



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 3, Issue No. 5

January 2004

## January Meeting: Robert de Berardinis will present “New Materials for French Genealogy at Clayton”



Robert de Berardinis

The Bay Area Genealogical Society is fortunate to have Robert de Berardinis as our January guest speaker. Robert is a retired grocery company executive and a transplanted thirteenth generation Louisianian. He and his wife Julia have lived in Houston since 1964.

Genealogy is his passion and French Research his expertise. He has published four books this year: An Index to French Superior Council Records; French Officials, Officers and Soldiers 1710-1770; Analytical Index to Documents Concerning Military and Civilian Personnel in French Archives Concerning the Province of Louisiana; and Some of the Ancestry of Michel Billeaudeau of Ville Platte, Louisiana. He has authored some 60 articles that have been printed in state and national genealogical publications. In addition to his writing, de Berardinis has lectured in five states on French and Spanish language genealogy.

Robert is currently serving his third term as a director of Clayton Library Friends. His contributions to the Clayton Library are extensive. He has served as a library volunteer in several capacities, and has been instrumental in the acquisition of the Cuban Papers for Clayton. This collection is the largest collection outside Spain, and larger than the Library of Congress holdings. He has contributed time and expertise in microfilming, and the acquisition of Texas Land Records for Clayton, thus preserving them from destruction. He promoted the acquisition for Clayton Border Crossing Records from the early Texas era, and has developed and presented educational programs for genealogists.

His subject at the January meeting will be “New Materials for French Genealogy at Clayton”, with some interesting twists. Make plans now to be on hand to welcome this talented and entertaining speaker. The meeting will begin at 5:00 PM, on January 25th at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive.

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# Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research

June 13-18, 2004

Samford University, Birmingham, AL

Alice Braud-Jones

Samford University, the unchallenged leader in annual symposiums for genealogical and historical research has announced their 2004 curriculum. Once again, the most renowned and respected faculty in the industry will conduct and coordinate classes. To mention a few:

Mary McCampbell Bell – Advanced Analysis and Land Platting

Claire Mire Bettag – (Current NIGR Director) Intermediate Genealogy

Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck – Intermediate Genealogy and Historical Studies

John Phillip Colletta – Writing and Publishing and Advanced Methodology

Alvie Davidson – 20<sup>th</sup> Century Genealogy and The Old South

Sherry Irvine – English Family History, Online, On Location, On Target!

Helen Leary – Writing and Publishing for Genealogists and The Old South

Sandra Leubking – Techniques and Technology

Marie Melchiori – (former NIGR Coordinator) U. S. Military Records

Elizabeth Shown Mills – Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis

Christine Rose – For Lands Sake

Craig Scott – Military Records

Frazine Taylor – African American Research and many others!

If you haven't taken the opportunity to attend Samford, make it a New Year's Resolution to improve your genealogical skills in 2004, and attend the crême de la crême of family history research workshops. You will be glad you did!

Tuition per 4½ day course is only \$350.00 until March 15<sup>th</sup> and there are evening sessions at no cost! If your spouse would like to attend as well, there is a reduction in cost for the second family member! Rooms are available on campus for a nominal cost, or at local hotels at a very attractive rate.

For more information, contact:

**Jean Thomason**

**Director IGHR**

**Samford University Library  
Birmingham, AL 35229-7008**

**205-726-4009**

Or, check it out at their website: <http://www.samford.edu/schools/ighr/ighr.html>

Tell them Alice Braud-Jones referred you. This will be my 4<sup>th</sup> year!

Happy New Year from the BAGS Officers,  
Board Members and the Newsletter Staff

## 2003-2004 Officer Roster

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## BAGS Newsletter Staff

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*Composition & Layout*  
Leo Waltz

*Proofreader* - Barbara Stanley

*Distribution* - Leslee Fehlman  
Linda Carrington

*5 Gen. charts* - Tammy Frey

# Genealogy Research in Ireland

Neil Miserendino

I will begin with the bad news. While the Irish population was enumerated in censuses after 1800, almost none of the records survived until the censuses starting in the year 1901. A fire at the Public Records Office, which occurred in 1922, destroyed many of the early censuses. To add insult to injury, the government destroyed the censuses from the years 1861 to 1891, purportedly, because the government had compiled the statistics and no longer needed the original records.

