



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 3, Issue No. 10

June 2004

June Meeting: Emily Croom will present "Timely Tools for Genealogists"

June 27
5 pm,
at UBC



Emily Croom

Emily Croom is a native Houstonian and lives with her family in Bellaire. She has been actively involved in genealogical research in this area since 1969. She is a member of local, state, and national genealogical societies, including the Houston Genealogical Forum and the Clayton Library Friends. She has two BA degrees (history and music) and a MA in history. A former public school teacher, Ms. Croom has taught genealogy for several continuing education facilities, and has conducted an online genealogy class for Barnes and Noble University since 2001. You may contact Emily at her website: www.unpuzzling.com

Ms. Croom is the author of "The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research" and "A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors". Two of her other books "Unpuzzling Your Past" and the Workbook, and "The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook" were

chosen by Readers Digest and Book of the Month Club as their book offerings, and are available in local bookstores.

Emily will be speaking about how to create and use timelines effectively in your research. Like other DIY efforts, genealogy projects usually go better when you have the proper tools, and among the most useful genealogical tools are the indispensable personal, family, and historical timelines. Whether for in-depth study or for ancestors you consider "brick walls", timelines help you (1) plan and evaluate research, (2) see ancestors in the context of the family of which they were a part, and (3) understand more about ancestors' lives in the context of the historical events happening around them.

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about timelines from Emily Croom by attending the June 27th meeting at 5:00 PM. The meeting is held at University Baptist Church 16106 Middlebrook Dr. The public is invited.

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in online version only)

WE WILL BE VOTING ON THE BYLAW AMENDMENTS AT THE JUNE MEETING. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND AND EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE. THANK YOU



Bay Area Genealogical Society website -- www.TxBayAreaGen.org

MARY SMITH FAY

August 27, 1915 - July 7, 2000

by Rosanne Allen Frazier

Once in a while someone comes along who seems to charm every one who knows them - Mary Smith Fay was such a person! It has been said that everyone who knew Mary thought *they* were her best friend and, no wonder, since she so generously shared her keen mind and kind spirit. The world of genealogy was especially blessed, as her distinguished biography attests.

A native of White County, Illinois, Mary was the daughter of William Logan and Myrtle Hunsinger Smith. She received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Illinois, returning to teach mathematics and general science at Crossville, IL, Community High School. During World War II, Mary worked at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor; and later as superintendent with the Monmouth Memorial Hospital in Long Branch, New Jersey. Moving to Houston in 1948, she joined the Exploration and Production Research Laboratory of Shell Oil Company, and was supervisor of the Technical Information Department when she retired in 1969. The widow of Dr. Charles Hemphill Fay, Mary was a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for over fifty years.



Painting of Mary Smith Fay
by Rosanne Allen Frazier

Long interested in genealogy, Mary had been a Certified Genealogist since 1974 when, in 1977, she was appointed by the Harris County Probate Court as genealogist to consult with the attorney *ad litem* in the landmark Howard R. Hughes, Jr. heirship case. She was a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists from 1983 until 1995. In 1997, Mary was elected a Fellow in the American Society of Genealogists, the highest accolade in Genealogy. She published many articles in genealogical and historical journals and

authored three books, including *War of 1812 Veterans in Texas*.

Since 1989, until her death, she served as a member of the National Board of the Medical College of Pennsylvania; she was an Honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy, commissioned by the Governor in 1989, for efforts in the preservation of Texas history; and in 1998, she was appointed to the Board of the City of Houston Public Library.

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2003-2004 Officer Roster

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Linda Carrington
<i>5 Gen. charts</i> - Tammy Frey

I am starting a new series where the focus will be on different types of genealogical research aids. This month is an overview of the genealogical information found in newspapers.

While much genealogical information can be found in newspaper obituaries, we can also gain valuable information about the lives of our ancestors by reading many other parts of a newspaper. Your search for ancestors mentioned in newspapers could follow a set pattern. When you are starting to research, concentrate on the obituaries and marriage notices. The obituary lists only as many people related to the deceased as were known to the person making the report. Other relatives may be listed in marriage notices.

To fill in the details of your ancestor, create a list of the local newspapers that were published when and where your ancestor lived. Once you have reached a point that you want to learn more about the life of your ancestor, you should again read the newspapers. There are many things that could have put your ancestor's name in the paper.

Read the newspapers for your ancestors' names in birth announcements, anniversaries, and probate notices. They may have been mentioned in accidents, school graduation lists, and divorce filings. Newspapers in or near port

cities would also list ship arrival and departure notices. If your ancestor had a business, they may have taken out advertisements. Additionally, it is a common practice for newspapers to have a society or social column where the community activities were published.

