



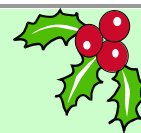
Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 3, Issue No. 4

December 2003

December Holiday Party



Eric and Glenda Sandifer: War Between the States



Glenda and Eric Sandifer
(See page 4 for full photo
and background story on
the setting.)

Eric Sandifer is a cannoneer with the 3rd Texas Field Artillery War Between the States reenactors, and is currently serving as the 1st Lieutenant Commander of Company F, Spaight's Battalion, Camp 858 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. In addition, Eric is the acting Historian of the St. Bartholomew Chapter of the Texas Huguenot Society and is serving as the Education Committee Chairman of the First Texas Company, National Jamestowne Society. He is the Membership Chairman of the Major John White Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Eric is a life member of the Baronial Order of Magna Charta, the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States, and the Order of the Honorable Artillery Company. He is a charter member of the Colonel Benjamin H. Norsworthy Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars & Bars and a member of the Baytown Genealogy Society.

Eric has provided programs for the First Texas Company of the National Jamestowne Society, the Anahauc Veterans Day Parade, a joint meeting of the Baytown SAR and DAR during Constitution Week, a tribute to veterans at services of the Second Baptist Church in Baytown during Veterans Day weekend, November 2003, the Lum-Roark Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and at two Baytown Kiwanis Club meetings.

Whenever he is asked to speak, he always prepares remarks expressly for the group who's inviting him. Eric says that Charles Dickens was an outspoken supporter of the Confederate States of America, but is best known as the author of "A Christmas Carol." And Varina Howell Davis wrote a description of Christmas at the Confederate White House during her term as First Lady. So you see, Eric is fashioning a talk for the BAGS party that is appropriate for the holiday, and centered around a Confederate theme.

Eric and Glenda Sandifer will speak on the War Between the States at the BAGS Holiday Program at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, 28 December 2003 at the University Baptist Church on Middlebrook.

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in online version only)



The Black Sheep in the Family

Message from the President

Neil Miserendino

The identifying information about the persons involved has been removed. I hope the message does not get lost.

I became aware of a genealogical researcher who had a relative listed in court records as having an arrest warrant issued. Now, depending on how long ago this information is found in your family tree, such news can be distressing. The full story was that the relative came upon some corrupt practices in the city, and had a confrontation with the law. After the confrontation, an arrest warrant was issued on the relative. That relative had to flee to a near-by city. The relative contacted the media and reported the situation. With the help of the media, the light of truth was shined upon the corrupt city officials. The arrest warrant was withdrawn. The so-called "Black Sheep" had acted heroically, and performed a valuable public service. Such public service can only happen with the help of courageous citizens and a free press.

Our members may come upon a "Black Sheep" ancestor. This does not automatically mean that your ancestor was a criminal. Keep in mind that conditions existed in the past that do not exist now. It was a common practice in other countries to jail paupers and political dissidents. It was also not that uncommon for soldiers to "desert" during harvest season or if they were close to home. After the crops were in, or the unauthorized visit was over, the deserter might return to the post. Even if an ancestor turns out to be a really bad person, it was too long in the past to matter today. This can be an advantage to present-day genealogical researchers because that Black Sheep may have generated enough court records for us to track down many other ancestors. There is even a web-site that is devoted to the "Black Sheep":

<http://blacksheep.rootsweb.com>



*BlackSheep
Genealogy
is Addicting*



Here are some additional notes from The International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists, which exists for those who have found relatives of ill repute in their direct family lines. Acts of automatic qualification are: Murder, Kidnapping, Armed Robbery, Treason, Theft of any item of fame, Membership in a famous gang, Political Assassin, Member of the FBI's Most Wanted List, Political Expatriate, Extreme Public Embarrassment, Involvement in Witchcraft Trials, Bigamy (outside the Mormon faith, which condoned it at one time), Persons expelled from normal society, Convicted felons (documented). Self Qualification is not acceptable for the individual must be in the ancestral lines.

As society founder Jeff Scism puts it: "Everybody has a black sheep in their family -- somewhere."

To begin the task of finding your connection to a celebrity, you might want to take a look at a newly released book by Rhonda McClure, entitled *Finding Your Famous (& Infamous) Ancestors* (ISBN 1558706542, about \$15). It contains celebrity case studies, both contemporary and historic, to help you learn how to get the most out of genealogical resources, including where to find the information, what to look for when using it and how to take your findings and move to the next step in the research process.

2003-2004 Officer Roster

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Genealogy Research in Pennsylvania

Neil Miserendino

The web address of the state archives:

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/>

The mailing address is Pennsylvania State Archives, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA, 17108-1026.

