



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 4, Issue No. 2

October 2004

October Meeting: Gayle L. Sandstedt-Workman on “The Birth of the Railroads in the United States”

Oct 31
5 p.m.
UBC

Gayle L. Sandstedt-Workman will speak on the history of the railroads in the early days of a young America. She is a native of Omaha, NE and came to Houston in 1976 via a job transfer. One of her retirement projects was to concentrate on family research, which she has been doing for the past 15 years. Gayle was on the Board of Directors of Clayton Library Friends and has held various positions with the Houston Genealogical Forum during her membership.

Gayle’s interest in railroads developed because of the stories her father told during her childhood. He shared his impressions of the importance of the railroads to the boys of his day, and the part they played in his life. As a young man in 1916, he was employed as a clerk accountant in the Omaha office of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad.



Gayle L. Sandstedt-Workman

Many a family Sunday afternoon was spent hiking on the railroad tracks along the Missouri River to Fort Crook Military Base (renamed during WWII as Offutt Air Force Base) to hear the army band concert in the early evening. The saying was that all of Omaha’s society could be found after church on Sunday carrying their picnic baskets to Fort Crook. After the concerts, everyone rushed for the streetcar that ran from there back to South Omaha.

From April 26-29, 1939, Gayle had the thrilling experience of taking part in the week-long celebration of the Union Pacific Railroad’s “GOLDEN SPIKE DAYS” held in Omaha. Her aunt being an employee of the UPR allowed her the opportunity of attending the functions being given for the benefit of the employees and their families.

Railroads were not only a great necessity but were a strong backbone in building our country. They helped to decrease the mortality rate during migration to the West. Trains were and still are classified as the romance of travel. Trains offered us more than any other form of mass transportation will ever be able to provide.

Take advantage of this opportunity to share in the history and memories of our North American railroads through Gail L. Sandstedt-Workman. The meeting will be held on Sunday, October 31, at 5:00 in the Chapel of University Baptist Church and the public is invited.

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version only)

Message from the President

Ron Cox

This is my first opportunity in the newsletter, to address the membership. It gives me the chance to say some things that might otherwise not get said. First of all, as your president I feel you need to know a little more about me. My wife Lynda and I have been members of BAGS for four years. During that time I served as the 2003-2004 Nominating Committee Chairman, and also served as Registrar in that same year. After working for NASA contractors for 32 years, Lynda and I retired and continue to live in League City. I have a Masters Degree from North Texas University but find all that education does little to serve our present interests.

My goal is to continue to serve the Society in the dedicated and professional manner shown by my two illustrious predecessors, Carolyn and Neil. I know those are difficult shoes to fill. That having been said, we as a Society must turn our sights forward and ask ourselves where we want to go. I believe this coming year may be critical to our Society's continued growth and interests. The work of your officers and committees has been paramount in assuring that all members' needs

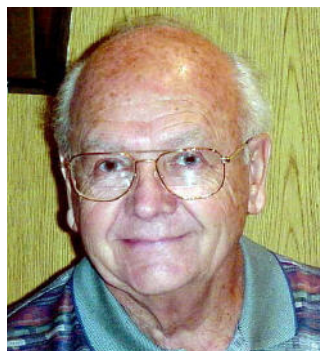
and interests are met on a daily basis. Behind everything we enjoy about our Society there is a dedicated volunteer working to see that we are meeting our agenda. Already some of those dedicated people have let it be known that it's time for others to get involved.

Our agenda will be to assure that the business of the Bay Area Genealogical Society is carried out as prescribed in our By-Laws. I assure each of you that the programs and activities sponsored by the Society will, in every possible way, fulfill your expectations.

What can you do? Ask yourself if you have really thought about what you would like to see coming from the Society. Are the programs and activities meeting your expectations? Are the provided research educational opportunities meeting your needs? As your officers, we need to know.

Thanks for the opportunity to say these words. Your officers and fellow members, I know, join me in saying let's all work hard to make BAGS the envy of genealogical societies everywhere.

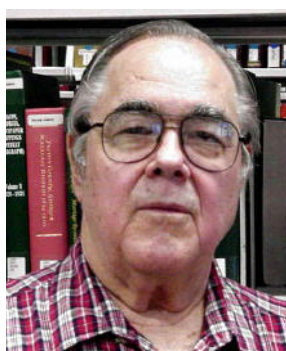
Four of our newly installed officers



Ron Cox
President



Loren Martin
1st Vice President



Dick Warren
2nd Vice President



Rose Mary Fritz
Registrar

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

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Last month I listed forms you can get for free. This month I will list some software utilities available on the Internet that can help you when you write the life story of an ancestor.

I do have one caution. When you use these websites, the information is not documented with a research citation or a footnote. I would use the information as an aid to finding historic events during the ancestor's lifetime. Next I would go to the library to verify the information.

