



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 3, Issue No. 1

September 2003

## September Meeting: Karen Stanley will present

### "Genealogy Research Using Clayton's Online Databases"



Karen Stanley

At the September 28 meeting, Karen will describe the Clayton Online Databases and how to use them along with tips and tricks to make searching for our ancestors a bit easier.

Born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Karen Stanley is descended from a long line of farmers that includes everything from original English, Scots, and Mennonite colonists to mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century German immigrants. Although she has lived in Florida, Ontario, South Carolina, Illinois, and has lived in Texas for more than twenty years, she is still a Midwesterner at heart.

Karen holds a BA in History from Florida State University, an MLS from the University of Texas, and an MBA from Rice University. She worked for many years in Houston in the petroleum exploration industry, as a records manager and later as a marketing and business process consultant specializing in technical data management. In 1999, she decided to abandon the petroleum industry and return to the library world. Today she is a full-time reference librarian at Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research, providing specialized genealogical reference assistance to library patrons. Some of the special duties she has assumed at Clayton Library have included database conversion, web page design, staff and public computer training, group presentations and tours, and collection development. Karen has been an avid genealogy researcher since the age of 14, and is delighted to be working at one of the best genealogy libraries in the country.

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## From the Founder & Past President --

As most of you know, the August meeting was my last meeting as your President and I will not be taking an office next year. I thought I would take a few moments to explain why I will not be volunteering again.

It's because I am tired. For the past couple of years I have been blaming it on middle age, iron poor blood, lack of vitamins, sweet n' low, obesity, dieting, microwaves and working on genealogy.

I have recently discovered that none of these are the real reason I won't be volunteering. I'm tired because I'm overworked. The population of this country is 200 million. Eighty-four million are retired and busy with their R. V. or visiting the kids. That leaves 116 million to do the volunteering. There are seventy five million in school; that leaves 41 million to do the volunteering. Of this total, 22 million are employed by the government

and four million are in the Armed Forces, which leaves fifteen million to do all the work. Take from that the 11,800 that work for state and city governments and that leaves 200,000 to do the work. Now there are 11,988 people in prison. If you do the math there are only two of us willing to do the work -- you and me, and you're sitting there reading this. NO WONDER I'M TIRED. Do your part. Let the new President know you are willing to do your part for the coming year. VOLUNTEER!

See you at the next meeting.

**Carolyn  
Traweek  
Hellen**



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## 2003-2004 Officers were elected at the August meeting.

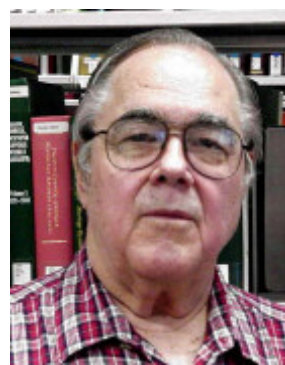
Some of the new officers are pictured below. We will show the others in a future issue.



**Neil Miserendino**  
President 2003-2004



**Resa Hennings**  
1st Vice President



**Dick Warren**  
2nd Vice President



**Mary Martin**  
Recording Secretary

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## 2003-2004 Officer Roster

President - Neil Miserendino	281-286-8243	psrambling@aol.com
1st Vice President - Resa Hennings	281-326-4936	resa@resa.us
2nd Vice President - Dick Warren	281-461-1472	dick@merlins-web.com
Recording Sec - Mary Martin	281-332-2435	lmartin497@aol.com
Corresp. Sec - Shirley Lindquist	281-281-4125	shirquis@hal-pc.org
Treasurer - Linda Goerland	281-326-1476	egoerland@pdq.net
Registrar - Ron Cox	281-332-3290	ronaldcox@att.net

## BAGS Newsletter Staff

Managing Editor - Coming  
in Oct.  
Layout - Leo Waltz  
Proofreader(s) - vacant  
Distribution - Leslee Fehlman  
5 Gen. charts - Tammy Frey

# Odds and Ends

From the President **Neil Miserendino**

This is the first article I will have written as the President of the Bay Area Genealogical Society. There is not one theme in this article, so I titled it "Odds and Ends."

