



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

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*** Updated Edition ***

February 2004

February Meeting: Robert de Berardinis & Marje Harris will present a Program on Genealogical Research Problem Solving

Robert de Berardinis is a director of Clayton Library Friends. Genealogy is his passion and French Research his expertise. He has published four books this past year.

For more information on Robert, see the January 2004 BAGS Newsletter.

Marje Harris is Manager of Clayton Library. She has worked at Clayton Library for twenty-two years, and is qualified to speak on any genealogy subject and on the Clayton Library.

For more information on Marje, see the October 2003 BAGS Newsletter.

The Bay Area Genealogical Society welcomes back two recent speakers, Robert de Berardinis and Marje Harris, who are teaming up to provide a highly interactive problem-solving program which should be of great benefit to the audience.

Problems will be taken from the audience and the team will show how to solve them, sharing with the rest of the audience how to approach the problem and ask the right questions. Members should bring your research problems - the brick walls that prevent you finding your ancestors. The problems should be accompanied by enough data and details to show where the problem is and what you have done to get to that point. The scope will be limited to genealogy of American, Canada, the Caribbean, France, and Italy.

Program objectives:

1. How to frame the right questions in order to solve the problem.
2. How to assess the sources available to the researcher.

Between the two of them, they can cover a lot. What the audience will hopefully discover from each other is that there are very few genealogical problems that are truly without solutions. There will be a brief intro about analysis from Elizabeth Mills.

Inside BAGS --

- 2,3 Locating Your Ancestor's Ship
- 4 BAGS Eye-View Texas History Month Humble Seminar
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- 8 Online Extra (appears in online version only)

Note: This month's program is a change from that shown in the printed edition of the BAGS Newsletter.



Robert de Berardinis



Marje Harris

The process to find the ship that brought an ancestor to America can be very involved. The reasons are many. There is no central repository for the records. There are many archives and collections spread around the world. Many collections may not have been transcribed.

At the November 2002 Texas State Genealogical Society Convention held in Galveston,

John Philip Colletta, author of "They Came in Ships: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record," told about the Steamship Historical Society of America Collection. This collection is part of the Special Collections of the Langsdale Library at the University of Baltimore includes photographs of ships. Copies of these photographs are offered for sale.

Their web page is: <http://www.sshsa.net/>. On that web page is a link to a PARTIAL index of their records. I emphasis PARTIAL because even on their web page they state that the collection is so large that many ships are not listed. The collection has information about ships from the mid-1800's to the present. If you know the name of the ship, you should first try to confirm if the ship you seek is in their collec-

- List of websites in this article**
- <http://www.sshsa.net/>
Steamship Historical Society
 - <http://archives.ubalt.edu/steamship/trans.htm>
Index into archives of ships.
 - <http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton/clmcp0.html>
List of Clayton Library microprint collections of passenger ships
 - <http://www.cronab.demon.co.uk/marit.htm>
The Maritime History web page
 - <http://www.reach.net/~sc001198/Lloyds.htm>
Transcriptions of information from Lloyds register of Ships
 - <http://infa.abo.fi/~fredrik/sships/>
Definitions of the types of ships.

tion. Go to this link: <http://archives.ubalt.edu/steamship/trans.htm>. Click on the first letter of the name of the ship. If you do not find your ship, keep this link in your favorites. You can check back every few months as more names of ships are added. If you do not have access to the Internet or you do not want to wait for the collection to be in-

dexed, the organization will search for a ship in their collection for a non-refundable fee of \$5.50 for each ship that you want them to find. You have to enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with a check or money order for the payment. The address is:

**Steamship Historical Society Collection
Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore
1420 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201**

The information in the Maritime History web page contains many other useful sites. Information closer to us are various microprint collections of Passenger Lists at Houston's Clayton Library. The website is mentioned in the above list, third from top.

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Continued from Page 2 --

Now, let me choose a specific ship (the Caroline) and see what information can be found. Start with the website that contains transcriptions of information from Lloyds Register of Ships:

<http://www.reach.net/~sc001198/Lloyds.htm>.

When you go to this website, you can search by key word, or you can click on the links to pages that are transcribed. I clicked on the pages that start with the letter "C" and found the Caroline. Or did I? It seems this name was used for more than one ship. We have to be aware that our search is narrowed but not over. You will have to match your ancestor's record and hope that the port of registry is mentioned in the Passenger List. If not, the next step may be to try to track down the voyages of each of these ships. Then we can match the correct Caroline with our ancestor's actual ship. At the bottom of this article is the information from the website.

