



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

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September 2004

September Meeting: Robert de Berardinis on “Using English Language Finding Aids for Texas Research through the Civil War”

Sep. 25
5 p.m.
UBC

Don't Forget
September meeting
is on **SATURDAY**
and will be on the
THIRD floor.

Robert will speak on “Using English Language Finding Aids for Texas Research through the Civil War”. From “what is a finding aid” to “how to find and use them to their best advantage”, Mr. de Berardinis’s lecture surveys the primary published and web-based bibliographies/indices. He will cover [Texas Archival Resources Online \(TARO\)](#), [A Guide to the History of Texas](#), [Handbook of Texas](#) (also online), as well as the eight new finding aids for the Clayton Library Friends series [Preserving Texas](#).

Robert is a retired grocery company executive and transplanted thirteenth generation Louisianian. Robert and his wife Julia have lived in Houston since 1964.



Robert de Berardinis

Genealogy is his passion and French Research his expertise. He has recently published four books; *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 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. He was 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 to the acquisition and microfilming 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.

Robert de Berardinis will be the guest speaker for Bay Area Genealogical Society on SATURDAY, September 25th, at 5 PM, on the third floor of University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive in Clear Lake City. Make plans now to be on hand to welcome this talented and entertaining speaker.

Inside BAGS —

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HEADLINE NEWS

The September meeting has to be changed to Saturday September 25th at 5:00. The change is necessary because the University Baptist Church has scheduled other activities and the large rooms necessary for our meeting are not available. UBC has generously supported our organization and we certainly can meet their needs by meeting on Saturday September 25th instead of Sunday. This change is only for September. The meeting will be on the third floor and signs will be posted directing you to take the elevator.

This is my last president's message. I have used the president's message to keep the readers informed about the Society. Although I make announcements at the meetings, this feature has been the only method of communication to all of our members.

The August meeting was a great treat. We were a little worried because we only had one person notify us before the meeting that they were bringing something to "show and tell". As it turned out, even the guests brought stories and items to talk about. In addition, there was plenty of delicious food. Congratulations to the many members and guests who made it an enjoyable night.

Clayton Library needs volunteers. The days and times when volunteers are needed are: Monday 3 to 5, 5 to 7, or 7 to 9; Thursday 11 to 1 and 1 to 3; Friday 3 to 5; Saturday 1 to 3 and 3 to 5. The Saturday 1 to 3 volunteer is only needed the first Saturday of the month.

You may also add your name to a backup list. The backup list holds the names of people who do not volunteer at a set time, but are on call in case the regular volunteer has an emergency.

You may volunteer for one or two shifts. If you travel downtown with a friend or spouse you can split a shift so that each of you only volunteers for one hour. Contact Ginny Toney at 281-493-6993 or e-mail gintoney@aol.com.

September is an important and busy meeting; we will be installing our 2004 - 2005 officers and it is time to renew your membership; the dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a family membership. We are adding information to the next edition of the yearbook. Do you need help with genealogy? Can you help another member with their genealogical research? The answer to at least one of these questions is YES. Please put that information on your membership renewal application and we will publish the answers in the yearbook. Join in; I think this will be a popular feature in our next yearbook.

Last year I made it a point to thank the volunteers who work to make this Society as good as it can be. It got so long that I put a "thank you" article in the Quarterly. This year, I want to make a point that the members themselves need to thank the volunteers. So if you come to a meeting, please personally thank someone who you see is helping the Society. If you do not make it to a meeting, open your Quarterly or Newsletter and find someone that you can call and thank.

2004-2005 Officer Roster

President - Ron Cox	281-332-3290	president@TxBayAreaGen.org
1st Vice President - Loren Martin	281-332-2435	lmartin497@aol.com
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	slindquist@houston.rr.com
Treasurer - Resa Hennings	281-326-4936	resa@resa.us
Registrar - Rose Mary Fritz	281-337-5495	registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

BAGS Newsletter Staff

<i>Editor</i> Claudia Grafton
<i>Composition & Layout</i> Leo Waltz
<i>Proofreader</i> - Barbara Stanley
<i>Distribution</i> - Leslee Fehlman Linda Carrington
<i>5 Gen. charts</i> - Tammy Frey

Last month, I wrote about the government order forms to obtain military records from the National Archives. The forms are free and the fee for the research is charged only if the government researcher finds your record. I thought, what else could help the BAGS members and is free?

The answer is quite a lot. There are forms and computer programs that can be invaluable aids to any genealogical researcher. This month I will list some forms that can be obtained for free.

The order forms to request information from the federal government are all free. These forms include requests for ship passenger arrival records, census records, military bounty land records, and Indian census records.