My first order of business was to write thank you notes to the officers, committee chairs and volunteers who have relinquished their positions. As I was writing the thank yous for all that they have done for the Society, the article became too big to fit in this edition of the Newsletter. Therefore, for this issue, I am saying a simple "thank you." Because we have more space in our Quarterly, I will put the full thank you article in the next Quarterly.

Despite the tropical storm that might have prevented many members from showing up, we still had a large turnout of members and guests at the August meeting. It was inspiring to hear everyone talk about what they had brought for our second Show and Tell program and Covered Dish Supper. It was a great meeting for genealogy and eating.

Last year we, as a part of the Southeastern Texas genealogical community and as representatives of the out-of-state researchers, lobbied our local politicians to maintain the hours of Clayton Library. The local politicians have not cut the hours Clayton is open. We need to insure there are enough volunteers to uphold

the commitment we made to help. Please volunteer at Clayton. Call Volunteer Services at (832) 393-1481 or go to the Clayton Library web site ( <http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton/> ) for more information.

Last month, as the incoming president of the Bay Area Genealogical Society, I met with representatives of other local genealogical societies. Among the items discussed were the records that are being microfilmed under the sponsorship of Clayton Library Friends. We were told that some records are in such poor condition that the originals cannot be expected to last more than three years. Some of the records were printed after the Civil War using a cheaper paper. Our salute goes to Clayton Library Friends for their efforts!

This is the first month of the Newsletter in a different format. The change in format is designed to accomplish several goals. One goal is to allow the members to access the newsletter electronically. A second goal is to allow members to view pictures that appear in the newsletter in color. We hope you are pleased with this change.

I want to encourage you to attend the September 28th meeting as we install new officers. I want to see you at the meeting as we also start our third year as a genealogical society.

## Grab your BAGS & Join us at the Family History Library Salt Lake City, Utah

BAGS will travel to Salt Lake City February 4-11, 2004 for a week of research and genealogical camaraderie. To take advantage of the best airfares and hotel rates, we plan to depart Houston Hobby on Wednesday, February 4, 2004 and return on Wednesday, February 11, 2004

The Best Western - Plaza Hotel (immediately adjacent to the Family History Center) will be our Headquarters and will sponsor a genealogical seminar for our group. 6 nights = \$65.00\*\* per double room per night plus tax. An orientation of the Family History Library will be conducted by FHL

personnel and assistance given to those with special research challenges.

Airfares and schedules to be announced when they become available (late Sept. early Oct.)

**NOTE: A meeting will be held on the trip following the BAGS General Meeting, September 28. Please plan to stay and join the planning process to assure your voice is heard.**

Questions??? email:

[awbj2@msn.com](mailto:awbj2@msn.com) or [lbcook@houston.rr.com](mailto:lbcook@houston.rr.com)

\*\*\$65.00 + Tax Rate = 5 nights at \$79.00 + Tax, with the 6<sup>th</sup> night free. Nights 1-5 and 7 through the 11 are at \$79.00 + tax per double room per night. Night 12 would be free. Guests may extend their stay past the above departure date at the group rate.



# Genealogy Research in Louisiana

By Neil Miserendino



If you are researching in Louisiana, here is the state web address:  
[www.sec.state.la.us/archives/archives/archives-index.htm](http://www.sec.state.la.us/archives/archives/archives-index.htm)

There are many records available for genealogical research in Louisiana. The overwhelming percent of the records of wills, marriage, divorce, deeds and civil court records are maintained at the parish level. You should start your search by reading the inventories of the parish archives. Many inventories of parish archives are available at the Clayton Library. If the records are not available in Houston, I encourage our members to plan a trip to our closest neighboring state.

