



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 2, Issue No. 12

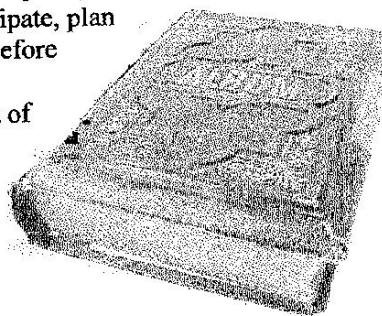
August 2003

Covered-Dish Supper and Show-and-Tell Program

August is the month for our annual covered-dish supper and "Show and Tell" program. The meeting will be held at University Baptist Church, downstairs in the chapel. You are encouraged to come and bring a friend and a covered dish or dessert of your choice. The August meeting is a great time to socialize and become better acquainted with other members.

The 2002 "Show and Tell" meeting was a huge success, and those of you who participated are encouraged to bring your items again. We have many new members who would enjoy seeing the varied and interesting things you brought last year, and many members said they didn't get to see everything. If you can bring some of your genealogy-related projects, please call Carolyn Hellen at 281-486-0406 or email her at crhellen@att.net. More people participated last year than were expected, so we had a space problem. We want to have plenty of room this year, so call as soon as possible. If you want to participate, plan to arrive at 4:30 p.m. so you can set up before everyone arrives.

Everything will be displayed in front of the stage for better viewing, and those willing to stand up and tell the group what they brought will sit at the tables. If you would like to bring something of interest, but don't want to stand up and talk about it, please do so.



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Please Note Newsletter Changes!

This is the **last newsletter** you will receive from the current newsletter staff. Tammy Frey, editor; Linda Carrington, layout artist; Carole Varnado, proofreader; and Flo Cox, Donna Maloney, and Linda Coltharp, distribution, have done an outstanding job producing our newsletter each month. However, all good things come to an end at some point, and they have reached their point!

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From the President

by Carolyn Traweck Hellen



What a great meeting we had last month! Kathryn Morrow, who is one of our members, gave an excellent presentation on using the resources of the Mormon Church. She is a very good speaker, and we always

enjoy hearing her. Kathryn has just completed her Master's thesis on Ellington Field. Hopefully she will contribute a copy to BAGS so that we can read about this interesting subject that is right in our back yard.

There were 88 members present to hear her speak. Leslie Fehlman did an outstanding job, as usual, as hospitality chairman. Somehow there always seems to be just enough food to go around. However, Leslie will not continue in this capacity next year. If you would be willing to help as hospitality chairman, please let the new president know.

I appreciate Bill Teas taking over as sergeant-at-arms at our last meeting. Roy Hellen, who is currently handling this position, will not be returning next year, so here is another opportunity for a volunteer.

If it were only possible for me to be able to express my gratitude to the officers and committee chairmen who have served with me these past two years, I would be immensely grateful. However, mere words could never express the joy and sense of gratification I have felt in forming this society and having all of you give me the support, leadership, and guidance I have needed. These past two years will give me many hours of

pleasant memories as I sit and rock on the porch of my plantation. The only words I can say are THANK YOU!

Please plan to be at the August meeting. Bring a covered dish and something to share with the society. See you there!

Carolyn

Time to Fill the File Cabinet

We have finally gotten our file cabinet installed in the Great Room underneath the sound control window. Now it is time to bring your material to fill it.

If you use a computer program to organize your genealogy information, you can use the "report" feature to print a genealogy report on your family. Almost all genealogy programs have this "report" feature even though it may have a different name. If you are unfamiliar with this feature in your software, look in the "help" section. Start with your oldest ancestor and print a report with all of the descendants for that person. Clip it together and place it in a manila folder. Print the surname on the folder and file it in our cabinet under the correct letter.

Even without a computerized genealogy program, you must have your information together in some form, so make copies to share with us. By gathering these reports, we can share our information and hopefully break down some brick walls.