For many of these records, I would recommend that members go to Clayton Library first. You can get the census records much faster by looking up the information yourself. If the records are not available, they you can get the order form and wait weeks for a reply. To get the government order forms go to this web address on the Internet:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/obtain_copies/military_and_genealogy_order_forms.html.

A note on census records: there are many free forms that you can fill out to extract the information. Most people just make a copy of the record and save the time of transcribing information. You should keep one copy of the census extract form so you know what questions were asked for each census.

Every researcher should have an ancestral chart (also known as a pedigree chart) and many family group sheets. The ancestral chart can be a four, five or more generation chart. An example of an ancestral chart is published every month in the newsletter as the five-generation chart. A family group sheet lists information about one family. You put the

information about the parents and all of their children on the form.

Other forms you should have are forms that organize your research such as correspondence logs. If you write many letters to get information from governments, churches and other sources that have your information, it takes weeks for an answer to your letter. When you receive the answer, you may lose track of what you were asking in the first place. The correspondence log is a form where you record who you wrote to and when.

To organize your research you should have a research log also known as a "research calendar." The research log can save you time so you do not repeat research. For example if you looked up your ancestor in the 1850 census, you can write "researched 1850 census" and other information on a research log. The next time you look at census records you can look at the research log. You can see that you do not have to look at the 1850 census again. Instead, you will know to look at the 1840 or 1860 census. This sounds obvious, but as you are searching for more and more ancestors, you need to use a research log to keep track of what research you have completed. A research log can also be found on the Ancestry.com web page under the name "Research Calendar."

www.ancestry.com is one of many web-sites that have these forms for free. The direct link is: <http://www.ancestry.com/trees/>. On the bottom right of the web page, the free forms are listed under "Charts and Forms". The forms are:

- Ancestral Chart
- Research Calendar
- Research Extract
- Sample Census Forms
- Correspondence Record
- Family Group Sheet
- Source Summary

Many of the forms found on Ancestry.com are

"What Can You Get for Free" continued on Page 4

The BAGS 2003-2004 Officers

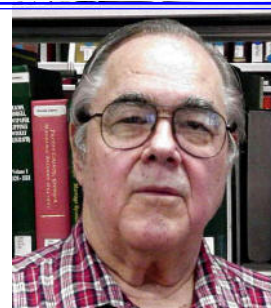
Thank You for a Successful Year



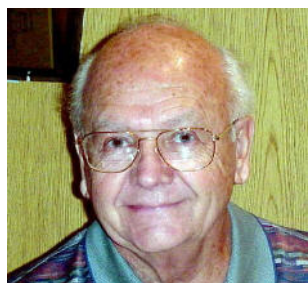
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2nd Vice President



Ron Cox
Registrar



Mary Martin
Recording Secretary



Linda Goerland
Treasurer



Shirley Lindquist
Corresponding Secretary

"What Can You Get for Free" continued from Page 3 --

also available at the Clayton Library in Houston or at a Family History Center near you.

Do you know the difference between first cousins twice removed and second cousins once removed? To find the answer to that question, a chart called the "Family Relationship Chart" can tell you the answer and explain how people with a common ancestor are related. When you use a Family Relationship Chart, it is easy to show anyone how people are related. To get this information, look for "Relationship Chart" on this web page: <http://www.genealogysearch.org/free/forms.html>

The Soundex is a coding method used to index many census records. The information about the Soundex is in two forms. The first part is creating the code for the names you are searching in the census. The code is based on converting the sound of a name into a letter and number combination. A Soundex information sheet can explain how you can convert your surname into Soundex code. The other form is used to copy the existing Soundex Card so you can quickly locate a name in the Federal Census.

A web page that explains the Soundex system and lists the federal census years that used Soundex to index the names of people counted is: <http://www.genealogy.com/00000060.html>.

The form to copy information from a Soundex card can be obtained at Clayton Library or at <http://www.censusresearch.com/sndxcard.htm>. You then use the Soundex card to locate the ancestors in a census. Just as books have an index, the millions of names on the census are made easier to find with a Soundex card.

Now for those members that do not use the Internet, our organization has copies of some of the forms discussed in this article. Copies of some forms are available to our members. We charge a small fee to cover the cost of making copies. We do not have them all. There are restrictions on copying some of the forms but you can download any of the forms listed in this article for your own use. As we find more of the forms that our organization can copy, we will make them available to our members. In a future article, I will write about free programs available to help you with genealogy.

