



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 4, Issue No. 3

November 2004

November Meeting: Gay Carter on

Nov 28, 5 pm, UBC

“Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Tools for Planning a Successful Research Trip”

It's never too early to start planning your next research trip. Whether you are going on a specific research trip or going on a business trip with a little free time, there are things you can do beforehand to make your research time successful. Learn to make the Internet work for you as you look for libraries, genealogical societies, manuscript collections, maps, and other aids in your target area. Gay Carter will use examples from her recent travels to show you the tools she used to make her research trip through Arkansas and Missouri a rich and exciting experience. She'll also include tips for working on site so that you can be more prepared than Dorothy was when she was unceremoniously deposited in Oz!



Gay Carter

Gay E. Carter is the Reference/Documents Librarian at the Alfred R. Neumann Library, University of Houston–Clear Lake. A graduate of Texas Woman's University, she holds a Master of Library Science Degree and has been with the U of H-CL since it "opened its doors" in 1974. A government documents librarian since 1980, she supervises the Neumann Library's U.S. federal depository and Texas state depository collections. She is active in the Government Documents Round Table of the Texas Library Association, serving as chair-elect in 1990-91 and as chair in 1991-92. She is currently serving on the Texas State Plan committee.

Engaged in genealogical research for over 20 years, she is a member of the Houston Genealogical Forum, Clayton Library Friends, and the NSDAR Brazos Valley Chapter and is alum of the Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. A popular speaker at Houston area genealogical societies, she was invited to speak at the Federal Depository Library Conference in spring 2001 and fall 2002. She most recently spoke at the 2004 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in Austin, Texas.

Gay has written articles for the HGF Record, CLF Newsletter and Family Tree Magazine. Her article on using university libraries for genealogical research will be published in the National Genealogical Society *NewsMagazine*.

Please join us on the “Road to Oz” with Gay E. Carter, at 5:00 PM, on November 28th, 2004. We will meet in the Chapel of University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook. Don't forget your ruby slippers!

Inside BAGS —

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Message from the President

Ron Cox

Hooray, the election of November 2 is over! It's always good to be able to get on with our lives while we trust that our political leaders are doing everything to keep our country safe and prosperous.

Before the election, I thought many times of how our ancestors must have participated in the election process. We don't have to look back very far to see that those folks didn't begin to know as much about the election process as we do. We sometimes forget there was no TV and often no radio. For most, if they were literate, a newspaper was their only contact with the political world. In a sense the election process was easy - they voted the way their daddies did (don't forget, until the 20th century, mamas weren't allowed to vote). Many of our ancestors' only involvement with government were law enforcement, taxes, and the census. Aren't we all glad there was a census? We often wish those old census rolls contained a lot more

information, but then we should remember that the real purpose was just a population count. Many of the census takers could have cared less if names were spelled correctly.

As we all get back to our everyday routines and as we examine our family trees, trying hard to make sense of our ancestors, let us remember that someday folks yet unborn, will be trying to make sense of us. When we try to trace back over the stepping stones of history, we should remember we are laying down a path others will walk. We have to hope that what we and our elected leaders do will give our descendants a sense of pride.

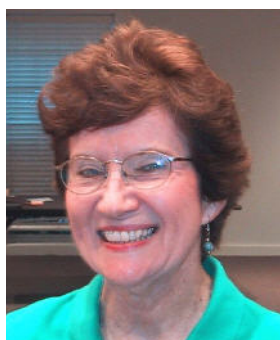
I want to close by saying that I hope someday the people of the world will come to their senses and learn to live together in peace. So join with me in saying a prayer for all Americans and particularly the military and our leaders. God bless our troops and God bless America!



Happy Thanksgiving



2004-2005 Officers



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Secretary



Mary Martin
Recording
Secretary



Resa Hennings
Treasurer

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

Due to the November and December holidays, we get too busy to work on our genealogy. I am going to recommend some small things you can do during these two months. The items in this article can help us to flesh out the people we find in our genealogical research. Our ancestors are more than just the paper records we find.

What do we do during these months? We look forward to either visiting relatives we have not seen in months or they visit us. How can this affect your genealogy? Do you or your relations prepare any special food recipes? Can you recollect from your childhood any special holiday foods from family celebrations that your parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents or cousins prepared? Of course! So make an effort to share a copy of that recipe with your relatives and if your relatives prepare any special recipes, then ask them for copies.

Do you or any of your relatives have a diary of a common ancestor? If your answer is yes, then make a copy and distribute it to your relatives.

If you are the only family member who has certain family photographs, make the effort to get copies to your relatives. You can also ask relatives for copies of photographs that they possess.

