures of her great, great, grandparents in a book found at Clayton Library.



Shirley Reynolds' great, great, grandparents John R. and Mary Clark



The Five Generation Chart, Part 3

by Neil Miserendino

This month, I will suggest research resources that need to be consulted to find our missing ancestors. I have found that many members are missing information about ancestors needed to complete their five-generation ancestor chart. The state that is number one in missing ancestors is Alabama.

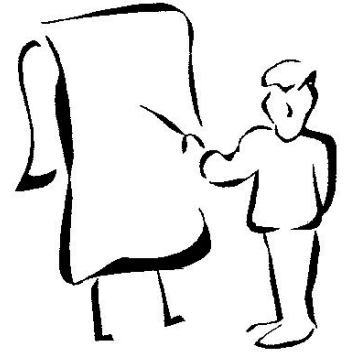
While it is generally considered that the federal census records for Alabama started with the 1830 census, some residents of Alabama were enumerated earlier as part of the Mississippi Territory. From 1811 to 1839 (excluding the years 1820 and 1830), indexes for Alabama are published in book form. Alabama state and territorial census records exist for the years 1816, 1818, 1820, 1831, 1850, 1855, 1866, and 1880. These indexes and state census records should not be overlooked.

The multi-volume book, *Alabama Records*, by Kathleen Paul Jones and Pauline Jones Gandrud and *Early Alabama Marriages, 1810-1850* (San Antonio, Family Adventures 1991) are among the highest-rated genealogical books about Alabama. Other records that are easily accessible to our members are the many directories of the heads of households that were published for the major cities in Alabama.

Here is a list of the BAGS members who are researching in Alabama: Mic Barnette, Mary

Brandhorst, Anne
Barnes Brown, Gay E.
Carter, Mary Anne
Clingan, Linda
Coltharp, Richard
Coltharp, Ginger
Compton, Flora C.
Cox, Glen Cress, Ruby
L. Cubley, Ann Davidson, Gloria Dupuy, Lawana
Ermel, Leslee Fehlman, Rosanne Frazier, Tammy
Frey, Douglas Fullilove, Camille Glazer, Nathan
Grimes, Ralph Hall, Joy Hampton, Ann Hausinger,
Carolyn Hellen, Resa Hennings, Elizabeth Hicks, Joan
Marie Homann, Marilyn Hughes, Nancy Irle, Cindy
Jones, John Kling, Jeanine Lawrence, Donna Maloney,
Billy C. Mayo, Kathleen McConathy, Katie Merritt,
Dianah Miller, Barbara Moore, Kathryn Morrow,
Lorna E. Nelson, Carole O'Neal, Pat Overby, Neva
Owen, Paula Perkins Parke, Mary E. Pearson, Jean
Ponder, Marilyn Proctor, Betty Ratcliff, Jo Roberts,
Paula Sinning, Oletia B. Teas, Diane Thompson,
Joanne Truman, Carole Varnado, Dick Warren, Gwen
Munch Welch, Carole A. Whatley, Delores White, and
Wanda Yelverton.

You may want to share your experiences and help each other to find more about your Alabama ancestors.