Speakers at our meetings have covered the subject of connecting an ancestor in America to Ireland; therefore, I will not say any more about "jumping the ocean" in this article. The vital records should be your main source of genealogical research about Ireland. Comprehensive records listing marriages, births, and deaths date to 1864. In 1845, the civil registration of marriages began. These vital records are indexed



and are available in the United States.

While Irish emigration to America dates back to the earliest days of the Colonial period, the great wave of emigration from Ireland began with the 1845 potato famine.

I am including three record repositories that you may write to and their Internet links:

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast BT9 6NY, Northern Ireland

<http://proni.nics.gov.uk/>

National Archives of Ireland, Bishop Street, Dublin 8, Republic of Ireland

<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>

National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Republic of Ireland

<http://www.nli.ie/>

You might consider researching available books pertaining to genealogical research in Ireland, at your local library.

## Humor Corner

### Murphy's Law

- The will you need is in a safe onboard the Titanic
- You finally find the wedding record for your gggrandfather only to discover he married Mary SMITH whose father was John SMITH and mother was Mary JONES!
- You have finally found the information you needed to solve the family mystery you have been working on for 2 years and your elderly aunt says "I could have told you that!"
- You find an old family photo album and upon close examination, there are no names on the pictures.

- You learn that your great grandmother's family bible (passed down through the family for 3 generations) was sold at an estate sale in New York City.
- You find your family in the census and write to the county where they lived for 40 years, only to receive a letter stating all the county records burned.
- You learn there is a county history on microfilm of the county your ancestors originated. It has 16,000 pages and is not indexed.
- The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated and at which the platform collapsed under him, turned out to be a hanging.

Thanks to Brenda Hay:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~tracers/thefunny.htm>

## Request from Clayton Library Friends

Clayton Library Friends  
P.O. Box 271078 - Houston, TX 77277-1078  
Here are missing issues of Houston Public Library periodicals. If you have any of the following issues, please donate them to Clayton.

Acadian Genealogy Exchange: V32, 2003 (2 issues per year)  
Avotaynu: V19, 2003  
Central Virginia Heritage: V19 #1-2, 2002; V20 #1-2, 2003  
Cherokee Tracer: V13, 2003  
Colorado Genealogist: V64 #2-4, 2003  
Connecticut Nutmegger: V36 #1-2, 2003  
Copper State Journal: V38, #1-3, 2003  
Crossroads (Orphan Train Heritage Soc: V70, 2003 (each issue given a vol. number)  
Dakota Homestead Historical Newsletter: V32 #2-3, 2003  
Deep South Genealogical Quarterly: V40 #1-3, 2003  
Delaware Genealogical Society Journal: V11 #4, 2002; V12 #1, 2003  
Families (Ontario Gen Soc): V40#3, 2001; V42 #1-3, 2003  
Family Chronicle: V7 #2, 2002; V7 #3, 5-6, 2003  
Florida Genealogical Society Journal: V39 #1-2, 2003  
Florida Genealogist: V26 #1-3, 2003  
Forum (Federation of Gen Soc): V15 #1-3, 2003  
Genealogical Computing: V23 #1, 2003

Genealogical Journal (Utah Gen Assoc): V31 #1-3, 2003  
German Connection: V27 #3, 2003  
Golden Roots of the Mother Lode: V23 #1-2, 2003  
Hawkeye Heritage: V38 #1-2, 2003  
Heritage Quest: V19 #1-3, 2003  
Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society: V22 #1, 2003  
Kentucky Ancestors: V38 #1-2, 2003  
Maine Genealogist: V25 #1-3, 2003  
Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin: V44 #1-3, 2003  
Mayflower Descendant: V52 #1, 2003  
Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal: V22, 2002; V23 #1-3, 2003  
New England Historical and Genealogical Register: V157 whole #s 626-628  
New Mexico Genealogist: V42 #1-3  
North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal: V29 #1-3, 2003  
Oklahoma Genealogical Society Journal: V48 #1-3, 2003  
Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine: V43 #1, 2003  
Pointers (pursuing our Italian names): V17 #1-3  
Register of the Kentucky Historical Society: V100 #3-4, 2002  
Treearcher (Kansas Gen Soc): V45 #1-2, 2003  
Virginia Genealogist: V47 #1-3, 2003  
Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter: V50 #1-2, 2003  
Yellowed Pages: V33 #1-2, 2003

### **BAGS Eye-View**

This Newsletter feature will periodically highlight a web site of interest to members.