Events Calendar	All meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)
Monday, September 20, 2004	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC All BAGS members are invited to attend.
SATURDAY, September 25, 2004	5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; UBC Robert de Berardinis will speak on "Using English Language Finding Aids for Texas Research through the Civil War."
Monday, October 25, 2004	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC All BAGS members are invited to attend.
Sunday, October 31, 2004	5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Great Room, UBC

Family History Preservation Fair sponsored by the Archivists of the Houston Area (AHA) is October 9 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Julia Ideson Building in downtown Houston. The event is free and open to the public. More information may be found at the BAGS website.

Harris County Archives Project

Judy Henderson

How many of you have experienced the excitement of finding an original document about your ancestor? What a thrill it is to be able to touch history, especially when it is personal. Have you ever thought about what it took to make those records available to you? There has to be proper housing, conserving, organizing, and indexing, plus archivists and other personnel to make them available to you.

For most of you, your area of research is not Houston or Harris County, thus your interest in this is minimal. Irregardless, wherever you have researched, someone had to have worked to

make those documents available to you. We at BAGS have a wonderful opportunity to give back to the family history community what we have received by helping out at the Harris County Archives.

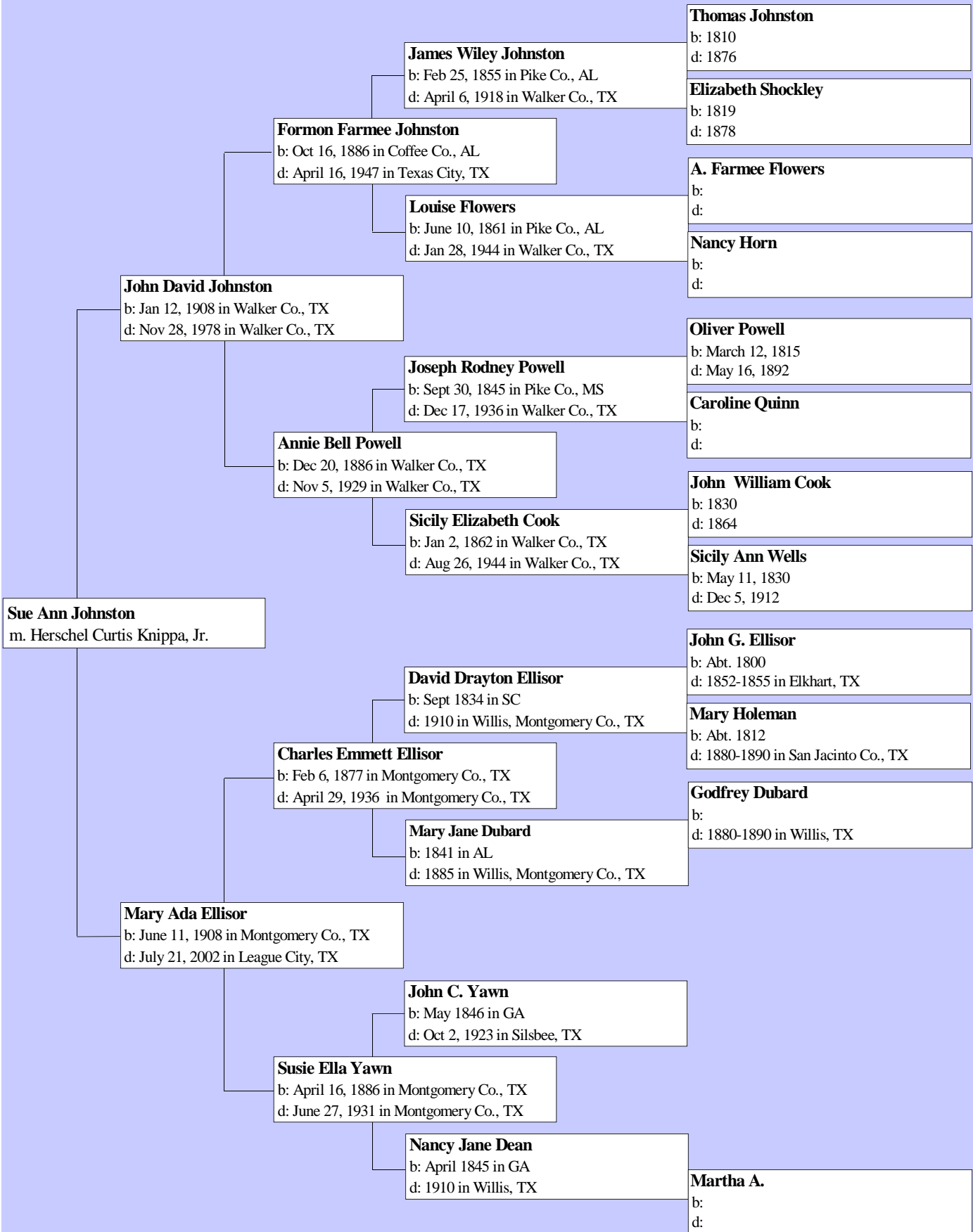
When the Harris County archives opened 18 months ago, various departments brought old books and boxes of records and dumped them there. Now the archivist has the responsibility of getting these ready for public use, and she needs help. Some of those records are boxes and boxes of tapes from the assessor & collectors office that need to be indexed, re-

boxed, preserved archivally, and labeled. It is a simple task that a group can easily do. The project could be stopped and started at any point and then picked up by another group.