New Orleans has been a major port for many years, that means even if your ancestors did not remain in Louisiana, they may have immigrated through the port. Many of the passenger lists or indexes for New Orleans can be found at Clayton Library.

Before 1810, there were various local and military censuses taken in the area of Louisiana from the years 1699 to 1805. To learn more about these censuses and to view the microfilmed federal census for the years 1810 to 1930, take a trip to Clayton library.

As you may have heard, Clayton library is acquiring copies of the "Cuban papers". The "Cuban papers" are records of genealogical interest that contain information about parts of the United States when those areas were under Spanish rule. The records were transferred to Cuba and became known as the "Cuban papers".

Because both the French and Spanish administered the area of Louisiana, there are some early records for Louisiana that do not exist for some other Southern states such as Alabama or Mississippi. You may need to obtain foreign language genealogy guides. I mentioned how to obtain study guides in a previous article about researching in foreign countries. That information can be applied to help you with understanding Spanish and French genealogical records for the state of Louisiana.

## September message from the Registrar

It is time for our annual membership renewal to the Bay Area Genealogical Society.

We must be doing things right, because for the second year in a row, we have finished the year with more than 200 members!

Remember the dues are \$20 for single memberships and \$25 for family memberships.

You may renew your membership in person by coming to our next meeting:  
University Baptist Church Chapel  
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston.

Remember, we meet the last Sunday of the month at 5:00pm.

You can send in your check, along with your name, address and phone number for renewing your membership for the next year to:

Registrar  
Bay Area Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 891447  
Houston, TX 77289-1447

You may keep up to date on our activities by visiting our web-site at:  
<http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org>

For the members who have already renewed, we thank you for your prompt response.

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Events Calendar</h1>	<p>unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held at  <b>University Baptist Church (UBC)</b>  <b>16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059</b>  <b>(Clear Lake City)</b></p>
<p><b>Monday, Sept 22, 2003</b></p>	<p><b>BAGS Board* Meeting at 4:30; Room 329, UBC</b>  * Members are encouraged to attend the Board Meetings</p>
<p><b>Sunday Sept 28, 2003</b></p>	<p><b>BAGS General Meeting at 5:00; Chapel, UBC</b>  <b>"Genealogy Research Using Clayton's Online Databases"</b>  with Karen Stanley</p>

### Upcoming non-BAGS Events

**Saturday, September 27, 2003** The Cuban Papers Seminar. Location: in the Auditorium of the Julia Ideson Building of Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston, TX. If you are researching in the present day American Southeastern states, then this seminar is for you. The "Cuban Papers" are records of inhabitants of the American Southeast when that region was under Spanish rule. The records are in French, English and Spanish. The records went to Cuba (which is how they were named) and then to Spain. Copies of the records are scheduled to arrive at Clayton Library by the start of the Seminar. Speakers are: Professor Paul E. Hoffman from LSU - America's foremost scholar on the Cuban papers from 9:30am-11:30am and Robert de Berardinis specialist in French language and Deep South genealogy. from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Cost is \$20. Park in garage at 1100 Smith Street and get a token for reduced parking. Contact: Dick Warren (281) 461-1472; dick@merlins-web.com or Don Pusch (281) 326-3278; pusch@ghg.net

**Saturday, October 11, 2003.** Free! Family Preservation Day. Location: Also at the Julia Ideson Building of Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston, TX. Hours: From 10:00am to 2:00pm. Archivists from the Houston area will explain how to preserve your family history. You can bring small items to ask the experts. You may bring items such as family papers, books, photographs, leather articles, wood pieces and other things from home. Sarah Canby Jackson, archivist for Harris County and Mandy York, archivist at the Woodson Center, Rice University will be there to help. There will be demonstrations and examples. Park in the garage at 1100 Smith Street. For more information: <http://www.rice.edu/fondren/woodson/AHA/familypreservationday.html>

**Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8, 2003:** Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Conference. Hilton Austin Airport Hotel, 9515 New Airport Drive, Austin, Texas 78719. Hotel #: (512)-385-6767.

