



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 2, Issue No. 11

July 2003

## July Topic: Family History Center Resources

We are very happy to welcome Kathryn Black Morrow again to speak to our society. Kathryn will speak at the July meeting on the topic of Family History Center resources. The Family History Centers provide genealogical researchers local access to many of the records collected by the LDS church. This is an excellent, but often neglected, resource. Even if you have previously visited your local Family History Center, you will learn more about what is available to assist you in your research.

Besides being an interesting speaker, Kathryn has a wide range of professional experience and personal interest, spanning 30 years, in the fields of history and genealogy. Her interest in history has helped her in her work in the related field of genealogy. She worked in historical fields in North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Colorado before moving to Texas. Kathryn has co-founded a museum, worked as an archivist, served in various historical societies and commissions, worked as a professional genealogist, established procedures for the collection and storage of historical artifacts, compiled historical information for a book, worked on a commission for the preservation of historic buildings, and much more.

Despite this involvement, she made time to volunteer for things like being a grant reader for the Colorado State Historical Society and taking in foster children. Among her many achievements, she was chosen as an Oklahoma delegate to the World Conference on Records, held in Salt Lake City, and as a delegate from Oklahoma County to the White House Conference on Families.

Currently, Kathryn is working on her Master's degree at the University of Houston Clear Lake. Additionally, she works as a professional genealogist, doing research for others, and spends time with her family: husband Michael and four children. Along



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# From the President

by Carolyn Traweek Hellen



As I sat musing, sad, lonely, and blue, I heard a little voice say, "Cheer up, things could be worse." So I cheered up, and sure enough, things got worse.

So continues the saga of my

Southern plantation.

I wrote last about my home in Alabama to say that I had finally gotten the floor leveled, the kitchen turned into a dining room, the walls sheet-rocked, taped, bedded, and painted after considerable expense. I had painted the den ceiling after breaking my foot in the process. This was all completed by the end of April. During a storm on June 13th that spawned small tornadoes, a one-hundred-year-old, 20-ton pecan tree was uprooted and fell on the house. It hit the new dining room, the den, the study, and an upstairs bedroom, its heavy branches knocking holes in the roof as it went. A neighbor called on the 14th, and we arrived there after midnight. It was the next morning before we saw the true devastation.

The study was hard hit. We threw out genealogy books and papers by the sack full. The carpets throughout the house were soaked with several inches of awful brown water from where the rain had poured in through the roof and walls that had a hundred and seventy four years' buildup of dirt.

I remembered the floods of Alicia and how I told people how sorry I was that they lost so much

and that I understood how terrible they felt. How mistaken I was. I had no idea then how horrible it is to lose so much that is irreplaceable, but believe me, I now know how they felt. My son flew in from California to help his dad, which was a blessing. We now have the house back to where it was in April after spending tens of thousands of dollars. Please protect your books and papers. You never know where the damage can come from. Thank you all for your calls of condolences and cards. It meant a great deal.

At our meeting in August, we will again have show and tell and a covered dish dinner. Please plan to bring something genealogy related that you could share with the group, no matter how large or how small, and a covered dish. The tables will be arranged differently, so there will be room for everyone. We all enjoyed last year's dinner and looking at the many varied objects, letters, scrapbooks, pictures, etc., that you brought, and we look forward to seeing them again, as well as the new things you have acquired.

At this next meeting, we are once again fortunate to have Kathryn Morrow speaking to us. This time she will be speaking about the resources of the Family History Centers, something that will be of benefit to everyone. I am sure you will find it enjoyable and informative.

See you at the next meeting,

*Carolyn*

## **BAGS Officers**

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## **BAGS Newsletter Staff**

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



## Committee News



### Hospitality

**Leslee Fehlman, Hospitality Chairman**

The June meeting brought more than eighty people to our table. The hostesses for this meeting were: Jinny Mason, Martha Burmester, Flo Cox, Linda Coltharp, Mary Martin, Sue Ann McCown, and Norma Parnell. Our *"Thanks"* go to them for such a delightful Sunday supper.

### 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](mailto:resa@resa.us).

### July Topic Continued From Page 1

with all this, she still finds time to volunteer as a genealogical consultant to various groups and on-line genealogical sites, and to work with various attorneys' offices on inheritance cases.

We hope you will find the time to attend the next meeting on July 27, 2003, to learn from this excellent and knowledgeable speaker. If you are interested in finding out about additional research materials, Kathryn's presentation on Family History Center resources is one you won't want to miss! See you there!