Some of us from BAGS could easily go for one day to help the archivist and promote history. I invite you to join me on such a trip.

- Place: Harris County Archives, Criminal Justice Building, Franklin @ San Jacinto
- Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2004
- Time: Leave Clear Lake at 9:00 am. Leave downtown at 3:00 p.m.
- Transportation: Car pool. Meet at Clear Lake Bible Church, 620 El Dorado @ Highway 3. We will regroup there.
- Parking: Near Minute Maid Park. Walk about 5 blocks in a revitalized area of downtown. If that is too far for you to walk, we can drop you off and pick you up.
- Lunch: Buy or bring your lunch. We eat in the cafeteria.
- Dress: Comfortably and bring a sweater for the AC
- Please sign up at the meeting or contact Judy Henderson.
- Contact: Judy Henderson, 281.482.7888, judy38@hal-pc.org

Ancestors of Sue Ann Johnston (Knippa)



Committee News

Member Services

The Bay Area Genealogical Society is offering a Beginning Genealogy course made up of five or six weekly sessions (some homework required). Included will be home and family sources, methodology, organizing the results, and library research. Depending on the actual skills and needs of the registrants, a session at Clayton Library or a Family History Center may be included. The sessions will otherwise be located at University Baptist Church. The first session will be during the week of September 27th. In order that we serve the largest number of registrants, please indicate which of the following meeting times are NOT possible for you.

Thursdays 2 to 4

Thursdays 7 to 9 PM

Fridays 2 to 4

Fridays 7 to 9 PM

Registration is \$25 payable in advance either at the society meeting on SATURDAY, September 25, or at the first session. There will be handouts but no text is required. Please contact us by e-mail or phone if you have questions.

Doug and Polly Wilson, Member Services
281-326-3823 douglaswilson3@earthlink.net

Two Library Trips are scheduled

Mary L. Martin, County Coordinator

Our first two trips to the Clayton Library have been scheduled. They are:

Wednesday, October 13, 2004

Wednesday, November 3, 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. Bring your sack lunch. There are drinks and chips in the snack room at the library.

The next two library trips will be scheduled on September 15. As soon as I know when the trips are, I will e-mail the webmaster, Leo Waltz, and he will put them on the Society's website www.TxBayAreaGen.org. All four trips will be listed in the October edition of the newsletter. I will also have sign-up sheets at the September General Society Meeting.

Call me at 281-332-2435 for more information. Hope to see you at the library, soon!

Hospitality Committee

Lee Jared, Chair

I would like to thank all the BAGS members and guests for their contribution to the "Pot Luck Supper". It was a delicious success.

Austin Conference note from Neil

The Federation of Genealogical Societies 2004 conference ended on Saturday, September 11. I spotted these Bay Area Genealogical Society members at the conference: Gay Carter, Tina Chatham, Ann Davidson, Betty Dunquez, Rose Mary Fritz, Darwin and Emma Gilmore, Claudia Grafton, Judy Henderson, Elizabeth Hicks, Marilyn Hughes, Alice Jones, Shirley Lindquist, Jan and Duane Miller, Betty Ryman, and Jackie Wittschen.

The conference kept us busy with full days of valuable lectures. There was little time between 8 and 7 o'clock to socialize as there were up to seven lectures going on during the same hour. Much of what the speakers talked about was placed in the 450 page conference syllabus.

I am making arrangements to sell a limited number of copies of the syllabus at future BAGS meetings. The price is still being determined and we will have to find a method to distribute the copies as fairly as possible.



This month we have photos showing some of the BAGS board members taking a brief break from the business meeting.

Shown at left: Lee Jared, Leona Cook, Mary Martin, Barbara Stanley, Rose Mary Fritz.



Shown above are Resa Hennings, Linda Goerland, Shirley Lindquist, and Doug Wilson.



Leona Cook is shown at the plentiful array of food at the August meeting.

**ONLINE
EXTRA**

Next Meeting

**** Saturday ****

Date: Sep. 25, 2004

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: University Baptist Church
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX

Speaker: Robert de Berardinis

Subject: "Using English Language Finding Aids for Texas Research through the Civil War."



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
October Issue is
October 9, 2004**