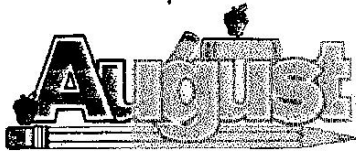
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BAGS Officers

President, Carolyn Hellen	281-486-0406	CRHellen@worldnet.att.net
1st Vice President, Resa Hennings	281-326-4936	resa@resa.us
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Acting Recording Sec., Flo Cox	281-332-6468	Autumn@wt.net
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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, Chairman

We served a small supper to eighty-eight members and guests at our July meeting. Our thanks to the following hosts and hostesses: Leona Cook, Wanda Yelverton, Nina Connelly, Dorsey Kastetter, Mary Jane and Frank Roth, Judy Henderson, Jean Ponder, and Mike Morrow. Many thanks to all of you.

Genealogy Classes

The society is currently sponsoring genealogy classes for beginners. We meet every Sunday afternoon at University Baptist Church, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm, in room LC209. This room is across the hall from the Great Room where we have our regular meetings.

At the next class on August 31st, we will be learning about how to read old handwriting styles. If you would like to join us, call Carolyn Hellen at 281-486-0406. A list of items you will need can be found on our web site.

Many of you have taken this course in the past. This time it is more of a working program. We will be staying with each section until everyone understands it completely. The cost of the course is a \$5.00 registration fee. This money is given to the society to help defray expenses.

Once the beginner session has been completed, we will continue to meet at the same time for mini workshops that will include any subject that interests you. If you have a subject that you would like to know more about, call Carolyn at the above number. Some of the topics include: reading old handwriting styles, writing a family history, how to put Clayton Library to its best use, using the state archives in Austin, and specialized ethnic research.

Future County Bus Trips

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

I spoke with a woman at the "East Harris County Senior Citizens" bus office this week. She told me that the next round of bus choices would be allocated in September. We received four dates in six months the last time we submitted our choices. If everything goes as I think it will, we will plan for trips in October, November, December, and February. January will be skipped because of the planned trip to Salt Lake City. March will start the next round of choices.

One of the trips might be to a library other than Clayton Library, if there is an interest in this and if it is not too far to drive. So far, we have had trips to the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, George Memorial Library in Richmond, and the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty. If you have a special interest in a library that you think others might also enjoy, please call me, Mary Martin, at (281) 332-2435.

Harris County provides free bus transportation to various senior citizen community groups. BAGS and other groups submit their desired dates and destinations. The county then draws numbers for each group for impartial selection. BAGS normally uses a 16 passenger bus; however, the county will provide a larger bus depending upon the number of members who sign-up for each trip. Though it is not compulsory, the BAGS riders normally give the county a small appreciation donation.

Quarterly

Resa Hennings, Editor

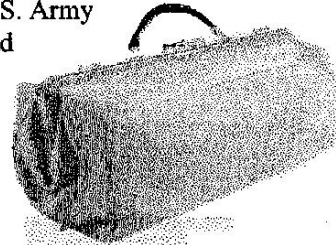
Please submit your original articles, research tips, family histories, anecdotes, and queries for publication in the Quarterly. Send them to Resa Hennings, 439 Bayou View Drive, El Lago, TX 77586, or by email to resa@resa.us.

What was Happening Then?

Here is the second half of the collection of medical epidemics beginning in the mid 1600s.

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

1833 / Columbus, Ohio / Cholera	1865-1873 / Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis, Washington, D.C. / Series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, Yellow Fever, and Influenza
1833-1834 / Kentucky / Cholera	1873-1875 / North America and Europe / Influenza
1834 / New York City / Cholera	1878 / New Orleans (last great epidemic) / Yellow Fever
1837 / Philadelphia / Typhus	1885 / Plymouth, Pennsylvania / Typhoid
1841 / Nationwide (severe in South) / Yellow Fever	1886 / Jacksonville, Florida / Yellow Fever
1847 / New Orleans / Yellow Fever	1918 / Worldwide more people hospitalized during WWI from this epidemic than wounds. Some U.S. Army training camps had 80% death rates /Influenza or Spanish Flu.
1847-1848 / Worldwide / Influenza	
1848-1849 / North America / Cholera	
1849 / New York / Cholera	
1850 / Nationwide / Yellow Fever	
1850-1851 / North America / Influenza	
1851 / Coles County, Illinois, The Great Plains, and Missouri / Cholera	
1852 / Nationwide (8,000 died in New Orleans that summer) / Yellow Fever	
1855 / Nationwide / Yellow Fever	
1857-1859 / Worldwide (one of the largest epidemics) / Influenza	
1860-1861 / Pennsylvania / Smallpox	



