



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 2, Issue No. 9

May 2003

Merry Olde England: How To Get There From Here

We are fortunate to have Marje Harris, Manager at Clayton Genealogy Library, as guest speaker for our May meeting. Her presentation will deal with English research, a topic of much interest to many of us.

For those of you who have previously heard Marje speak, you know that she does a great job. She has taught classes at Rice University's continuing education program and at Houston Community College and is skilled at communicating her extensive knowledge in an interesting way.

Marje's wide range of knowledge has been gained through experience and through her education. She obtained a Master of Library Science degree from Texas Woman's University and a BA in Library Science/Education from the University of North Texas. 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 completed the Genealogical Home Study Program through the National Genealogical Society. Her credentials include being certified as a Genealogical Records Searcher.

In addition to her work in a genealogy library, Marje has a personal interest in genealogy. She is a member of many patriotic and hereditary societies such as: Colonial Dames of America, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Magna Carta Dames, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.



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From the President

by Carolyn Traweek Hellen



I hope all of you now have your genealogy artifacts and papers in an acid-free environment after that great talk on preservation at the last meeting.

It was informative as well as helpful in explaining what to do with the things we want to save for future generations.

Speaking of preservation, that is exactly what I have been doing for the past several months, working to preserve our home and heritage in Alabama. The house was built in 1829. Stabilizing a 174 year old home is a work in progress. No matter what you do, something else rears its head to remind you to take care of it as well.

As with most homes of that era, the kitchen and dining area were separated from the rest of the house. They eventually built a walkway from the house to the kitchen. The well was adjacent to the walk. I remember my mother bathing me in a #10 washtub on the walkway next to the well. As the generations passed, they screened in the porch, then walled it in, and finally covered the inside with knotty pine paneling and the outside with siding. Unfortunately, no one ever took a level to the floor. They simply worked with what they had.

The contractor determined that there was a six inch drop from the back of the original house to

the kitchen and dining area, which made the sofas and other furniture in the walkway area sit at an angle. I didn't like looking into the kitchen from this "new" area that had no name (den, porch, sitting area??), so I decided to change it.

I had the workmen put up sheet rock and a huge picture window. I'm sure you know how expensive hired labor is, and with Roy in Houston, I had to pay five workmen as much as \$18.00 per hour. That is still cheap by Houston standards, but expensive by my checkbook standards! After they left at 5:00 each evening, I would spend my time nailing down plywood, filling the nail indentations in the sheet rock with joint compound, and generally trying to do as much as possible before they returned the next day because I work really, really cheap!

Our home is located in Monterey, Alabama, about five miles from Forest Home. Downtown Forest Home consists of a post office. Monterey consists of a store that used to sell a few groceries until the owners died. It is now closed, but there is a working drink machine still on the porch outside. The nearest place to get a meal is twenty miles away, so I wound up cooking for all the workmen, and one of them even brought his two kids. Most of you know that Roy and I eat out

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BAGS Officers

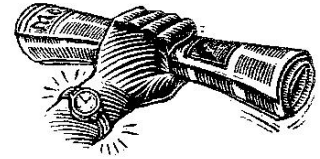
President, Carolyn Hellen	281-486-0406	CRHellen@worldnet.att.net
1st Vice President, Resa Hennings	281-326-4936	resa@resa.us
2nd Vice President, Dick Warren	281-461-1472	dick@merlins-web.com
Corresponding Sec., Tammy Frey	281-286-1486	tfrey99@hotmail.com
Treasurer, Dottie Crabb	281-326-4076	dotcrabb2@juno.com
Registrar, Neil Miserendino	281-286-8243	psrambling@aol.com

BAGS Newsletter Staff

Managing Editor, Tammy Frey
Layout, Linda Carrington
Proofreader, Carole Varnado
Distribution, Linda Coltharp, Flo
Cox, and Donna Maloney

May

Committee News



Hospitality

Leslee Fehlman, Chairperson

The following members brought refreshments to the April 27th meeting: Ann Hausinger, Marilyn Chapman, Martha Fetterman, Douglas Fullilove, Jane Murtishaw, Carole Varnado, Ruby Cubley, and Dick Warren. The food was delicious and very much appreciated. Thanks!!

In Sympathy

One of our members, Nina Connelley, recently suffered the loss of her mother. Our thoughts, prayers, and heartfelt sympathy are with her during this time.