### Last Summer County Bus Trip

**Mary Martin, Coordinator**

The last trip this summer will be to **Clayton Library** on **Tuesday, July 29, 2003**. We will meet in front of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street and will depart in the county bus at 9:00 a.m. We will leave Clayton Library at 3:00 p.m., planning to be back at the community center by 4:00 p.m.

Everyone had a good trip to the George Memorial Library. There was enough interest that I think that this one could be scheduled again. Several people wanted to go but had a conflict and could not make it this time.

If there are any libraries nearby that you would like to visit, please let me know and we will see if it can be done in the next round of trips that we plan with the county. Call Mary Martin at (281) 332-2435 if you would like to go on the next trip to Clayton Library, have any questions, or have a library to which you would like to plan a trip.

### Member Update

**Tammy Frey**

Our condolences go out to fellow BAGS member Ron Cox whose father recently passed away. Please encourage Ron and Lynda with your support and prayers during this time.

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 at 281-286-1486 or email at [tfrey99@hotmail.com](mailto:tfrey99@hotmail.com).

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## Strangers in a Box

by Pam Harazim

(submitted by Mary Engeling)

Come, look with me inside this drawer,

In this box I've often seen,  
At the pictures, black and white,  
Faces proud, still, and serene.

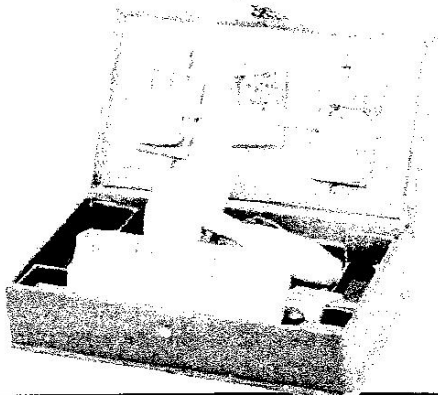
I wish I knew the people,  
These strangers in the box,  
Their names and all their memories,  
Are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like,  
How did they spend their days?  
What about their special times?  
I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time,  
To tell who, what, where and when,  
These faces of my heritage,  
Would come to life again.

Could this become the fate,  
Of the pictures we take today?  
The faces and the memories,  
Someday to be passed away?

Take time to save your stories,  
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,  
Or someday you and yours,  
Could be strangers in the box.



## What was Happening Then?

Have you been wondering why an ancestor died, especially when young? Here is a collection of medical epidemics beginning in the mid 1600s.

### Year(s)/Region, City, or State/Disease

1657 / Boston / Measles  
1687 / Boston / Measles  
1690 / New York / Yellow Fever  
1713 / Boston / Measles  
1729 / Boston / Measles  
1732-1733 / Worldwide / Influenza  
1738 / South Carolina / Smallpox  
1739-1740 / Boston / Measles  
1747 / Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania,  
South Carolina / Smallpox  
1759 / North America / Measles  
1761 / North America and West Indies / Influenza  
1772 / North America / Measles  
1775 / North America (especially in the North  
East) / Unknown  
1775-1776 / Worldwide / Influenza  
1783 / Dover, Delaware (was extremely fatal) /  
Bilious Disorder  
1788 / Philadelphia and New York / Measles  
1793 / Vermont / a "putrid" fever and Influenza  
1793 / Virginia / Influenza  
1793 / Philadelphia / Yellow Fever  
1793 / Harrisburg and Middletown, PA / Unknown  
(many unexplained deaths)  
1794 / Philadelphia / Yellow Fever  
1796-1797 / Philadelphia / Yellow Fever  
1798 / Philadelphia / Yellow Fever (one of the  
worst)  
1803 / New York / Yellow Fever  
1820-1823 / Nationwide (started at Schuylkill  
River and spread) / "Fever"  
1831-1832 / Nationwide (brought by English  
Immigrants) / Asiatic Cholera  
1832 / New York and other major cities / Cholera

*To be continued in the next issue.*

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## Genealogical Research in New York Part II

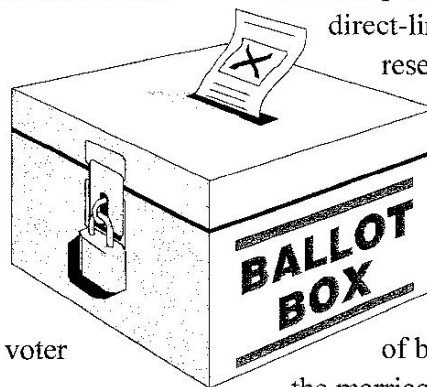
by Neil Miserendino

Even if none of your ancestors lived in New York, you may still need to search the immigration records because New York City has always been a main entry port for newly arriving Americans. If you have any ancestors who entered the United States when Ellis Island was the main immigrant processing center, you now have the ability to access those records on the internet at: [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org). Because the Ellis Island records indexes are transcribed, you may have to try multiple spellings to locate someone by either their surname or the name of the place from which they left.