A Tribute to Our Founder

The members of the Bay Area Genealogical Society wish to express their deep gratitude and appreciation to the founder and president of the society, Carolyn Traweck Hellen. A dedicated genealogist, Carolyn was not content just to do her own research, but was willing to share her knowledge with others less experienced. For years she has taught the classes that brought many of us into our first constructive contact with genealogy.

But, even that was not enough. Carolyn had a dream, and, as we all know, Carolyn dreams big! Her dream was of a society of people with a common interest in genealogy who would come together and help each other. Her dream included educational programs to assist people in learning more about genealogy-related subjects. It encompassed gathering and preserving genealogical records, encouraging others' interest in their family histories, helping beginners learn how to research, being active as a society in the genealogical community, and much more. Through a great deal of hard work and unswerving dedication on Carolyn's part, this dream has become a reality. In just two short years, the Bay Area Genealogical Society has grown tremendously and is a recognized and respected organization in the genealogical community. None of this would have been possible without the drive and determination of this very special lady. **Thank you, Carolyn!**

Internet Sites of Interest

by Neil Miserendino



My articles are usually about a state or country, but while searching for non-genealogical information, I came across two internet sites that demonstrate how the field of genealogy is changing.

Every day, more and more information of use to genealogists is being posted on the internet. Neither of the sites I will mention can be used to find an ancestor; however, these two sites illustrate that we can find useful information for filling in background information on our ancestors.

The National Archives of Canada is now offering "War Diaries of the First World War" at www.archives.ca/02/020152_e.html. This internet site contains images of the daily actions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) units. The images contain descriptions of the weather, the movement of the troops, and more. This not about individual soldiers; it is the history of a military unit during the War.

I realize that very few of our members have Canadian ancestors. However, I liked the website for providing World War I background information.

The archives are searchable by unit number and date, with wildcards supported. When you search this website, you should specify that only records with digital images be included in the results. This will allow you to find and view the information as it was recorded. The quality of these images varies. Some may be typewritten, while others may be handwritten. But the records make interesting reading even if you do not have Canadian ancestors. Members with Canadian ancestors can go to the main page at www.archives.ca to look for new data as the on-line archives in Canada are updated.

The state of Pennsylvania has digital archives at www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp. Towards the bottom of this web page, I found a link to a "card file" for the Civil War years 1861-1865. This collection does not have a "search" feature to help you find an ancestor. The collection is like a

big file cabinet. The file cabinet has the records arranged by the first letter of the last name. If you know an ancestor, let us say a "James Smith," you go to the records that begin with the letter "S." You will get a group of 50 records. You go forward in the "S" file until you get to the "Smiths," then you can search further to get the correct "James Smith." The information on a card includes mustering in and out dates, description, occupation, and rank. An extra area for remarks may yield more detailed information. You should print out the "Card Key" which describes the information on the cards and which will tell you how to read the cards that are found on this web site.