If your efforts are successful, you and your family now all have recent copies of family photographs. You can choose which of the older photographs need restoration and that can be done at any time.

While visiting relatives you can take photographs of family heirlooms. Did one of

your relatives inherit the family china or the furniture? Do they have knick-knacks that belonged to your grandparents? You can photograph these items and keep the pictures to help you write a family history.

One other item that will help you fill out the lives of your ancestors is to make an effort to talk and record personal reminiscences with your family. 'Tis the season for traditions and memories.

For instance, I do not remember my paternal grandmother keeping candy around her house when we visited, however she would keep small pieces of bread around her house. The bread was a small, round, and hard roll that was a little smaller than a meatball. These purchased rolls were placed in ceramic or porcelain containers in the living room. Even though this bread was not sweet, as children we were curious, opened the containers and found something we could eat.

My grandmother also had an unusual habit in the way she served the breakfast cereal. At home we always poured the cereal out of the box into the cereal bowl. Our grandmother would reach into the cereal box with her hand and put the cereal into the bowl. I assumed it was her way of being frugal and measuring the cereal.

Now those remembrances are illustrations of the many personal memories that you can talk about this holiday season with your family. If you also write these reminiscences down, you can use these memories to fill out the spaces in a family history. Your family history will be much better if you can write down more than just the dates and other information you find on vital records.

A Wells Fargo service manager said a scam that left a Wells Fargo customer penniless used family history information acquired from The LDS genealogy library. A fraudster e-mailed the customer with the name, birth date & place and death date of a g-g-grandmother. The customer was told the ancestor left a substantial amount of money to be

claimed. The lady was told to wire different amounts to different individuals in Alaska, The crooks got her cell phone number somehow and threatened the life of her children if she didn't wire the rest of the money to Alaska. It left her in total loss.

See more at www.thespectrum.com/news/stories/20041107/localnews/1552572.html.

My First Trip to the Clayton Library

The first time that I went to the Clayton Library was in 1983. My twelve-year old son, Tim, was working on a sixth grade project for school about his Family Tree. He was able to start a 7-Generation Chart on poster board and a notebook on his family aided by material that he found at the Clayton Library. We have that 7-Generation Chart on the wall above the computer. We still use it for a handy reference to family lines. Loren and Tim were very busy looking at censuses on the second floor of the old "Clayton House" for the Martin family lines. They found information that we didn't know. Tim also used his newfound genealogical information to earn a Boy Scout Merit Badge on Genealogy.

While they were busy with microfilm research on the second floor, I was busy on the first floor. I found a book entitled the Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Evanston. This book had a chapter on Evanston, IL, Chicago's neighbor to the north. My mother was born in Evanston and grew up in Chicago. The book had a picture of the hospital where my mother was born. I was so excited; this was the first book that I ever pulled off the shelf at the library. I found a biographical sketch about my great-great grandmother, Susan (Pratt) Leonhardt. It had a lot of facts about her to pursue. They even had a street named after the Pratt family called Pratt Court. Evanston had another street named Leon Street that was named after her husband, Louis Leonhardt. Louis was an immigrant from Prussia. I found another book entitled the History of Cook County, Illinois from the Earliest Period to the Present Time. It had a section about Evanston history. I found some information about my great-great-great grandfather, Paul Pratt, and his brother, George Pratt.


The Great Family Search Genealogy Conference will be held at 2700 Roundrock Trail in Plano Nov. 20. Free of charge and open to the public, the conference has expert genealogists teaching classes including: US & British Internet Research, Beginning the Family Search or "Grilling Granny;" "Bless this Mess and How to File It," Hispanic Research (in Spanish); Census

Mary Martin

In 1994, Loren and I made a trip to Evanston and to the Evanston Historical Society. They had a folder about the Pratt family with even more information to pursue. In this folder they had copies of pictures of the Pratt family. They even had a negative of a picture of my great-great-great grandfather, Paul Pratt, who was Susan's father. I also found a picture of Susan (Pratt) Leonhardt with a negative, and I was able to have copies made from the negative. What treasures to have! I also found letters written by the Pratt families, information on collateral lines, and a list of Susan (Pratt) Leonhardt and Louis Leonhardt's children with birth and death dates. They had twelve children altogether. In September 1880, their four youngest children, all ten and under, died of diphtheria within a week of each other. She was pregnant at the time, and this baby was born just fine a couple of months later and lived to be an elderly man. While we were in this area, we also went to the Newberry Library in Chicago that is located on Walton Street in downtown Chicago.