**Saturday, November 15, 2003:** Clayton Library Annual meeting at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston. Start time: 10:00am (one block east of Beltway 8 between Richmond Avenue and Westpark Drive). <http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton/clf.html>



Right: Members took turns describing their genealogy items that were displayed at the August BAGS meeting.

**Humor Corner**

*Each month, we will feature a humorous item or two of interest to genealogy.*

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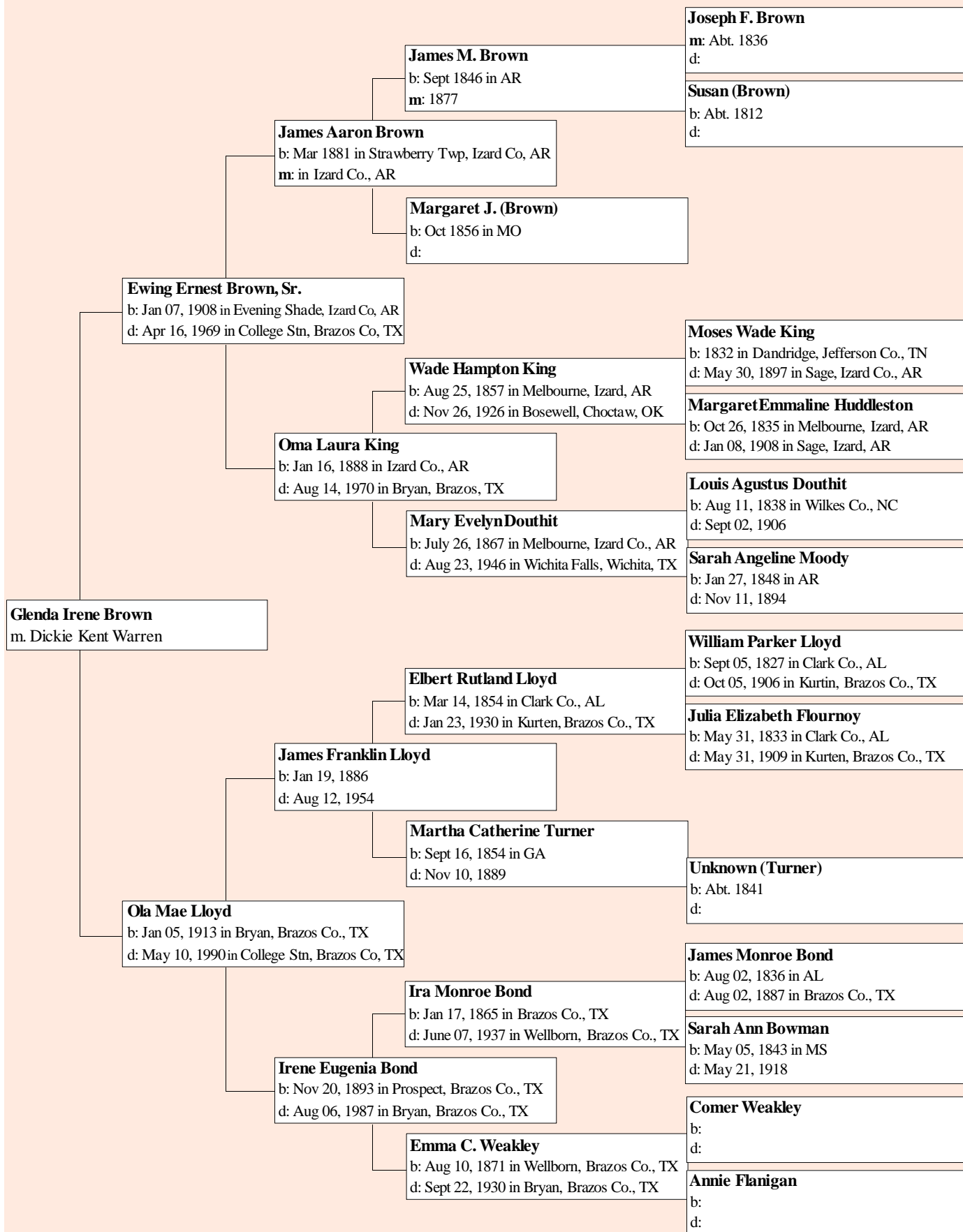
*Tombstone sightings:*