Another genealogical resource is the vast number of old voter registration records. There are tens of thousands of voter registration records that have been saved for New York City. The Manhattan voter records exist from the year 1772. The Staten Island and Queens voter records exist going back to 1878.

I found the following information about New York vital records on the Internet at: [www.state.ny.us](http://www.state.ny.us). There are restrictions on the

release of vital records. Death and marriage certificates are not released until the record is on file for 50 years and the persons named in the record are deceased. A birth certificate is not supposed to be released until the record is on file for 75 years and the person is deceased

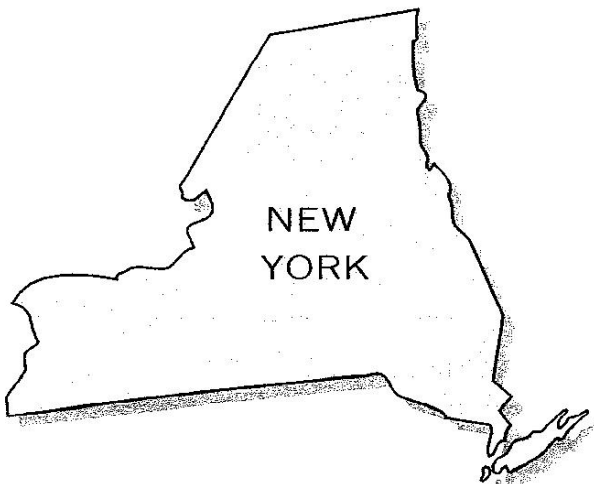


The time period restrictions are waived for direct-line ancestors. As a genealogical researcher, you must provide the following information to obtain the vital record: proof of your direct-line descent; proof of the death of the person named on the birth certificate; proof of the death

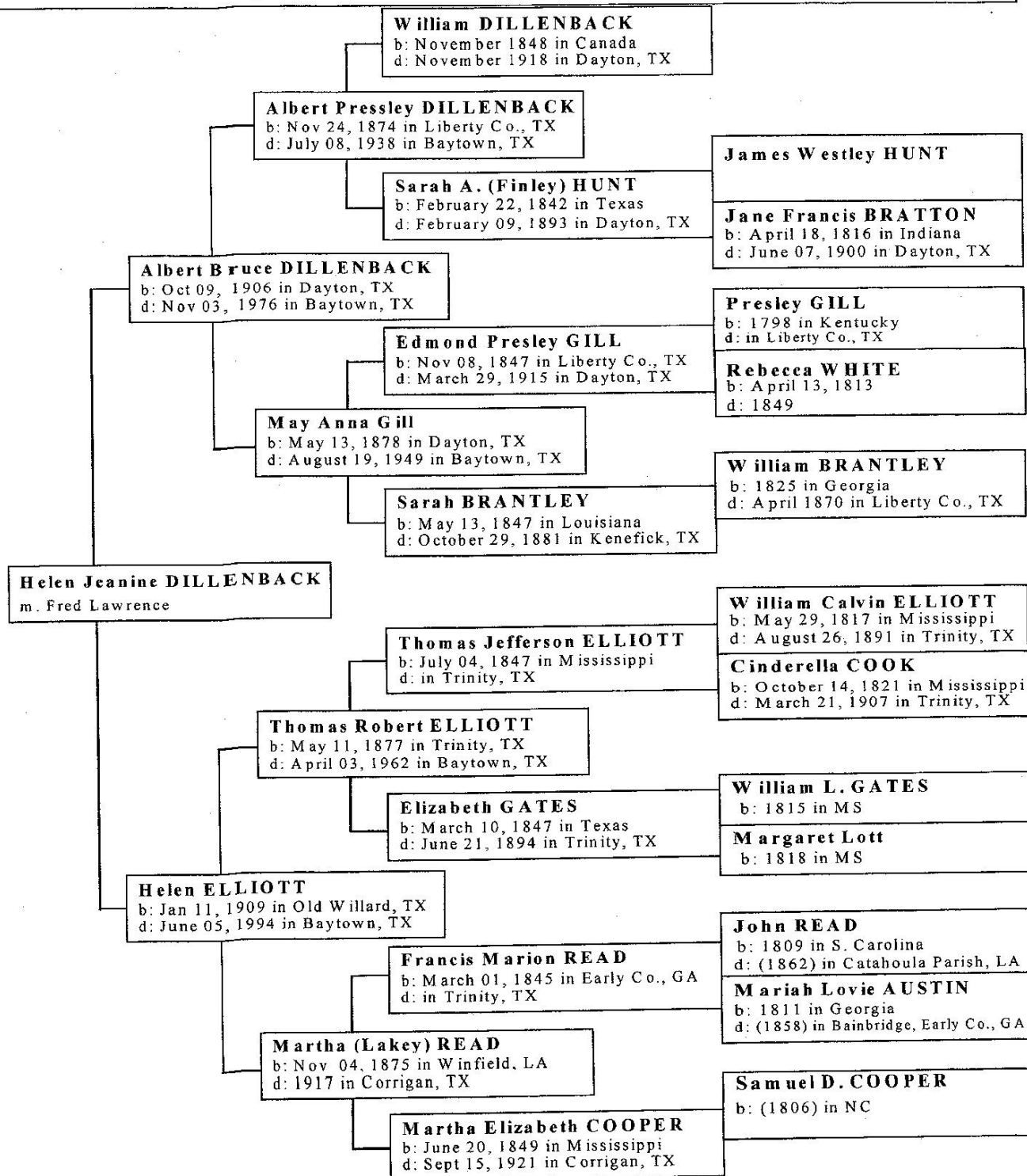
of both the bride and the groom on the marriage certificate. The cost of a record search, \$11, includes a copy of the certificate (or a no record found report), a three-year search of the index, and administrative costs.