To locate the above information, I suggest several ways of accessing these newspapers.

First, many newspapers have been put on microfilm. Those microfilm rolls are available through interlibrary loan. To find out if your newspaper of interest is available through interlibrary loan, visit a library near you. If the newspapers are not available through interlibrary loan, then you may have to travel to a repository for the newspapers. Before beginning your trip, your plans should include the working hours of the repository, and a list of the records you will be searching.

Finally, more and more newspapers are being put on the Internet. These collections can be at repositories or saved as individual collections and only available through paid subscription. Some of these collections have been electronically indexed; that is, they have been read by computers. If you use the electronic index for you search, remember it is not as reliable as if a person had indexed the newspapers.

Mary Smith Fay Continued from Page 2 --

Other service included Regent of the Ann Poage Chapter, DAR, and work with the Children of the American Revolution on a local, state and national level since 1960. In 1984 she was elected Honorary Vice President National (for life) of the United States Daughters of 1812 after serving as president of the Captain James Asbury Tait Chapter in Houston and as state president. She was a member of the Daniel Braman Chapter Daughters of the American Colonists; the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter VIII; and of several historical and genealogical organizations, including Clayton Library Friends.

While becoming one of the nation's premier genealogists, she returned every year to her (and my) hometown, Carmi, Illinois to visit family and friends and nurture the growth of the local historical society's genealogical collection. At her death in 2000, she left a substantial bequest and her genealogical collection to the White County Historical Society, which by then had acquired the former Carnegie Library, now the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library. In 2002, I was privileged to paint her portrait for her library. She also made generous bequests to the Houston Public Library and the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research, where a copy of the painting now hangs, alongside the microfilm copiers purchased in her memory.

Scrapbooking Class

Member Services has scheduled a beginning class in Scrapbooking. The class will be on June 29th, from 7:00 to 9:00pm, at the "Memories by Monique" scrapbooking store. Bobbi Anastasio will be conducting the class. Participants should bring 6 to 8 photos (copies), and will make two scrapbook pages during the session. The store is located in the shopping center across Bay Area Boulevard from Baybrook Mall (where Service Merchandise and Target used to be).

The cost of the course is \$20.00 and will be limited to the first eight who sign up. All materials will be provided to make the two scrapbook pages, and the store will give a 10% discount for any other supplies purchased that evening.

Please mail all checks payable to "BAGS Scrapbooking Class - P.O. Box 891447, Houston TX, 77289-1447". All mailed checks must be received no later than Saturday, June 26. The class roster will be filled in order of the payments received. Please include your telephone number as you will receive a phone call confirming your class registration. In the event more people sign up than we have openings, additional classes by Bobbi will be offered. Those who have paid will be given top priority regarding the added classes.

Doug and Polly Wilson Member Services Committee

Notes from Neil

If you joined the Society after the first year, we are offering complete sets of the newsletter. You can purchase Volume One (year one) or Volume Two. The price of one volume with all of the issues for one year is ten dollars. Volume One consists of eleven issues and Volume Two consists of twelve issues.

For those members wishing to car pool or caravan to the Angelina conference being held on July 22nd - 24th, or the Austin convention being held on September 8th - 11th, we will have sign up sheets at the June meeting. If you want to contact other members before then, e-mail me at President@TXBayAreaGen.org, write to BAGS, PO Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447, or call me (281-286-8243). I will put you in contact with other members who plan on attending.

We thank Charlie Howard for his donation of Genealogy magazines. Some issues will be made available for loan to BAGS members, at the June meeting.

Freeman Memorial Branch Library Now Open

Our library liaison, Shirley Lindquist, toured our new Freeman Memorial Branch Library on Opening Day, and had this to say; "The new facility has something for everyone. The BAGS members will be especially interested in the Computer Lab, The Internet Cafe, the meeting rooms, Express Check Out, and so much more. Freeman even has a Used Book Store (great prices), rooms called 'Quiet Space', and a Snack Bar on each floor."

BAGS hopes to establish a long and close association with Freeman Library, so take the time to go visit, enjoy the Art, meet the staff, and get acquainted with our newest treasure; the Freeman Memorial Branch Library. Oh! Be sure to tell them you're with BAGS, to know us is to love us.

"We can be proud and excited with our new facility, so let's use it."

See photos and history on their website at www.hcpl.lib.tx.us/branchinfo/fm/fminfo.htm

Events Calendar

All meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)

Monday,
June 21, 2004

4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC
All BAGS members are invited to attend.