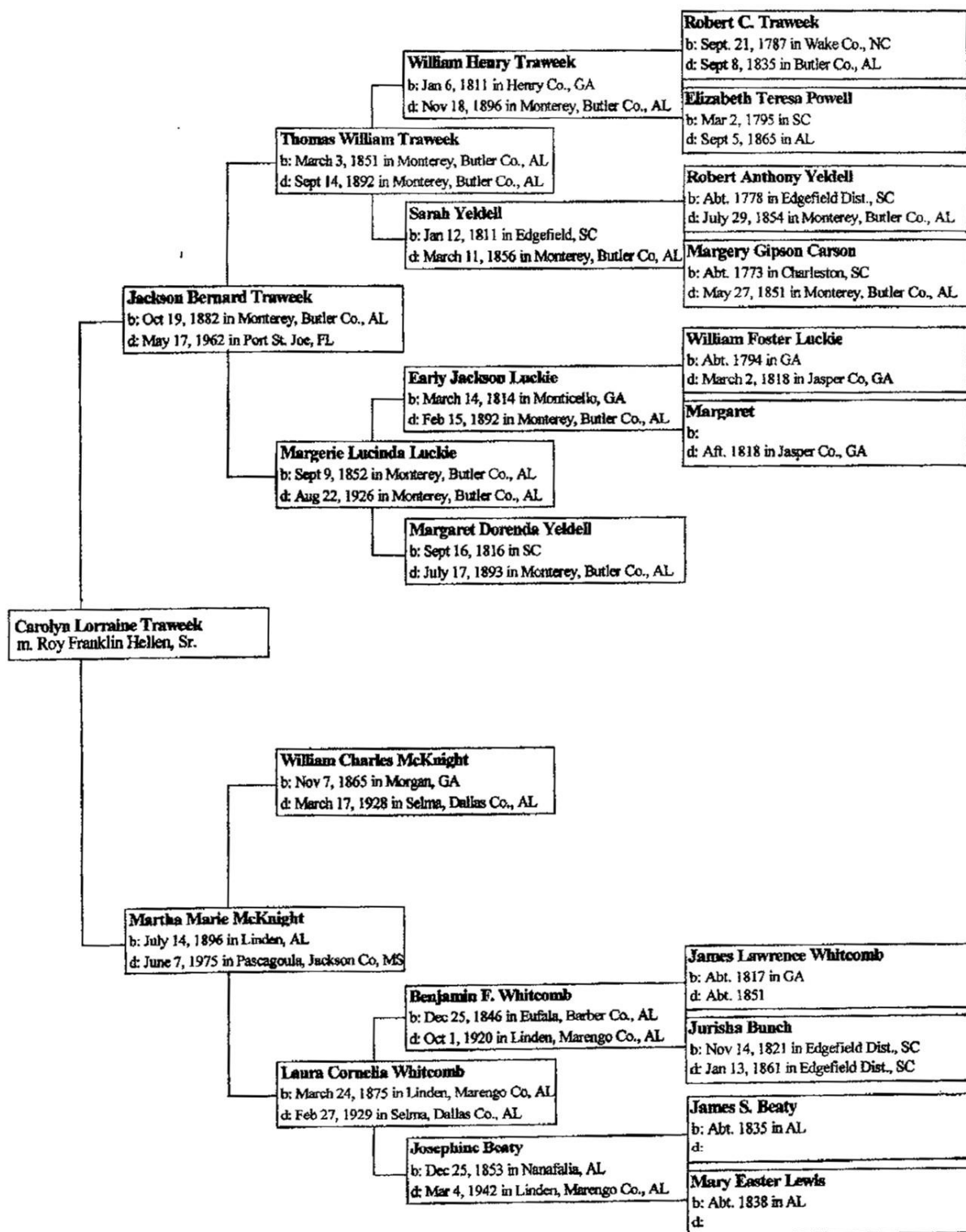


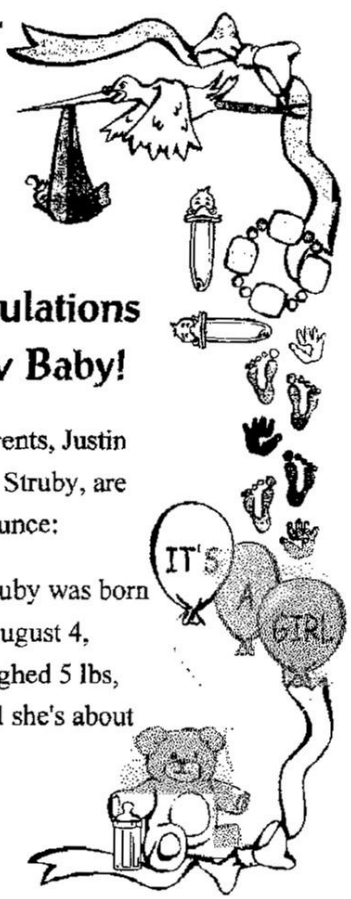
Please Note Newsletter Changes Continued From Page 1