**Sir John Strange**  
Here lies an honest lawyer,  
And that is Strange.

Thanks to Brenda Hay:  
<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~tracers/thefunny.htm>

**In Memory of Beza Wood**  
Departed this life  
Nov. 2, 1837  
Aged 45 yrs.  
Here lies one Wood  
Enclosed in wood  
One Wood  
Within another.  
The outer wood  
Is very good:  
We cannot praise  
The other.

# Ancestors of Glenda Irene Brown



# Committee News

## Quarterly

The Quarterly needs your input! Please submit original articles, family histories, anecdotes, queries, research tips, Letters to the Editor...just whatever you have that will be of interest to the membership. Send them to Resa Hennings at: 439 Bayou View Drive, El Lago, TX 77586 or <resa@resa.us>.

## Library Trips To Be Planned Soon Mary Martin, County Coordinator

We will get to choose two dates for library trips with the East Harris County Senior Citizens buses on September 10; the other two dates will be chosen on September 17. This will be a total of four trips between now and March 2004. I am hoping to get a date for the first week of October. Our next Bay Area Genealogical Society meeting will be on September 28. I will have sign-up sheets in the back of the meeting room for the dates that we will be taking trips.

I am looking forward to having some more trips scheduled with the Society. I really enjoy going on them and being with fellow researchers. I enjoy talking to others and getting new ideas that help me with my own research. If you would like to know when the trips are scheduled and be part of a group of genealogical researchers, you may call Mary Martin at (281) 332-2435.

## Hospitality

Below: Members start down the line

Our August meeting began with everyone bringing a dish. I wish to thank everyone for the good food. Your efforts helped to make the meeting a success.



Leslee Fehman,  
Hospitality  
Chairman

## Five Generation Charts Needed!

When you joined BAGS, you were asked to submit a five generation chart. While many of you have done so, there are some who still have not and some who would like to update their information. If you are unsure of the format, look at a Newsletter or Quarterly. In each edition of the Newsletter and Quarterly a member's five generation chart is published. You may look at these for an example. Many of you use genealogy software which will print a chart similar to this. If not, we have blank forms that you can complete by hand. As you can see, many people do not have information on every one of their ancestors so far back. That doesn't matter; just include what you know so far. If you do not want your five generation chart to be published, make a note on it. You are encouraged to turn in an updated chart if you have more current information. On the back of your chart, please indicate the date it was completed and, for married women, the current surname. Charts may be given to Tammy Frey, tfrey99@hotmail.com.

**Attention:** If you are a **BAGS** member reading this newsletter on a printed paper copy that was mailed to your postal address, then you should be aware of the following:

- This and future issues are available in electronic format as a PDF file.
- You may not receive a future postal mailed copy unless you do not have Internet access and have submitted your request to continue receiving a paper copy. You may request by signing a sheet at the next General Meeting, or drop us a postcard if you are unable to attend.

## Next Meeting

Date: Sept. 28, 2003  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Place: Chapel, University Baptist Church  
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX  
Speaker: Karen Stanley  
Reference Librarian, Clayton Library  
Subject: "Genealogy Research Using  
Clayton's Online Databases"



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. If articles are copyrighted, then please include permissions with the submittals.

Mail to: BAGS, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447 or email to [Leo@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:Leo@TxBayAreaGen.org)



BAGS Website:

[www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org)

**Deadline for  
October Issue Is  
October 11, 2003**