Sunday,
June 27, 2004

5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Great Room, UBC
Emily Croom presents "Timely Tools for Genealogists"

Wednesday,
June 29, 2004

9:00 am Library trip to the George Memorial Library in Richmond
Meet in front of the Clear Lake Community Assoc. and Rec Center at 16511 Diana.

Monday,
July 19, 2004

4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC
All BAGS members are invited to attend.

Sunday,
July 25, 2004

5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Great Room, UBC
Kathryn Black Morrow will speak on "Seeing What Isn't There; How to Ask Questions as You Research"

4th Annual Texas Genealogy & Family History Fair -- Saturday, June 26, 2004

Walker County Fairgrounds on State Highway 30 (IH-45 Exit 116) 4 Miles West of Huntsville
10:00 AM to 4 PM Admission \$8. The 4th Annual Texas Genealogy & Family History Fair is being sponsored by the Walker County Genealogical Society to give individual researchers opportunities to meet and swap information on their families with other researchers.
Three sessions on how to research:

10:30 A.M. - "Problem Solving" (Marje Harris)
12:30 P.M. - "Basic Genealogy" (Johnnie Jo Dickenson)
2:30 P.M. - "Using Family Tree Maker" (Judy Hunter - Sue Smith)
These sessions are included in the registration fee. A concession area will offer morning and afternoon refreshments and a snack at lunch. There will be barbecue for lunch.
For Information and Updates See Walker County Genealogical Society Website www.wcgen.com

The Federation of Genealogical Society 2004 National Conference

September 8-11 in Austin Texas. The Texas State Genealogical Society and the Austin Genealogical Society are Co-hosting this Conference, and the goal is to bring a National Conference to Texas for all levels of genealogy. We have not had a national conference in Texas since 1997.

For more information, visit the conference web site at www.fgs.org/2004conf/FGS-2004.htm or call 1-888-FGS-1500 toll-free.

Postal mail: Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940.

For questions about this event you may contact Betty Dunquez at bdunquez@aol.com, and the TSGS District Representative is Darwin Gilmore (281-332-1395) for local information or inquiries.