The first set of utilities is websites that contain various types of calendar aids. Do you want to know what happened on a particular day in the past? Would you like to know what historic events happened during the life of an ancestor?

The answers to these questions can be found by using calendar and timeline utilities. You can also find several types of calendars as well as utilities that convert dates or calculate birth dates. You can find links to various Internet websites that tell you what historic events happened on a particular day of the year.

This website is a collection of other Internet sites that have date and calendar information.

<http://www.1stopfreeshop.com/gencalendar.htm>

For example, if you want to know what day of the week for any month in any year (From year 1 to year 9999), go to:

<http://www.wiskit.com/calendar.html>

If you're interested in what was happening on a particular date starting in the year 1800, then go here: <http://www.dmarie.com/timecap/>

Actually, this website states that the information is not comprehensive for the years 1800 to 1875. The information returned would be some headline news that occurred within one week of the date you entered.

Another website that lists what happened on a particular day of the year is:

<http://www.scopesys.com/anyday/>

For example, if you entered March 12, you can get lists of famous people who were born or died

on March 12 or lists of historic events that occurred on that day. According to the website on March 12, 1609, Bermuda became an English colony and in 1884, Mississippi established the first state college for women.

Do you want timelines for a specific ancestor? This site starts in the year 1000 and provides events that occurred during their lifetime. To use the web site you enter a starting year, then an ending year and the website generates the timeline. You can use the information when writing about an ancestor or for creating a scrapbook. <http://www.ourtimelines.com/>

Do you have burial information that gives the date of death and the age of the ancestor? You do not have to calculate the approximate birth date; instead use this website to do the calculation.

<http://web2.iadfw.net/bhende19/b-date.htm>

The New York Times has a web page called "On This Day". It offers selected headlines from their archives on any day of the year. One problem with this website is that all of the days in a year are available, but the newspaper randomly chooses the years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/archive.html>

Another web site that has a limited selection of events that happened on a particular day of the year is <http://www.historychannel.com/thisday/>

All of these websites must be used while you are connected to the Internet. Some other free software can be downloaded to your computer for your use.

If you do not have a genealogy program to keep your research on a computer, a commonly available free program is Personal Ancestry File. Many people refer to the name of this program as *PAF*. The steps to locate the program and install it on your computer are beyond the scope of this article. I am providing the location for you to do the work. *PAF* is available on this web site:

www.familysearch.org

FGS Syllabus - A great bargain

A little note about the best bargain of the year... the syllabus from the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2004 Convention is available for only five dollars! We have copies to sell at the general meetings. What makes this such a good deal? The conference was scheduled with six or seven speakers talking each hour. People who attended the conference could only hear a fraction of the speakers. Virtually every speaker contributed their class notes to the syllabus. Over 400 pages of notes and useful information from approximately 150 speeches can be yours. This offer is being made until we sell out.

I attended a class lecture about "French Notary Records". I do not have French ancestors; however, notary records exist for other countries besides France. I saw a drawing that showed the kitchen from one person's ancestor who died in the 1800s. That drawing was created from the list of household items that were in the notary records. Even though photography was not available at that time, those records were so detailed that the drawing of the kitchen is almost as accurate as a photograph. This is only one example of the information that would be available if you purchase a syllabus.

One other offer from the convention - not available through the Bay Area Genealogical Society - is audio recordings of the actual speeches. These recordings are available from: Repeat Performance, 2911 Crabapple Lane, Hobart, IN 46242
Phone: (219) 465-1234 Web site:
<http://www.audiotapes.com>

Neil Miserendino

Clayton Seminar Series Announced

The Clayton Library Friends and the Houston Genealogical Forum announces a Clayton Library Seminar seven-part Series: Using Genealogical Records and Techniques for Problem-Solving. The course will provide you with research skills when you can't go any further and have hit the "brick wall".

This course is designed to accommodate all levels of genealogical interests.

The program series started on October 14th. Classes will continue on Thursdays October 21, November 4, 18, and December 2, 9. 6:30-8:30 pm at The Bayland Community Center 6400 Bissonnet.

The Internet class will be held Dec 13 and 16, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm and Dec 14, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon at the downtown Central Library. These Lab times have been set aside for this seminar and students must select and schedule one computer class date.

Using Genealogical Records and Techniques for Problem-Solving Course consists of the following series:

1. Getting started & Clayton Library finding aids and reference sources. 10/14/04
- Searching Original Records:
2. Census records. 10/21/04 taught by Marje Harris
 3. Military records 11/4/04 taught by Marje Harris
 4. Land records 11/18/04 taught by TBD
 5. County courthouse research (Deeds, Probate and Administration and miscellaneous records) 12/2/04 taught by David Hardin
 6. Local and State Records 12/9/04 taught by Robert de Berardinis
 7. Genealogy and the Internet 10/13, 10/14, or 10/16 (choice of one) (held at downtown Central Library Computer Lab) Taught by Irene Walters.