Pennsylvania residents have been recorded in all the federal censuses since 1790. There have been no state censuses for this state. Because nearly 400,000 men who served in the Civil War were from Pennsylvania, you will want to consult the National Archives for service and pension records. There have been numerous books published that list the soldiers who served during the Civil War and were from Pennsylvania, but you should check several of these books to find an ancestor.

During World War I all men between the ages of 18 to 45 were required to register for the draft. These records are available from the National Archives. The draft registrations are helpful for many other states.

In the past the majority of the population were farmers, so you can consult with the Nonpopulation Census Schedules for Pennsylvania,

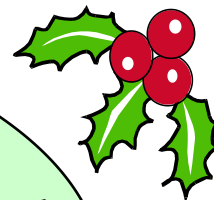
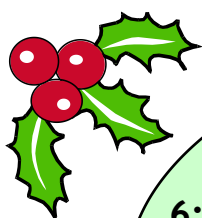
Agricultural

Schedules, 1850-1880. This reference lists the name of the person and information about

their farm. There is also a corresponding "Manufacturers Schedules" for the same years that contains information about people employed in manufacturing.

Statewide registration of births and deaths did not begin until 1906. Births before that date may be found at the county level. You would have to write to the Clerk of the Court and know much of the details in order for the clerk to find a birth certificate. Unfortunately, the birth certificate may be "incomplete," that is, only the mother's first name may be listed and neither parent's age may be in the birth document.

Genealogical collections are accessible through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Library.



We will see you at the
ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY
Period dress is encouraged

6:00 PM SUNDAY, December 28th, University Baptist Church

Entertainment will be provided by Eric and Glenda Sandifer

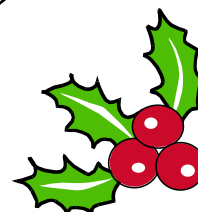
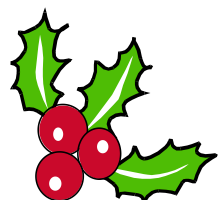
Tickets are required.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

Ticket Sales ended Dec 12

If you won't be attending the party, have a great holiday,
and we will see you in January.

We wish you a Happy New Year.



Chretien Point Plantation

by
Eric Sandifer

The photo on the right was taken in front of the main door to Chretien Point Plantation located ten miles north of Lafayette near Sunset, Louisiana.

Chretien Point Plantation was built in 1831 and was the site of a battle between encroaching Federal forces and Confederate units from western Louisiana and southeast Texas in 1863. Stopping the Yankees there kept them from crossing the Sabine River and laying waste to our beloved Texas.

In the 1930's, Hollywood producer David O. Selznick invited plantation owners to submit photographs and stories about their historic homes. The owners of Chretien Point Plantation submitted photographs of the stairwell along with a story about the home's original owners. During the war years, a group of scalawags happened by to rob Mrs. Chretien. Hearing a commotion at the door, she grabbed a handful of jewelry in one hand, and a 1851 Navy Arms .36 caliber Colt in the other. Meeting the intruder on the stairwell, she offered the jewelry with one hand, and produced the pistol with the other. That story was recreated in the scene in *Gone With the Wind*, when Vivian Leigh confronts a Yankee on the stairs, and offers jewelry in one hand, but produces a deadly pistol with the other. An exact replica of the staircase at Chretien Point Plantation was erected to film the scene.

Today, a black and white photograph of the scene in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind* sits on a table under those now-famous stairs at Chretien Point Plantation.

During the WBTS (War Between the States), the British press had a field day with Mr. Lincoln and his policies. Chief and most notable among Mr. Lincoln's British critics was noted author Charles Dickens. I plan to quote him in my remarks to the Bay Area Genealogical Society on 28 December.

Jefferson Davis was twice married. His first wife was the daughter of President Zachary Taylor who died in office in 1850. His second wife was Varina Howell, the First Lady of the Confederate States of America. Interestingly, when Dolley Madison died in 1849, President Taylor eulogized her as Ameri-



Glenda
and Eric
Sandifer

ca's "First Lady." The title was subsequently ascribed to the wife of every American President. Zachary Taylor's son, Richard, would rise to the rank of Brigadier General in the Confederate Army, and design the so-called "Richard Taylor flag." This flag was carried by Confederate units from west of the Mississippi River (i.e., units from Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas) during the WBTS. It is the "Battle Flag" with the colors reversed. The Texas version includes a large yellow star in the center of St. Andrew's cross, representing Texas and the legendary "Yellow Rose," Miss Emily D. West.

Mary Todd had four brothers and two brothers-in-law. All six served in the Confederate Army. Lincoln's own house, it seems, was "a house divided." Mary's oldest brother, a surgeon, referred to his brother-in-law, Mr. Lincoln, as "America's greatest unsung hero!"