8th ANNUAL ANGELINA COLLEGE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

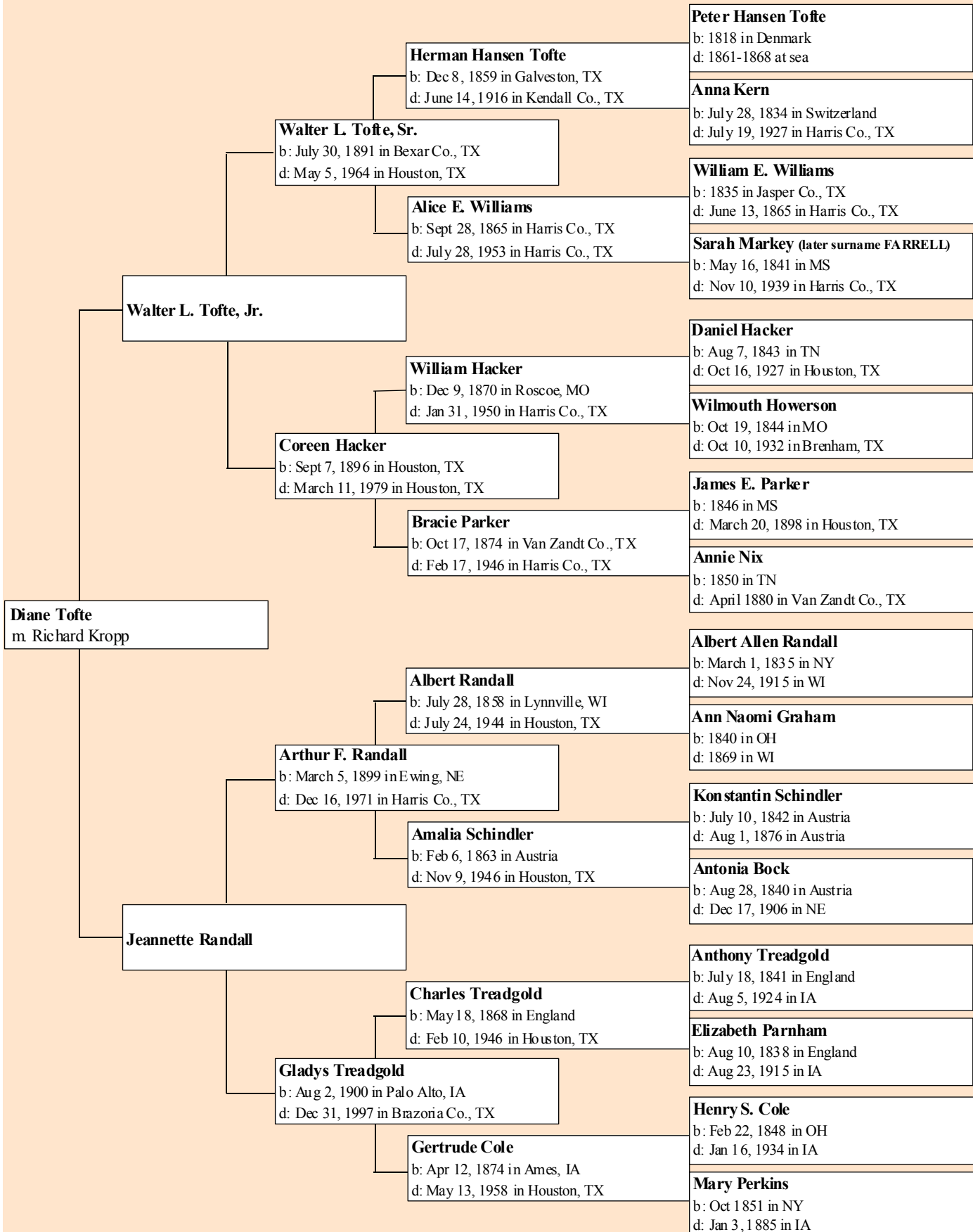
Thursday - Saturday, July 22 - 24, 2004

Local Speakers include: Trevia Wooster Beverly, Pat Gordon, Don Raney, Bev Odom, Robert deBerardinis, Emily Croom, John Sellers

To receive a Topic Information and Conference Registration Packet, please Contact: ANGELINA COLLEGE COMMUN. SERVICES
ATTN: GENEALOGY
P.O. BOX 1768,
LUFKIN, TEXAS 75902-1768

Phone: 1-936-633-5206
Fax: 1-936-633-5478
E-Mail: fkanke@angelina.edu or abrowning@angelina.edu

Ancestors of Diane Tofte (Kropp)



Committee News

Hospitality

Thanks the following people for bringing food to the May meeting:

Ann Fogelman
Neil Miserendino
Kathryn Morrow
Rosemary Parks
Norma Parnell
Marion Skains
Marilyn Turner
Carole Varnado
Jean Vohtz

Quarterly

Pick up the latest Quarterly at the next meeting if you have not already done so. The Quarterly needs your input! Please submit original articles, family histories, anecdotes, queries, research tips, Letters to the Editor... 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.

From the Registrar

Please send any changes or new information regarding name, email, phone number, or address, 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

Two Summer Library Trips Planned on the Harris County Bus

Mary L. Martin, County Coordinator

We have two library trips planned for this summer. On Tuesday, June 29, we will go to the George Memorial Library in Richmond instead of the Clayton Library. Bring your sack lunch and a drink, and we will eat in a room provided by the library. Last year, the bus driver stopped at a quick stop, so we could all get a drink for the ride home. We might ask him or her to do it again this year. On Tuesday, August 17, we will go to the Clayton Library.

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 or George Memorial Library at 3:00 p.m. We will be back at the Community Center by 4:00 p.m. Sign up sheets are available in the back of the room at our monthly meetings, or please call me at (281) 332-2435, if you would like to join us.

Last June on the trip to George Memorial Library, several of our group found some interesting things. Jeanine Lawrence used to live in Orchard, TX. She found a file of papers on Orchard. The Papers told about people and businesses when Orchard was founded, and she also found some of the people she had known when she lived there, mentioned in the papers.

I found a book of maps that had small township maps for all of the counties in the United States. I love maps, and this helped me pinpoint the counties where some of my ancestors lived. I was able to copy several of these pages. I also found three volumes of surnames. They gave a definition of the surnames and their country of origin. Many of the surnames have more than one country of origin. (Later, I found these books at Clayton Library, too.) My name Martin (or rather Loren's surname) has origins in many countries. I was also able to look at the 1930 Census for the state of Missouri which is my home state, and find several of my people in this Census. I also found information in their Civil War collection and from some books of North Carolina.

Sue McCown found vital records of Mike McCown's family on microfilm in the Fort Bend County records at the George Memorial Library.

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Sue McCown found vital records of Mike McCown's family on microfilm in the Fort Bend County records at the George Memorial Library.

ONLINE EXTRA

Some scenes from last month's BAGS meeting when Irene Walters spoke to the members on "Researching in New York."



Next Meeting

Date: June 27, 2004
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: Great Room, University Baptist Church
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX
Speaker: Emily Croom
Subject: "Timely Tools for Genealogists"
Other: Vote on bylaws changes



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



BAGS website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org

**Deadline for
July Issue is
July 3, 2004**