This month's question: Do you know the meaning of these terms: ALNAGER, AMANUENSIS, ANKLE BEATER, AURIFABER, or BANDSTER? Hint: These are all occupations or trades from the past. Good if you knew them all, but how about these: WRIT OF VENIRE FACIAS (I got one of these not long ago), FEODARY, LIBERI? These are other

terms you might encounter in genealogy. If you run across unfamiliar occupations, illnesses, or even abbreviations like ptf., p.a., m-in-l, then where do you turn for meanings?

One answer is a web site at Genealogy Inc. Don't go to their main site because you won't find the answers. Instead try [www.genealogyinc.com/descriptions](http://www.genealogyinc.com/descriptions) for terminology and meanings of early occupations. From that page you can navigate to illnesses,

Continued on page 5

# Events Calendar

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

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

BAGS wishes those going on the Salt Lake City trip a safe and productive journey. We look forward to hearing your stories after you return. If you have an interesting genealogy adventure to share, please send the details to the Newsletter editor.

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"

BAGS Eye-View (continued from page 4)

abbreviations, etc. by selecting the category. Each of these categories is then indexed alphabetically.

Well, here are the answers. (I would turn these upside down, but somebody might try to turn their computer monitor upside down to read it.)

ALNAGER - official who examined the quality of woolen goods and stamped them with the town seal of approval

AMANUENSIS - secretary or stenographer

ANKLE BEATER - young person who helped to drive the cattle to market

AURIFABER - goldsmith

BANDSTER - bound the wheat sheaves after harvest

WRIT OF VENIRE FACIAS - a document issued to call men to be jurors

FEODARY - one who holds land of an overlord on condition of homage

LIBERI - [Latin] children; grandchildren

ptf. - plaintiff; p.a. - power of attorney; m-in-l - mother-in-law.