As you read about the various "Carolines," look at the lines that start with "Rigging." Some lines list "ship" - this is not very descriptive. The other lines list a brigantine and a schooner. Besides a good dictionary, some definitions of ships are found at <http://infa.abo.fi/~fredrik/sships/>. On the web page, the description of a brigantine states that it "is a two-masted vessel with her foremast full square rigged ..." I will leave it up to the reader to find the description of a schooner.

CAROLINE - 1855

1) Master: Captain Bell
Rigging: Brigantine; sheathed in felt and zinc in 1854; fastened with iron bolts
Tonnage: 130 tons using old measurements and 95 tons using new measurements
Construction: 1851 in New Brunswick, using Hackmatac & Birch
Owners: N. Tuite
Port of registry: Liverpool
Port of survey: Liverpool
Voyage: sailed for Australia

2) Master: Captain D. Green
Rigging: Ship; sheathed in felt and yellow metal in 1854; fastened with iron bolts
Tonnage: 697 tons using old measurements and 733 tons using new measurements
Construction: 1850 in Saint John, NB, using Oak, Pine, Hackmatac, Birch & Spruce
Owners: G. Sweting
Port of registry: London
Port of survey: London
Voyage: sailed for Australia

3) Master: Captain W. Lawson
Rigging: Ship; sheathed in yellow metal in 1853
Tonnage: 844 tons using old measurements and 989 tons using new measurements
Construction: 1852 in Quebec, using Oak, Tamarack, Pine, Birch & Elm
Owners: W. Sharpe
Port of registry: Liverpool
Port of survey: Liverpool
Voyage: sailed for Australia

CAROLINE - 1887

1) Code letters: RVGL **Official Number:** 76872
Master: Captain Hardie, appointed to the shipping line in 1870 and to the ship in 1880
Rigging: iron single screw Schooner; 2 decks; 5 cemented bulkheads.
Tonnage: 646 tons gross, 590 under deck and 382 net.
Dimension: 192.8 feet long, 28.1 foot beam and holds 16.1; Poop 27 feet long; Bridge Deck 48 feet; Forecastle 25 feet.
Construction: 1878, T. Royden & Sons in Liverpool; repairs to damages in 1880
Propulsion: compound engine with 2 inverted cylinders of 29 & 58 inches in diameter, respectively; stroke 36 inches; operating at 80 psi; 150 horsepower; engine built by Laird Bros. in Birkenhead.
Owners: The Carron Co.
Port of registry: Grangemouth.

BAGS Eye-View

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

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness: Originally begun by two researchers who saw the need for such a service in their region. This small site grew very rapidly from just a statewide service to an international one. <http://www.raogk.org/>

Many Internet researchers give of themselves unselfishly in aiding others in their research. This project expands on this premise by going one step further. The 4385 volunteers of this movement have agreed at least once per month to do a research task in their local area as an act of kindness. The cost to you would be reimbursing the volunteer for his expenses in fulfilling your request (video tape, copy fees, etc.). This is NOT a FREE service.

Successful genealogical research is based upon people helping people. These volunteers unselfishly provide information available in their area to those who live far away.

Leo Waltz, BAGS Webmaster

March is Texas History Month

The Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) will meet March 4–6 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel. It will be a salute to Texas History Month that the legislature established and Governor Rick Perry signed into law last summer.

More than 600 historians from across the nation are expected to attend the annual meeting. There will be at least 47 sessions with more than 100 individual presentations on Texas history. In addition to the sessions, there will be a silent auction of rare books, manuscripts, maps, and other historical materials along with book exhibits from 23 publishers. For more info, see <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/about/meeting/program.html>

One Day Seminar Announcement

The Humble Genealogy Society announces their upcoming seminar:

Robert de Berardinis, Speaker --
Specializing in French language and Deep South genealogy, de Beradinis has published over 70 articles; has one book in print, *Index to the French Superior Council Records of Louisiana: 1717-1763* with three more publications, incl. The French-English book, *Listes civiles et militaires de l'ile francais de Saint-Christophe aux Antilles, 1665-1702/Civil and Military Records of the French Island of St. Christophe in the Caribbean, 1665-1702.*

Topics:

- 1) Louisiana: New Materials and New Topics
- 2) Hidden resources in Ancestry.com, etc.; access information you didn't know was there.
- 3) How to use data bases more effectively:
 - a) how to use special character codes and
 - b) how to think like a librarian, and
- 4) The Billion Book Library -WorldCat/ILL - step by step book on how to use this data base and how to order books and microfilm.

Saturday, March 27, 2004 9:00 AM 4:00 PM
(registration begins at 8:30 AM)

Kingwood College Teaching Theater, \$30.00

Includes lunch and 50 page hand-out.