It is amazing how one trip to the library can lead to so much information, trips to take to far away places, and many more trips to the library to pursue a family line. These weren't the only two books that Clayton Library had where I found information on the Pratt family. They came from England to Massachusetts, and Clayton has a lot of books about Massachusetts. Clayton took me all the to the ship "Mayflower" where in Plymouth, Massachusetts, Phinehas Pratt married the daughter of my immigrant ancestor, Degory Priest, who was aboard the ship "Mayflower" in 1620. Phinehas Pratt was Paul Pratt's great-great-great grandfather. I found Paul Pratt's father, also Paul Pratt and their direct ancestors on the microfiche for Needham, MA at the Clayton Library.

Secrets; Digging Through Cemeteries; Immigration, Naturalization, Land & Probate Records; African-American Research; English Records; Beginning and Intermediate Personal Ancestral File (PAF) Computer Program – and more! Registration begins at 9 a.m. Classes begin at 9:30, 10:30, & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. Call 972-867-6479 T-F for info.

Events Calendar	All meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)
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"
Monday, December 13, 2004	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC All BAGS members are invited to attend.
December 19, 2004	5:30 pm Annual Holiday Party - Note change in Date & Time 

FREEMAN LIBRARY DISPLAY UPDATE

Shirley Lindquist

FYI: BAGS has been selected to design the main Display case located in the Freeman Library. The Display will be shown for the entire month of March, 2005. The Display wall is located in the library foyer and is one of the first things the public will notice upon entering.

The Display wall includes four – 3' x 7' x 18" secured and locked glass cases. Yes, it's a large space to fill, but I have no doubt BAGS can do it.

You may help in this venture by sharing your heirlooms, scrapbooks, charts, maps, quilts, dolls, photos, etc., so they can be shown in one of the cases, for the community to appreciate. A small write-up should accommodate your contribution, and all memorabilia must be approved by the BAGS Committee and Freeman Library.

The BAGS Committee is also open to any ideas in order to make the Display as impressive and interesting as possible. Please contact Shirley Lindquist with any thoughts or contributions you think might be a welcome addition to the Display (e-mail and phone are located on Page 2 roster).

Take advantage of our new Freeman Library facility and do make a special effort to visit it in March. You might see your name, or recognize a photo of yourself. You never know!!

BAGS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY "YULETIDE MEMORIES"

5:30 PM Sunday, December 19th, at University Baptist Church

Entertainment will be provided by Ned Yelverton on the baby grand piano and introducing Marcus Shoults on acoustic guitar. There will be no December speaker, just the sharing of "Yuletide Memories" from guests and members.

The three-course dinner will be prepared, in house, by Chef Sam Saladina and by popular demand; he will repeat last year's menu.

For any special dietary needs, please let us know when you purchase your tickets or contact Linda Goerland before December 5th.