Leo Waltz, BAGS Webmaster

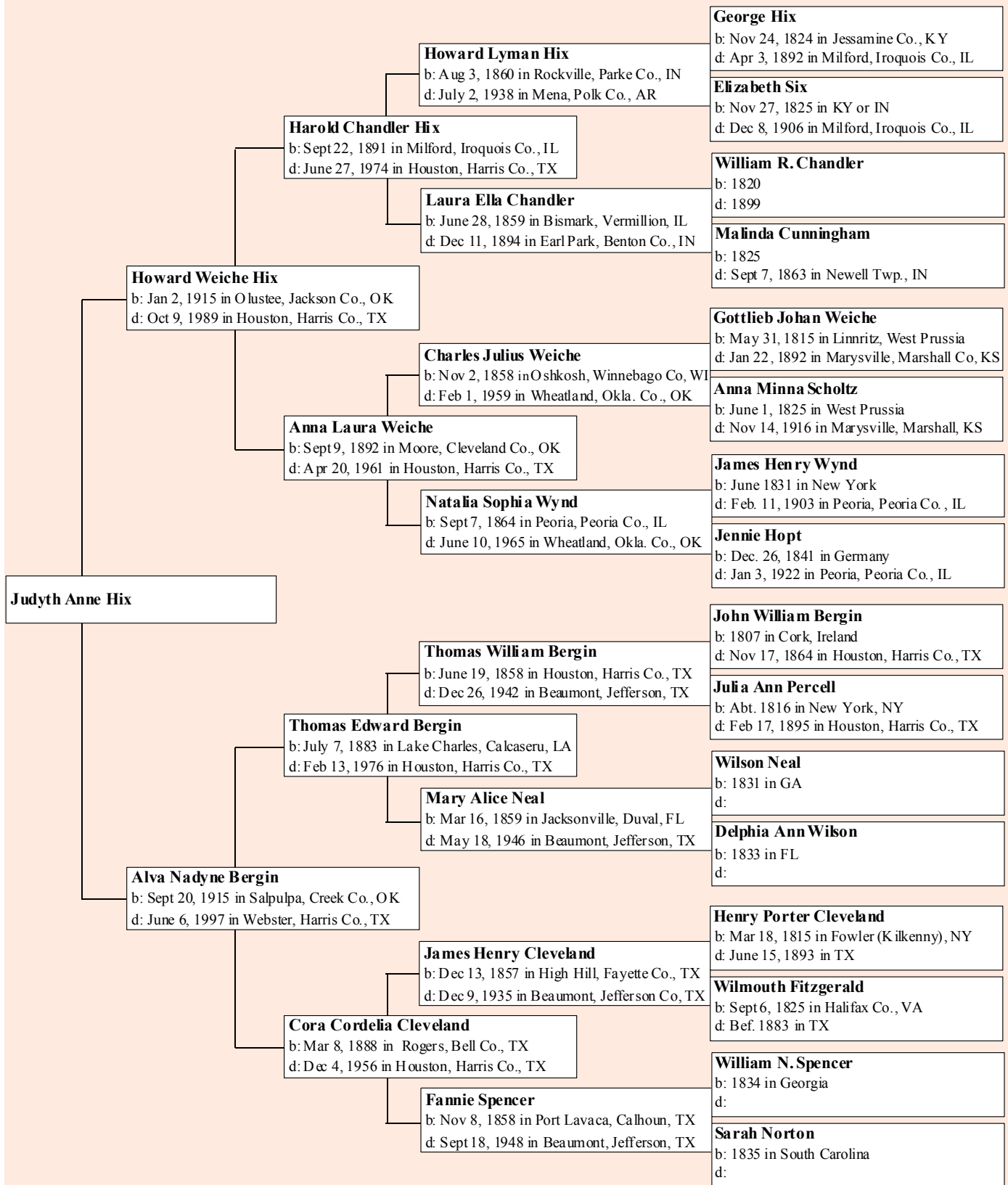
## INPUT - OUTPUT

BAGS strives to provide information and avenues to assist our membership in completing a successful family history. Along with our established plans, we are organizing classes and field trips throughout the 2004 year. We welcome your comments and suggestions, specifically in the areas of class subject matter, preferred times and days (nights), possible volunteers to instruct or assist, and general constructive ideas for future membership activities. This participation now will help make BAGS the best it can be, so please work with us. You may send all input to [claudiamg@ev1.net](mailto:claudiamg@ev1.net), and I will transfer your efforts to the appropriate people. The newsletter will have updates within the next two months, and class schedules should follow soon after.

Thank You Members

Claudia Grafton, Editor

# Ancestors of Judyth Anne Hix (Henderson)



# Committee News

## Reprints available at the general meetings

Jeanine Lawrence

Copies of previous months' speaker handouts, notices, and other information are available at the General Meeting. In order to cover the expense of this privilege; please donate for the pages you collect. The suggested donation is ten (10) cents per page. The money collected will be donated to University Baptist Church, to show our appreciation for their generosity to the Society. This collection is not needed for the current speaker handout, only for the previous months' handouts. The collection will be on the honor system. Thank you for your cooperation.

The list of Genealogical Websites compiled by Carolyn Hellen is available for purchase at a cost of fifty (50) cents. The money raised by this list will go to the Society Treasury.

We are selling copies of the Society's "Surname Database" for five (5) dollars each. This database contains the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the contributing members, as well as surnames members are researching. Every member should have a copy of this fifty-page book.

## From the BAGS Webmaster

Two reminders to pass along:

1. Check the [Member Info Page](#) several times a month. This page is updated more frequently than our main page and includes non-BAGS events.
2. BAGS has an [online query page](#), so check it and post queries while you are online.

## Send all member E-mail, phone number or address changes to:

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

or send an e-mail to:

[Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org)

## Library Trips Planned For February and March

Mary L. Martin, County Coordinator

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

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 Harris 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 around 4:00 p.m. If you would like to join us in a trip to the library, please call me at (281) 332-2435. There will be sign up sheets for those who would like to go to the library at the January General Meeting.

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

We are thrilled to report that Emily Croom will be doing a book signing. In addition to signing her book, Emily will cover the improvements and added information found in the latest edition. The book is titled *The Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook, 2nd ed.* Copies of all five of her books should be there. Emily has spoken to our group before, and mentioned to us that she would "love to see some BAGS members there," so let's go and give her our support.

Where: Bay Area Barnes & Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd at I-45, Webster.  
281-554-5669

When: Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004 at 3 pm.



ONLINE  
EXTRA

Pictures from the Holiday Party, December 2003



## Next Meeting



Date: Jan. 25, 2004  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Place: Great Room, University Baptist Church  
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX  
Speaker: Robert de Berardinis  
Subject: "New Materials for French Genealogy at Clayton"

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](mailto:claudiamg@ev1.net)



**BAGS Website:**  
**[www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org)**

**Deadline for February Issue Is January 31, 2004**