John Tyler, the 10th President of the United States, also served in the Confederate Congress. His second wife, Julia, started the tradition of playing *Hail to the Chief* when the President enters the room at an official state function.

Holiday message from our president:

The holiday seasons are the times we spend with family. We may not see our relatives but this one time this year. As you are talking with them, make it a point to remember at least one big event in their lives. Because you are the genealogist in the family, you can write the family stories. With effort, anyone can get the public records (such as birth certificates, marriage announcements, etc.) but most family stories can only be preserved by people writing them down. Make the effort to write down something that happened in the life of each relative. What you write can be a valuable gift to your family's future generations. Have a Happy Holiday!

Events Calendar

Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held at
University Baptist Church (UBC)
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059
(Clear Lake City)

Sunday,
Dec. 28, 2003

6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Chapel, UBC
Holiday Party with program provided by Eric and Glenda Sandifer

Monday,
Jan. 19, 2004

4:30 pm BAGS Board* Meeting; Room 329, UBC
* Members are encouraged to attend the Board Meetings

Sunday,
Jan. 25, 2004

5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Great Room, UBC
Robert de Berardinis: "New Materials for French Genealogy at Clayton"

Feb. 4, 2004 -
Feb. 11, 2004

BAGS Trip to Salt Lake City

Monday,
Feb. 23, 2004

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Bus trip to Clayton Library
4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room 212, UBC

Sunday,
Feb 29, 2004

5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Great Room, UBC
Wolfram Von Maszewski: "German Research based on the Clayton Collection"

Trip to Salt Lake City

A Trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is open to all members of the Bay Area Genealogical Society and genealogical researchers. It is time to book your trip.

Airline: Southwest

Go to the Internet at www.southwest.com or call toll-free 1-800-435-9792.

Arrival: Wednesday February 4, 2004

Departure: Wednesday February 11, 2004.

Hotel: Best Western Plaza Hotel
122 WEST SOUTH TEMPLE
Downtown Salt Lake City

Call: 1-800-366-3684

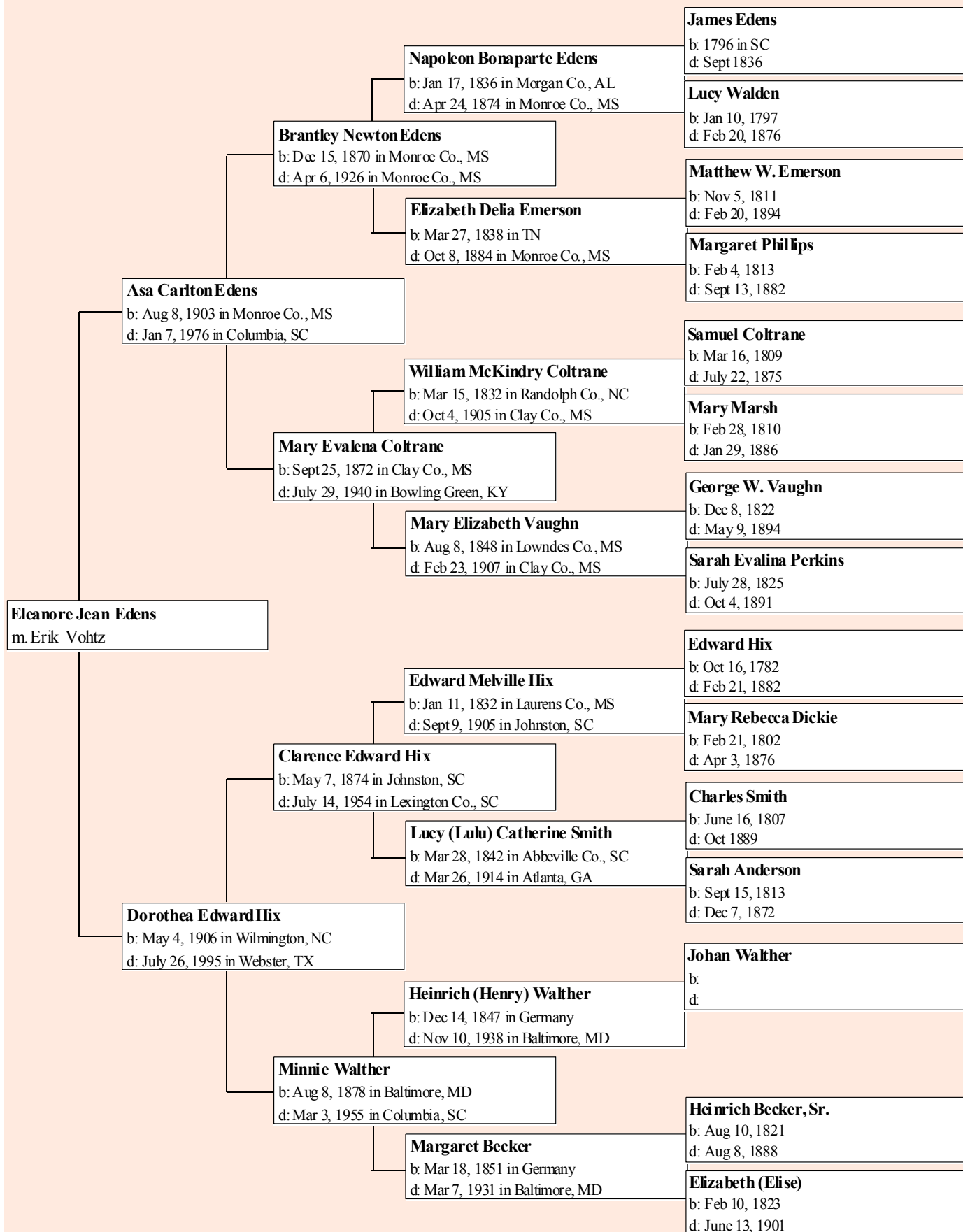
Our contact at the hotel is Richard Williams. When you call, identify yourself as part of the Bay Area Genealogical Society.