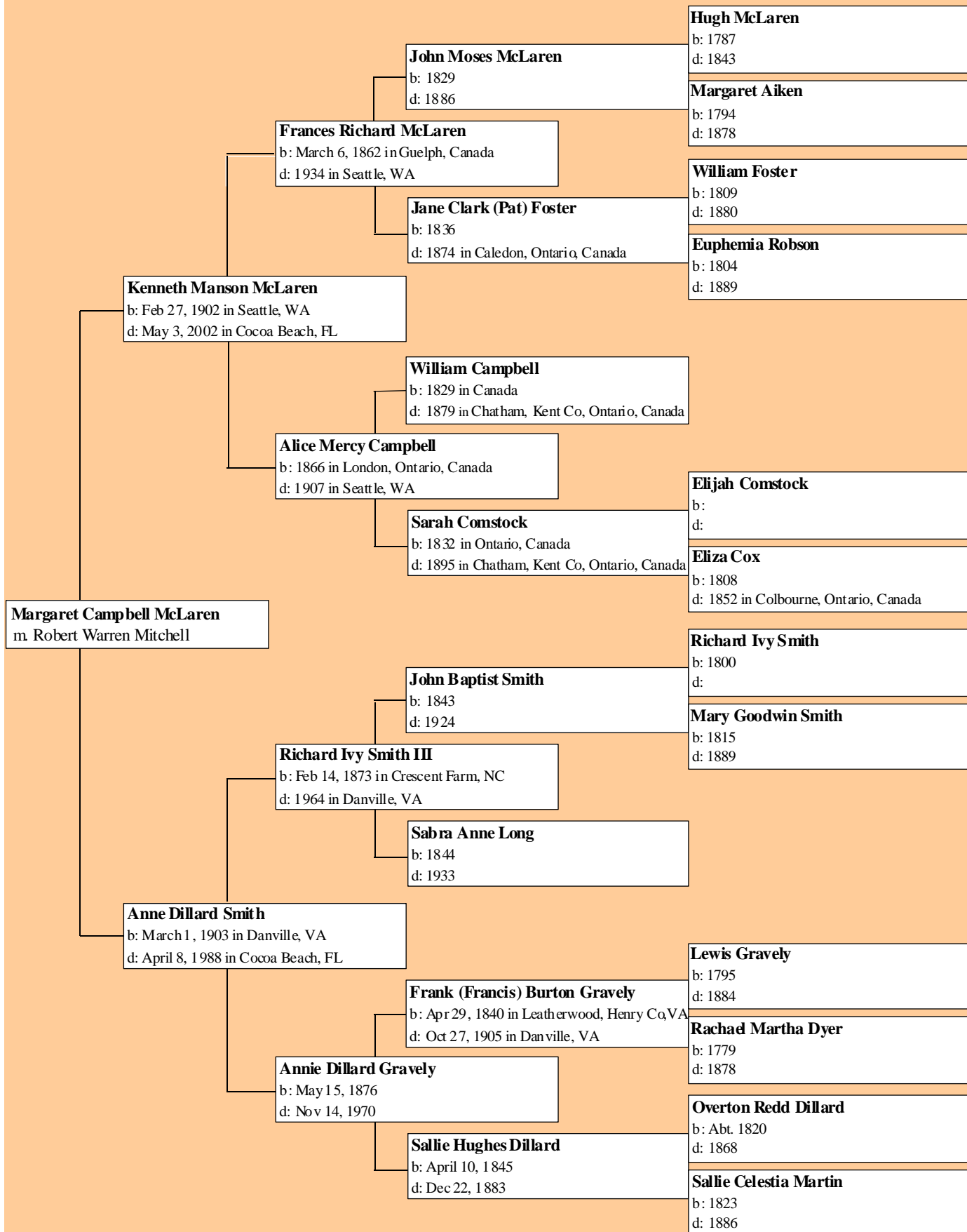
This year, each table will be decorated in holiday fashion by a volunteer BAGS member.

Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased before December 3rd in order to attend the party.

Tickets may be purchased at the November General Meeting or by mail to P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447 (**mailed order must be received by Dec 3**).

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Ancestors of Margaret Campbell McLaren (Mitchell)



Committee News

TICK – TOCK - TICK – TOCK

Time is running out for renewing BAGS membership. The deadline is **December 1**.

Our plans for this year include more classes, lectures, programs and bus trips, in addition to the fellowship, speakers, dinners, Xmas Party and Show and Tell gatherings that are our standard fare. So please don't miss out on all the opportunities and events that the BAGS has to offer. Renew now!

You may renew at the November meeting or send a completed 2005 application and your check for \$20 for a single membership or \$25 for a family membership to:

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar
Bay Area Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 891447
Houston, TX 77289-1447

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings
October 24, 2004

Balance brought forward	\$2,098.63
Income	585.00
Expenses	-37.97
Balance on hand	\$2,645.66

Hospitality Committee

Lee Jared, Chair

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

Renee Ball
Guy Bodek
Doreen Brubaker
Carolyn DuBois
Gail Hunter
Shirley Hughes
Geri Smith
Oletia Teas
Jackie Wittschen

Quarterly Update

Susie Ganch

The Quarterly is in need of original articles, research tips, family histories and queries. Please also submit your articles about how your family came to Texas. This will only work if we get that information from all the members. Please email your submissions to me at sganch@verizon.net (please put the word "quarterly" in your subject line). You may also mail them to me at 2393 Golden Shores Lane, League City, Tx 77573.

Library Trips Scheduled for Next Year

Mary L. Martin, County Coordinator

Our next two trips to the Clayton Library are scheduled for 2005:

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. If you have any questions or would like to schedule the trips, please call me at 281-332-2435, or 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. See you at the library!

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

What is the image below?

Is it a tip-proof coffee cup?

How about a prop from the Woody Allen movie "The Curse of the Jade Scorpion?"

Or a priceless Ming Dynasty soup bowl?



For the answer, read the December BAGS Newsletter.

Next Meeting

Date: Nov. 28, 2004
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: University Baptist Church Chapel
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX
(use Middlebrook entrance door to enter the Chapel)
Speaker: Gay Carter
Subject: "Follow the Yellow Brick Road -
Tools for Planning a Successful Research Trip"



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
December Issue is
December 1, 2004**