Deadline to Register: **March 15, 2004**

Mail completed form and check to:
Bernie Balser,
3711 Fern River Dr., Kingwood, TX 77345

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

6 Surnames and States per registrant:

Method of payment:

Money Order ___ Check # _____ Cash ___

Lunch Selection Turkey ___ or Ham ___

Events Calendar

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



Monday,
Feb. 23, 2004

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Bus trip to Clayton Library
4:30 pm BAGS Board* Meeting; Room 210, UBC

Sunday,
Feb 29, 2004

5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Great Room, UBC
Robert de Berardinis and Marje Harris: Genealogical Research Problem Solving.

Monday,
Mar. 22, 2004

4:30 pm BAGS Board* Meeting; Room 210, UBC
* Members are encouraged to attend the Board Meetings

Sunday,
Mar. 28, 2004

5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Great Room, UBC
Margie Lowe: "Genealogy Research using Native American Indian Records"

Genealogy & Family History Fair

Sunday, March 14, 2004
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sugar Land Community Center
226 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, Texas

Hosted by the
Alexander Hodge Chapter #49
Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution

For Information and updates
www.sarhodgetx.org
Salge@texas.net
281-794-5860

For the 2nd year genealogical societies, historical and patriotic organizations, Museums, libraries, genealogical vendors, and others are offering an educational opportunity to share available information with the Amateur to the expert genealogist or family history researcher.

On Sunday, March 14th, 2004, The Alexander Hodge #49, Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will host a free genealogy fair for the public at the Sugar Land community center. This will be an opportunity for anyone

interested in researching your family history/ family tree to learn a little bit more on how to go about it. Speakers will also be discussing research tips and entertaining you with historical stories.

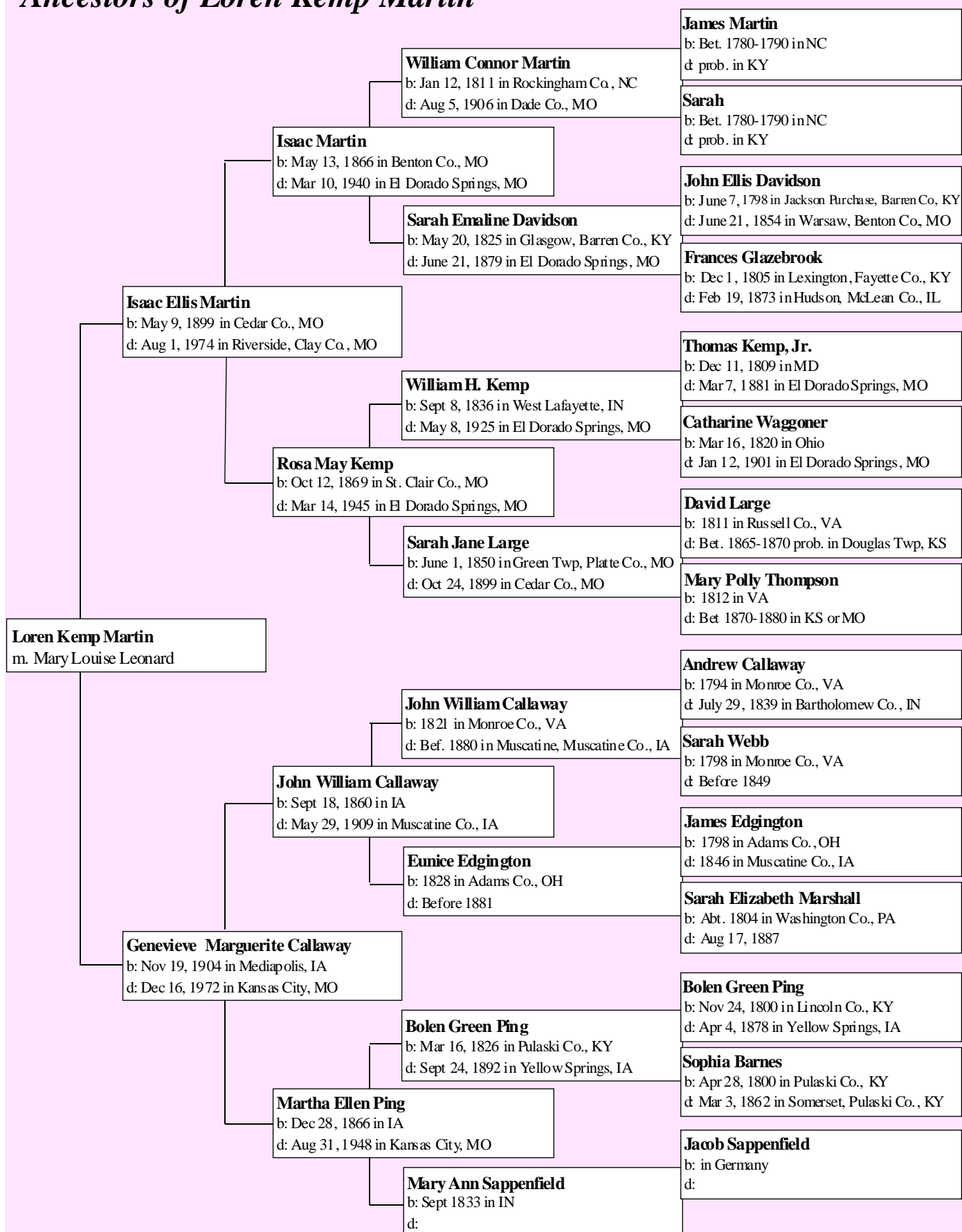
Historical and genealogical organizations will be on hand to answer questions about their societies and can also share insight into researching that special historical period which interest you. The Clayton Library and George Memorial Library will also be represented which are well known for their wealth of genealogy information available to the public.