This is an exciting educational and skills development opportunity. Seating is limited, so be sure to complete and submit your registration form as soon as possible. The announcement and registration form are available at the Clayton Library, or online at the Houston Genealogical Forum website at www.hgftx.org
Fee \$50.00, Individual classes \$15.00. This does not include any text books.

(Note: This information was not received early enough to include in the September BAGS Newsletter.)

Events Calendar	All meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)
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; Chapel, UBC Gayle L. Sandstedt-Workman will speak on "The Birth of the Railroads In the United States"
Monday, November 22, 2004	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC All BAGS members are invited to attend.
Sunday, November 28, 2004	5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Chapel, UBC Gay Carter: "Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Tools for Planning a Successful Research Trip"
December Planning Note	The December Holiday Party is planned for Sunday, December 19

Harris County Archives Project

On September 29, Leona Cook, Rosemary Parks, Ethel Wind, and Judy Henderson spent the day helping Sarah Jackson inventory boxes of film and enter some of the data into computers. In addition to helping Sarah, a real plus was getting to know one another better.

Wow! What an opportunity exists to participate in preparing archival material for future research at the Harris County Archives. As family historians, it is an honor to be able to give back to the community. This is an excellent service project for BAGS that easily lends itself to short-term commitments.

We decided we would like to return and cordially invite you to join us on future trips. We offer all of you an opportunity to sign up at the next meeting, for a trip on November 3rd. If you prefer alternate dates, they may be coordinated with Sarah Jackson. Contact her at 713.368.7640 or at sarah_jackson@fpm.co.harris.tx.us



- Date: Wednesday, November 3
- Time: Leave Clear Lake at 9 am. Leave downtown at 3 pm
- Car Pool: Meet at Clear Lake Bible Church, 622 El Dorado at Highway 3.
- Parking: Near Minute Maid Park and walk about 6 blocks to the Criminal Justice Building along a revitalized part of downtown.
- Lunch: Bring your own or eat out.
- Dress: Dress comfortably and please bring a sweater for the AC.
- Contact: Sign up at the October meeting or contact Judy Henderson at 281.482.7888 or judy38@hal-pc.org

Committee News

Quarterly

Susie Ganch

Resa Hennings has done such an excellent job as our past editor that it will be hard to follow in her footsteps. I will try to do my very best.

As the new editor of the BAGS Quarterly publication, I would like to ask for your help. Basically, we need stories (I know you all have stories) about your families. We also need research tips and queries or interesting historical facts. **Also, I would like to ask each of you to submit an article about how your family came to be in Texas.** Your stories will be our theme for the upcoming year. Whether it was 6 months, 5 years, or 200 years ago, please let me know how, where, why, and when your family arrived here. You may submit 3 sentences or 3 paragraphs. **I would like for all members to participate in this venture.** I think it would be of great interest to all of us and good information for our quarterly.

You may email your information to me at sganch@verizon.net (please put "Quarterly" in the subject line so it goes to the correct folder). You may bring it to the meetings or mail it to me at 2393 Golden Shores Lane, League City, TX 77573. You may also call me at 281-535-2598. I look forward to working on the Quarterly and to reading your submissions.

Hospitality Committee

Lee Jared, Chair

Thank you to all of these generous people who contributed to the dinner for September's meeting.

Mary Brandhorst
Linda Carrington
Betty Dunquez
Leslee Fehlman
Judy Henderson
Betty Lava
Betty Ratcliff

Have you seen the photo albums on the BAGS website? We have the August member "show and tell" plus the September meeting photo albums posted.

Leo Waltz, BAGS webmaster

Library Trips are scheduled

Mary L. Martin, County Coordinator

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

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

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 a sack lunch or there are drinks and chips in the library snack room. If you have any questions or would like to schedule the trips, please call me at 281-332-2435. We will also have sign-up sheets at the meetings.

The society's website always has a current listing of library trips www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

The 2004 Christmas Party

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 19**. That day marks the Bay Area Genealogical Society's Christmas party. This year the event will be held the week before Christmas. We are still making the final arrangements; the complete details will be in the November newsletter. We will start selling tickets at the October General meeting.

Volunteer Opportunity!

A person is needed to take over the composing work for this Newsletter. A computer is required along with willingness to expand your skills in layout and composition of a small publication. For more details on the task, send an email to Leo@TxBayAreaGen.org



September Meeting Photos

September was the installation of officers for the 2004-2005 year. Some of the officers were unable to attend the meeting and you will find a complete list of elected officers on page 2 and on our website. Our featured speaker was Robert de Berardinis, shown below.

Photos by Linda Goerland

**ONLINE
EXTRA**



Next Meeting

Date: Oct. 31, 2004
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: University Baptist Church Chapel
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX
(use Middlebrook entrance)
Speaker: Gayle L. Sandstedt-Workman
Subject: "The Birth of the Railroads in the United States"



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
November Issue is
November 6, 2004**