Quarterly

Resa Hennings, Editor

Please submit your original articles, research tips, family histories, anecdotes, and queries for publication in the "Quarterly." Send them to Resa Hennings, 439 Bayou View Drive, El Lago, TX 77586, or by email to resa@resa.us.

Meeting Notes Available

Are you wishing you had the notes from a previous BAGS meeting? Dan Cochran's presentation notes on using GEDCOM from the meeting on March 30th and Teri Little's document preservation notes from the April 27th meeting are now available on our webpage.

County Bus Trips Planned

Mary Martin, Coordinator

Our next planned trip will be to the George Memorial Library in Richmond on **Monday, June 30, 2003**. This is a very nice library with some nice collections, including a Civil War collection. It has non-current government records and indexes for Austin, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Waller, and Wharton Counties. It also has the 1930 census for Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. It has the American Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application files. These are just a few of the items in their collection. There are about half a dozen readers and a copier in the genealogy room of this library.

We will meet in front of the **Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street** and depart in the Harris County Bus at 9:00 a.m. We will leave the George Memorial Library at 3:00 pm and arrive back at the community center at about 4:00 pm.

Our last trip planned in this series of trips will be to the Clayton Library on **Tuesday, July 29, 2003**. There will be a sign-up sheet for all trips on the table in the back of the meeting room at the monthly general meetings. Call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435 if you would like to sign up for a trip or have any questions.

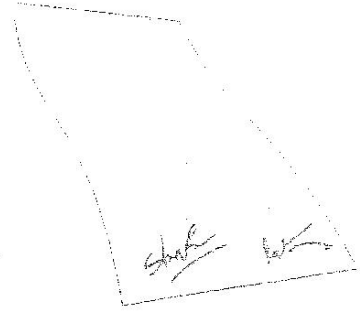
Documents in Danger

By Doug and Polly Wilson

The *Houston Chronicle* on Wednesday, May 7, 2003, had a front-page article on the at-risk records in the District Court Clerk's office. Harris County documents dating back to the Texas Republic are in need of preservation. The County Commissioners will be asked to provide \$800,000 for professional rescue of the most threatened records.

The BAGS Board of Directors will be considering if there is anything the Society can logically do to help make the papers available to future generations of genealogists and historians.

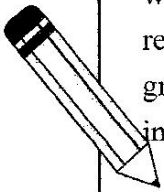
Some possible programs might be to: raise funds, volunteer labor to do preservation tasks, index or transcribe records, etc.



We don't know at the moment whether Harris County is interested in volunteer participation, but please let me know what you would like BAGS to do and what you would be willing to do. Please call me at 281-326-3923 or send email to douglaswilson3@cs.com.

Did You Notice?

Did you notice our new domain name? It is www.TxBayAreaGen.org. This new web address will be easier to remember and easier to share with others. Be sure to visit the web site if you haven't done so recently. Leo Waltz is doing a great job and has a lot of information available there.



Genealogy: Search long enough and everyone connects somehow.

Merry Olde England Continued From Page 1

That list alone should tell you that she has a lot of personal experience in genealogy research!

Marje has worked at Clayton Library for twenty-one years. She is very qualified to speak on any subject concerning genealogy or the library. Other topics that 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.

Be sure to come to the meeting on May 25th. You won't want to miss this interesting and informative evening and the opportunity to hear such a knowledgeable and experienced speaker!

Genealogical Research in Ohio

by Neil Miserendino

One feature of Ohio genealogical research is that some counties and cities held their own census from the time Ohio was a territory to the year 1911. The state archives have holdings for birth and death records since 1909. Contact information: State Vital Statistics Unit, Ohio Department of Health, P.O. Box 15098, Columbus, OH 43215; 614-466-2531. When this article was written, the cost of a five-year search on a name was only three (\$3) dollars. What a deal! The down side is that each spelling variation of a name is an additional three dollars. However, at this price you could still spend less than ten dollars if all you need is a "Xerox" copy. They would only charge an additional five cents per page plus postage for

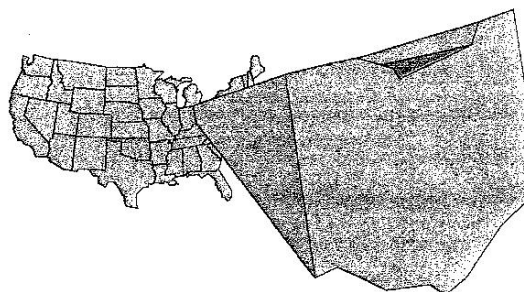
sending you a copy.