The main change is that the newsletter will now be on-line, and you will be able to download it from the website. Most of you have indicated that you would prefer to have it done this way. Leo Waltz, our web master, will take over the newsletter layout for the next year. If possible, the next issue will be available on-line by the end of September or October at the latest. If you prefer to have a copy of the newsletter mailed to you, you must sign up at the meeting or email Leo at Leo.Waltz@prodigy.net, giving him your name and mailing address. Leslie Fehlman will be in charge of distribution.

The position of newsletter editor is still open. The editor is responsible each month for gathering information for the newsletter, preparing it for publication, and sending it to Leo for layout. If you are willing to fill this position, please contact the president.

Ancestors of Carolyn Lorraine Traweek





Congratulations on New Baby!

Proud new parents, Justin and Stephanie Struby, are happy to announce:

Laura Ann Struby was born on Monday, August 4, 2003. She weighed 5 lbs, 10 ounces, and she's about 19 inches tall.

Election of New Officers at August Meeting

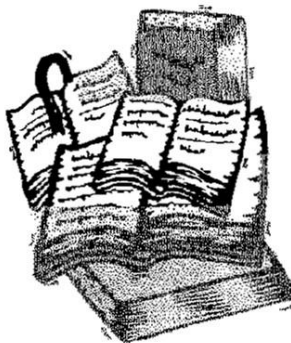
At the July general meeting, the nominating committee presented their slate of candidates for the 2003/2004 term of office. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the August meeting, after which the general membership will vote. The nominating committee's list is as follows:

President - Neil Miserendino
1st Vice President - Resa Hennings
2nd Vice President - Dick Warren
Recording Secretary - Mary Martin
Corresponding Secretary - Shirley Lindquist
Treasurer - Linda Goerland
Registrar - Ron Cox

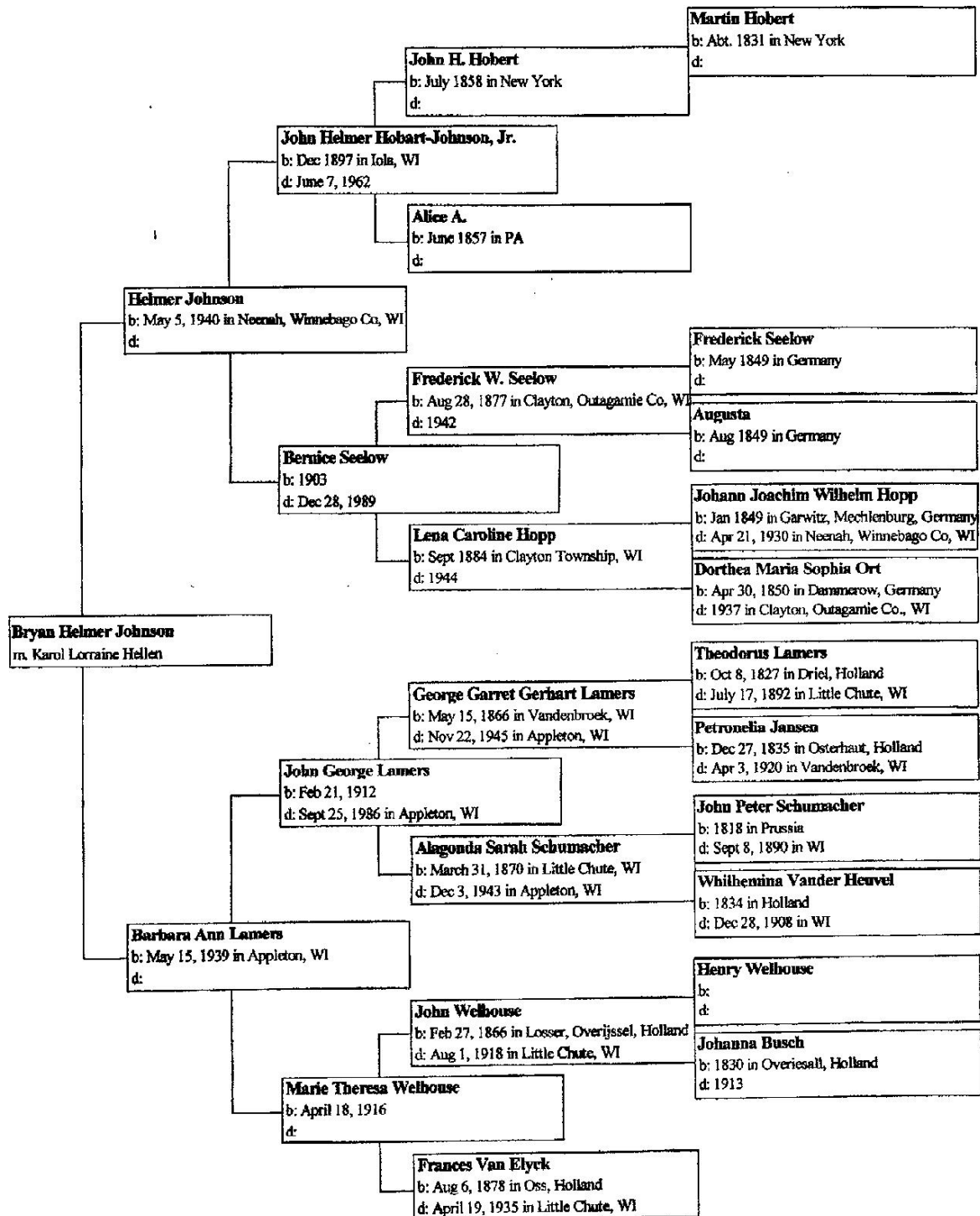
Clayton Library Friends To Sponsor "Cuban Papers" Seminar