When more than a three-year search is requested, the cost is \$21 for a search of 4 to 10 years. The fee increases \$10 for every additional ten-year period to be searched. If you wanted to pay the state workers to research up to a 90-year period, you would pay \$101 for one surname on one record. You certainly should narrow your search down to a 10 year or less period of time.

It can take up to six months to process a genealogy request. It may save time if you write directly to the local registrar or municipal clerk instead of to the state genealogical vital record department.



## Ancestors of Helen Jeanine DILLENBACK (Lawrence)



## Bay Area Genealogical Society Membership Form

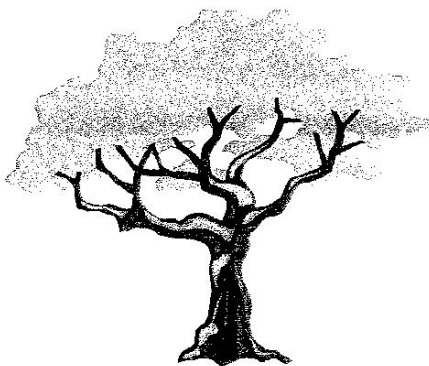
If you are interested in joining the Bay Area Genealogical Society, please fill out this form and send it with your check for \$10 for full-time student, \$20 for individual, \$25 for family, or \$30 for businesses and organizations. Make your check payable to **Bay Area Genealogical Society** and send 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 family tree is a  
few branches  
short! All help  
appreciated.*



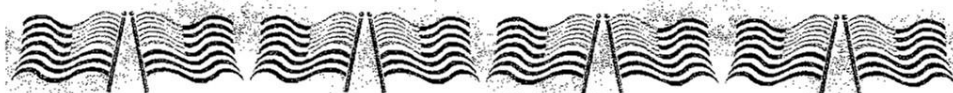
*My roots only go  
down so far, but  
my branches  
spread forever!*



### Upcoming Events Calendar

- |                |                                                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 21, 2003  | BAGS Board Meeting at 4:30 pm; University Baptist Church        |
| July 24, 2003  | 7th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference in Lufkin, Tx  |
| 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      |
| Sept. 13, 2003 | Moore Memorial Library Genealogical Seminar in Texas City       |
| Sept. 27, 2003 | "The Cuban Papers" Seminar at George R. Brown Convention Center |

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### Next Meeting

Date: July 27, 2003  
Time: 5:00 P.M.  
Place: University Baptist Church Great Room  
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston  
Speaker: Kathryn Black Morrow  
Professional Genealogist  
Subject: Family History Center Resources

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  
August Issue is  
August 9, 2003