From after the Civil War to the year 1908, birth and death records were at the county level. If your record is not at the state level, you can

find the address of which County Probate Court to write by using the genealogical *Handybook* or by going to the Ohio website: <http://www.state.oh.us>.

Another thing to be aware of is that more than 300,000 men from Ohio served in the Civil War.

Such a high percentage of the male population of Ohio served in the Civil War that a Civil War records search is a must for Ohio genealogical research.



President's Message Continued from Page 2

almost every single day because when I retired, I quit cooking.

Back to the preservation, my kitchen is now a six-inch step down in one area. The whole wood planked floor has to be raised, and the study leading to THE ROOM (what ever its name is) also has to be raised. No matter what we do, something else rears its head.

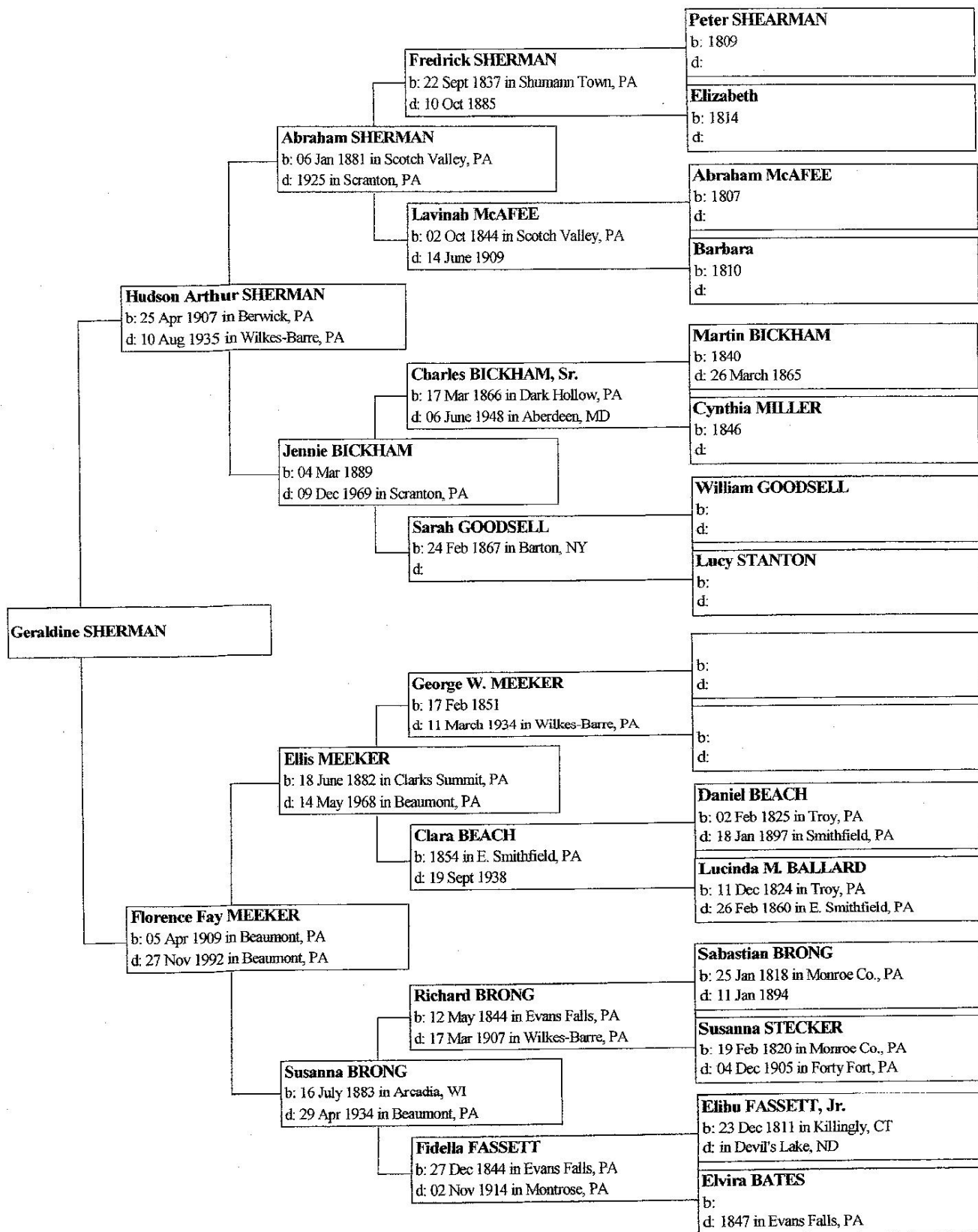
I cannot wait to get it all finished, but I certainly have mixed emotions. When it is finished, we will be moving, and I will miss all of you very much. I have figured out that we can