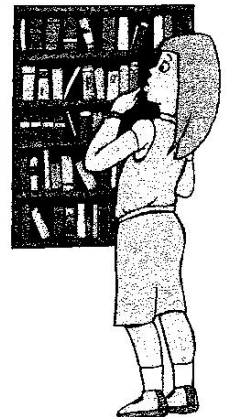


Let's Plan a Research Trip to Salt Lake City

by Nancy M. Irle

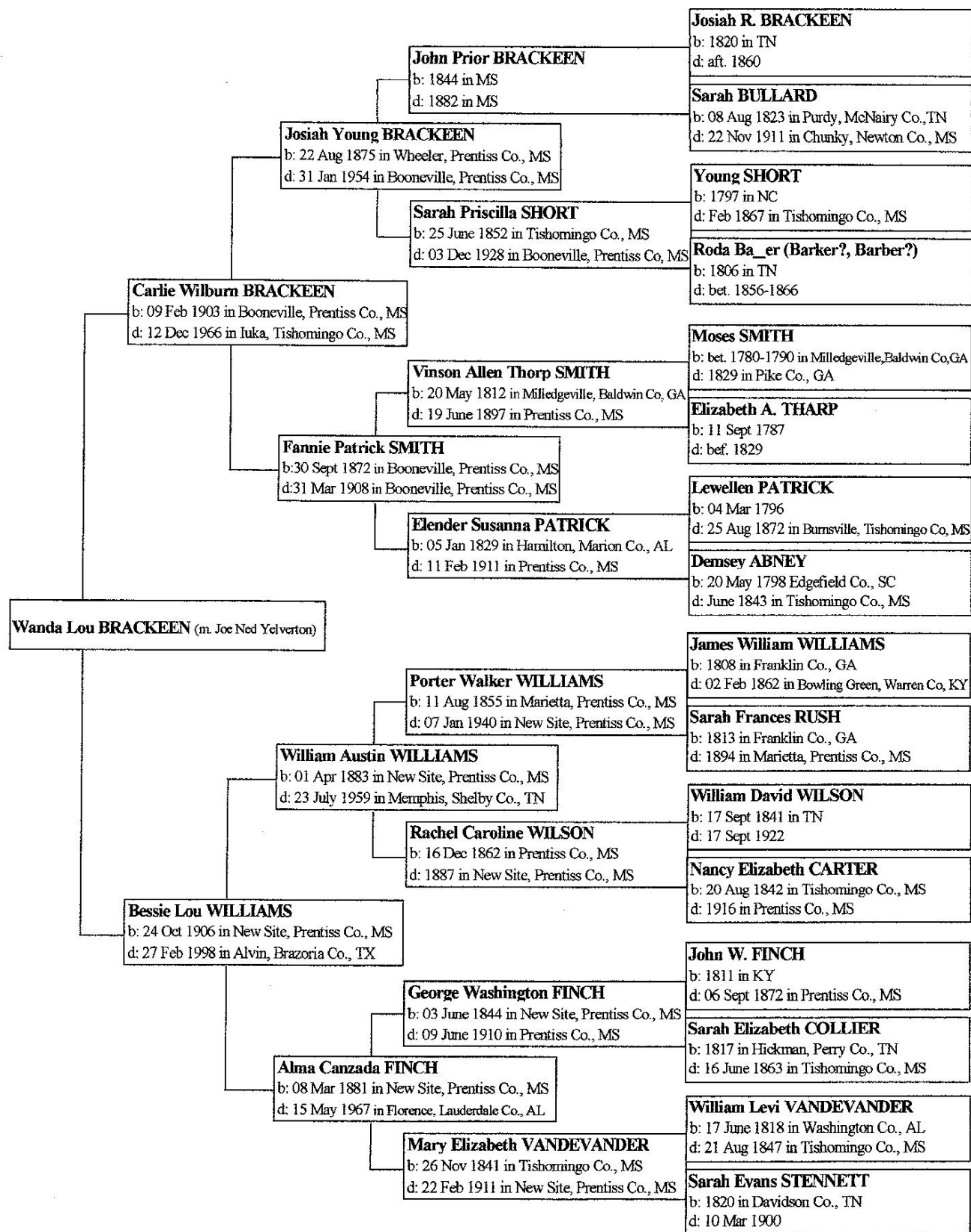
I have just recently returned from a wonderful seven-day trip to Salt Lake City with a genealogy group from the Humble area. We had very reasonable group rates for our airline tickets and for the hotel. For you who have not been to Salt Lake City, it is beautiful. It has very clean, large streets and convenient transportation. The Best Western Hotel is about 30 steps from the library entrance. Several nice

restaurants are within easy walking distance of the hotel. Besides the library, there are many sites to see. Temple Square is beautiful with many, many flowers and statues for you to enjoy. Many of our group



Continued on Page 7

Ancestors of Wanda Lou BRACKEEN (Yelverton)



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: _____

Let's Plan A Trip Continued From Page 5

attended the Mormon Tabernacle Choir Practice on Thursday evening.

The research opportunities at the library were outstanding. From Wednesday through Saturday, I averaged about 6-7 hours a day. I found information I had been researching for the last 4 years at the drop of a pencil. The volunteers in the library make researching pleasant. They are truly there to serve and wander around the floors at your beck and call. Their service is invaluable. I returned to Houston tired, but

rich with treasures I had acquired about my past.

This trip was a wonderful opportunity for the Humble group. I would like to see our group put together a similar trip, perhaps in late April or early May. Is there anyone who would be interested in a trip of this sort with BAGS? I would love to have feedback from members of our society. My email address is nan@pointecom.net and my phone number is 281-482-8261. Let me hear from you and give me your thoughts on a trip.

Upcoming Events Calendar

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
Jan. 20, 2003 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church
Jan 26, 2003 BAGS General Meeting at 5:00 pm; University Baptist Church
Feb. 15, 2002 Expanding Your Research Skills Seminar at Univ. Baptist Church
Feb.17, 2002 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church

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Carolyn Traweek Hellen
1806 Fairwind
Houston, TX 77062

Next Meeting

Date: November 24, 2002
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: University Baptist Church Great Room
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston
Speaker: Robert de Berardinis
Subject: Land Records

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
December Issue is
Dec. 7, 2002**