A few of the organizations which will be represented are: CAR, Cherokee Ind Soc., CRT, CofC, DAR, DRT, FB Gen Soc, FB Museum, George Ranch, Hispanic Gen Soc, Mayflower Descendants, Museum of Southern History, San Jacinto Desc, SAR, SCV, SRT, UDC.

Author Emily Croom will also have signed copies of the *Genealogist's Companion and Source Book, 2nd Ed.*

Please plan for a day of genealogy education and lots of fun. And thanks to generous sponsors and volunteers, the Public admission price is right for everyone.... Free.

Ancestors of Loren Kemp Martin



Committee News

From the Registrar Ron Cox

Well the new year is in full swing. We have put the final touches on all the renewals, and eagerly wait for new members to join. We lost a few old members this year, so our membership is slightly down, but that only leaves room for new folks and faces. Maybe you know someone who would like to share in the fun and fellowship we have, as a member of BAGS. If so, invite them. Add this to your resolution list, it's one that's easily kept. You may belong to various other organizations where friends might not know about us. We now have 179 members, so let's try to increase our numbers by spreading the good word about BAGS, and include and invite all our friends in our activities.

Please remember to turn in your NAME TAG at the end of each meeting. If it has been lost, or the information on your tag needs updating, let me know. All member E-mail, phone number, or address changes should also be sent to me.

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

or send an e-mail to:

Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

From the BAGS Webmaster

Reminders:

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](#) at Rootsweb.com so check it and post queries while you are online. It can be seen by all and any Rootsweb registered user can post or reply.

Newsletter note: If you are viewing this newsletter in PDF format, there is a bug in the hyperlink specification when the URL splits and wraps to another line. This happened twice in this edition. Simply click on the last line of the multi-line URL and it should work.

Bay Area Genealogical Society

Genealogy Research Trips Planned to Clayton Library

Mary L. Martin, County Coordinator

Would you like to join a group of fellow genealogy researchers on a nice Harris County Bus with a pleasant driver to the Clayton Library? Bring a sack lunch and join us for one of these trips. Drinks and snacks are available in the Clayton Library snack room. Our next trips to the library are:

Monday, February 23, 2004

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

We will meet in front of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street. We will leave the center at 9:00 a.m. and leave Clayton Library at 3:00 p.m. We should be back to the center about 4:00 p.m. If you would like to meet some fellow researchers and take a pleasant trip to the library, please call Mary Martin at (281) 332-2435, or there will be a sign up sheet in the back of the room at the February meeting.

Hospitality

We thank the following people for bringing in food for the January 2004 meeting:

Lee Jared	Tina Medlin Chatham
Debbie McDonald	Larry Barner
Billy Mayo	Guy Bodek
Mary Martin	Jan Miller
Sue McCown	Ann Little
Diane Pederson	

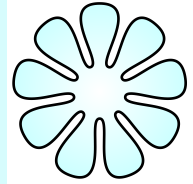
Quarterly

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.



Robert de Berardinis gave the program at the January 2004 BAGS meeting: "New Materials for French Genealogy at Clayton." His handout is available on the BAGS website. There you will also find most handouts from meetings back to March 2003.

ONLINE
EXTRA



Also see Page 4 of this issue for information on an all day seminar to be given by Robert de Berardinis on March 27 at Kingwood College.



Next Meeting



Date: Feb. 29, 2004
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: Great Room, University Baptist Church
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX
Speakers: Robert de Berardinis & Marje Harris
Subject: "Genealogical Research
Problem Solving"

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.

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claudiamg@ev1.net



BAGS website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org

**Deadline for
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March 6, 2004**