Next month, on Saturday, September 27th, Clayton Library Friends is sponsoring a seminar on "The Cuban Papers" and how to use these records for genealogical research. The Cuban Papers are a huge collection of records, gathered during the Spanish colonial period, relating to the Gulf Coast, Mississippi Valley, Texas, and the southeastern United States for the period 1700-1820. The collection received its curious name because it was stored for a time in Cuba. Clayton Library is acquiring this entire collection on microfilm.

The seminar will be from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, and will feature nationally recognized speakers Paul E. Hoffman and Robert de Berardinis. For a registration form, contact Dick Warren (281) 461-1472, dick@merlins-web.com, or Don Pusch (281) 326-3278, pusch@ghg.net. Registration forms will also be available on the back table at the BAGS August meeting. Attendance is limited, so register right away!



Ancestors of Bryan Helmer Johnson



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: _____

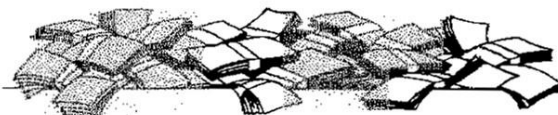
Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Time to Fill the File Cabinet

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If you are like many of us, you have photocopied entire books' worth of information about cemeteries, counties, etc. As long as it does not violate copyright restrictions, please make another copy and donate it to the society by placing it in the file cabinet.

Copy Dr., a local print shop, has a special on Saturdays of copies for 3 1/2 cents per sheet. Copy Dr. is located at 196 S. Friendswood Drive (FM 518). They have been very supportive of the society and have been printing our newsletters and quarterlies for the past two years. One of the owners is the son of Ray and Katie Merritt, members of BAGS.



It's That Time of Year Again! Remember to pay your membership dues by September. Save a stamp and bring your dues to the next general meeting!

Upcoming Events Calendar

- 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 Julia Ideson Building, HPL

Bay Area Genealogical Society
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Next Meeting

Date: August 31, 2003
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: University Baptist Church Chapel
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston
Speakers: BAGS Members
Subject: Show and Tell

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 Leo.Waltz@prodigy.net.

We are on the Web!
Check out the BAGS website at:
<http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org>



Deadline for
September Issue is
September 6, 2003