The Plaza Hotel is across the street from the Genealogy Library. It is conveniently located within 10 minutes from the Salt Lake International Airport. The hotel offers a complimentary airport shuttle.

We are planning a tour of the library at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 4th. We will be ready to begin our research on Thursday Feb 5th in the morning.

Contacts: Doug and Polly Wilson, 281-326-3823

Ancestors of Eleanore Jean Edens (Vohtz)



Committee News

Message from Ron Cox, Registrar

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Let all of you merry folks pay heed!

Some of you out there are missing out on the best Christmas Present around. I am speaking to those of you who have not yet renewed your BAGS membership for 2003-2004. A BAGS membership is a present that keeps on giving all year long. Each month you get an inspiring and informative program, trips to surrounding areas to help in your research, great fellowship, and good food.

Don't miss out. Memberships for this coming year are about to close and unpaid members will be dropped. Do it now and have a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Please call or EMAIL me if you have any data changes, such as address, phone #'s, email address, etc. Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

If you want to re-new or join our Society, send a check for \$20 (single membership) or \$25 (for a family) made out to "BAGS" to this address:
Bay Area Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 891447
Houston, TX 77289-1447

Please provide the following information:

Name, Address, City, State, ZIP, Phone Number, e-mail address, and whether you want to receive the monthly newsletter by e-mail.

Greatgrandma's Bread Cake

by Barbara Moore

6 to 8 slices bread (2 to 3 days old)

½ cup real butter

1 cup buttermilk

1 egg well-beaten

½ cup raisins

1½ tsp vanilla

1 cup sugar

Break up bread into a bowl. Melt butter in an iron skillet to 350°. Add all ingredients to bowl and mix quickly. Transfer mixture to iron skillet. Bake 45 to 60 minutes at 350°.

Library Trips Planned For February and March 2004

Mary L. Martin, County Coordinator

Two library trips to the Clayton Library have been planned for February and March 2004:

1. Monday, February 23, 2004
2. Wednesday, March 17, 2004

We will meet in front of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street. We will depart in the county bus at 9:00 a.m. and leave the Clayton Library at 3:00 p.m. We will be back at the Community Center by 4:00 p.m. Bring a sack lunch, and we will eat in the snack room at the library. There are drinks and chips in the snack room.

Eleven of our group went to the Clayton Library on November 5. We had a good time chatting and sharing information with each other, and several of us found some new information about our ancestors. If you are interested in going to the Clayton Library on the Harris County Bus, please call me at (281) 332-2435.

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.

Hospitality

We thank the following people for bringing in food for the November 2003 meeting:

David Cate

Jo Roberts

Gail Hunter

Joy Hampton

Joyce Foster

Frank Roth

Barbara Moore

John Hoover

Sue Hall

Oletia Teas

Remember the 2002 BAGS Holiday Party? Here are some photos from our web site which still has the images from last year posted online.



www.TxBayAreaGen.org/holiday/



ONLINE
EXTRA

Next Meeting

BAGS Holiday Party

Date: Dec. 28, 2003
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Chapel, University Baptist Church
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX
Speaker: Eric and Glenda Sandifer
Subject: A program on the
War Between the States



BAGS Website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org

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 Newsletter, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447 or email to claudiamg@ev1.net

**Deadline for
January Issue Is
January 3, 2004**