sleep nearly twenty before we have to put down pallets. So if you will take turns coming, there will be room for all of you to come visit. We are located thirty-five miles from Montgomery, Alabama, if you need to research. If you prefer to sightsee, there is a working gristmill nearby and an area called Fort Toulouse where Andrew Jackson once stayed.

It's good to be back. See you at the next meeting.

Carolyn

Ancestors of Geraldine SHERMAN (Higgs)



Bay Area Genealogical Society Membership Form

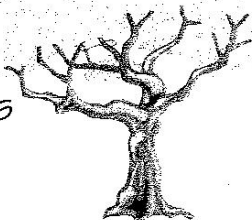
If you are interested in joining the Bay Area Genealogical Society, please fill out this form and send it with your check for \$10 for full-time student, \$20 for individual, \$25 for family, or \$30 for businesses and organizations. Make your check payable to **Bay Area Genealogical Society** and send 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: _____

*Only a Genealogist
regards a step backwards
as progress!*



*Genealogy - A search for
the greatest treasures, our
ancestors.*

Upcoming Events Calendar

May 25, 2003 BAGS General Meeting at 5:00 pm; University Baptist Church

June 23, 2003 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church

June 29, 2003 BAGS General Meeting at 5:00 pm; University Baptist Church

June 30, 2003 Bus Trip to George Memorial Library leaves at 9:00 am

July 21, 2003 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church

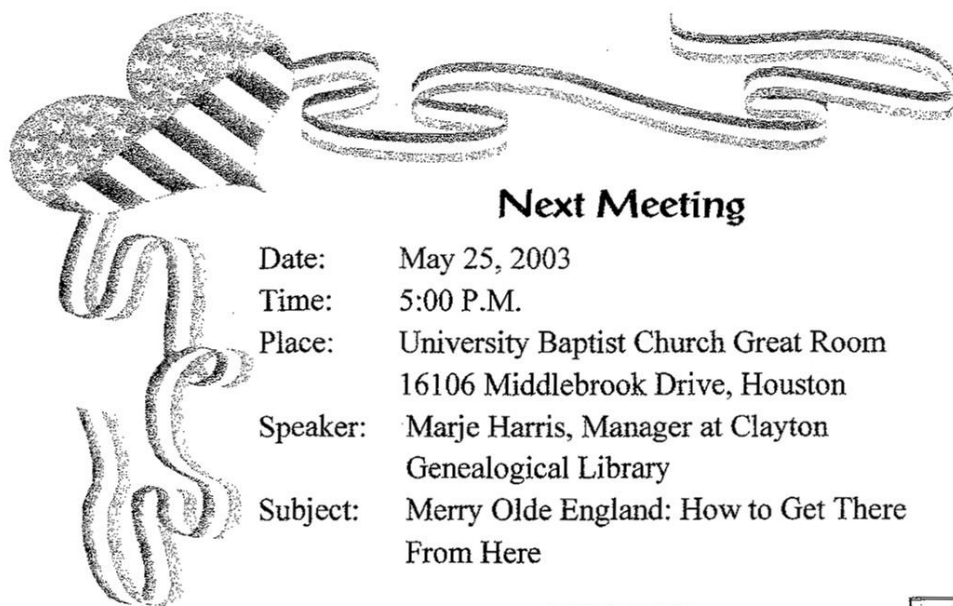
July 27, 2003 BAGS General Meeting at 5:00 pm; University Baptist Church

July 29, 2003 Bus Trip to Clayton Library leaves at 9:00 am

Aug. 25, 2003 BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church

Aug. 31, 2003 BAGS General Meeting at 5:00 pm; University Baptist Church

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Houston, TX 77289-1447



Next Meeting

Date: May 25, 2003
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: University Baptist Church Great Room
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston
Speaker: Marje Harris, Manager at Clayton
Genealogical Library
Subject: Merry Olde England: How to Get There
From Here

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.TxBayAreaGen.org>



Deadline for
June Issue is
May 31, 2003