



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

Volume 4, Issue No. 5

January 2005

**Jan 30**  
**5:00 pm**  
**UBC**

**January 30, 2005: Kathryn Black Morrow**

### **Writing Your Family History – Beginning with the Box**

#### **“From Overwhelming Junk into a Written History”**



How often do we think that we know a relative only to find out later that what we knew about that individual was only the pieces found in that box of their stuff? We have accumulated things associated with them but might not really know them at all. Kathryn Black Morrow will show us how to take those pieces, organize the box of overwhelming junk and turn it into a personal history.

She will show, by example, how to organize those lone pieces of pictures, letters, jewelry, or other memorabilia into chronological sequences and then turn them into their personal stories, by weaving them one by one into a sketch of that person or family. It's a wonderful way to put character in the person and chart.

Since this session is a one hour presentation, Kathryn may conduct one-on-one follow-up classes where you will be able to write your own history. If you are interested contact Kathryn at [kathrynblack.morrow@att.net](mailto:kathrynblack.morrow@att.net) or one of the BAGS officers.

Kathryn is an historian and professional genealogist with 35 years of experience. She and her husband Michael live in Clear Lake, and have four children and seven grandchildren scattered across the world in Guam, Germany, Utah, and San Antonio.

In 1980, she was chosen as a Delegate from the State of Oklahoma to the World Conference on Records held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Kathryn received a B.A in Modern languages from Oklahoma City University in 1981. She served as the co-founder and archivist for the Railroad Depot Museum and as President for the Harrah Heritage and Historical Society in Harrah, Oklahoma. Under her leadership, a permanent collection of artifacts and photos for display in the museum was established at the University of Oklahoma, and sufficient historical information was compiled to produce a book.

#### **Inside BAGS ---**

- 2 President's Message
- 3 "Identifying Photos"
- 4 Our Holiday Celebration
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 6 Featured Ancestors
- 7 Committee Page
- 8 Online Extra (appears in online version only)

Kathryn also earned an M.A. in History from the University of Houston, Clear Lake in 2003. Her Master's thesis was a History of Ellington Field, which was published as a series of articles in the BAGS quarterlies this last year. In 2003, Kathryn was asked to evaluate and index the Hartman Collection of slave documents at Texas Southern University. Most recently, she was asked by the French Consulate in Houston to be the historian for the international observance of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day ceremony, held June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Please join us in welcoming BAGS member Kathryn Black Morrow to our next meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the University Baptist Church Chapel, 16106 Middlebrook Drive.



membership or have just not chosen to renew. A good resolution might be to seek out one or two of those and encourage them to come on back. We miss them and they are really going to miss some great programs that Dick Warren has prepared for this year.

If you missed our Christmas Party you may be wishing by now that you hadn't. It was just great. The Tables were magnificent. Applause, applause to those members who spent time and supplied their own china and decorations to make the tables and surroundings reflect our great holiday. The food was perfect and there was plenty of it. My apologies to Mary Martin and her table, seems the guy up front forgot to tell them when to enter the food line. It was great to have our founder, Carolyn Hellen, husband Roy, and daughter Katherine as our guests. Carolyn brought us all up to date on what is going on in their lives. The stories about Christmas by many of our members were very nostalgic and I'll guess that more than a few tears were held back as they were being told.

The New Year is here and wasn't the White Christmas a beautiful surprise.

How about those resolutions; has anyone made any? Maybe so, maybe not, at any rate I'm sure that we would like to resolve to make 2005 another great year for ourselves and our Society. Just off the top of my head I think that might mean a couple of things like how about resolving to get that five generation chart as complete as possible. It might mean a few extra trips down to Clayton Library and while you're there you might want to consider devoting a little volunteer time to help those folks out. Don't forget that scheduled visits are prepared regularly and transportation is available. Check out your Newsletter for details.

If some familiar faces are conspicuously absent from our General Meetings it may be because they have been dropped from our

Enough already from this old guy. Oh yeah-

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Ron*

**2004-2005 Officer Roster**

President -Ron Cox	281-332-3290	president@TxBayAreaGen.org
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President – Loren Martin	281-332-2435	lmartin497@aol.com
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	281-286-4125	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**

*Editor*  
 Claudia Grafton  
*Composition & Layout*  
 Doug Wilson, Leo Waltz  
*Proofreader* – Barbara Stanley  
*Photographer* – Linda Goerland  
*Distribution* – Linda Carrington,  
 Carolyn DuBois  
*5 Gen. Charts* – Tammy Fry

Do you have old photographs that portray people who you know are your ancestors but you do not know which ancestors they are? This might be the time to start the process of identifying the people in the picture. It may be a slow process; but as with any endeavor, the chances of success increase when you make an intelligent effort and choices.

The first step is to make several color copies of the photographs. You could use a computer to scan the photograph and print your own copy. You need to make a color copy because even the old "Black and White" photographs have some shades of color and fine details that would be lost if you copy the picture in black and white.

Write a description of the people in the photograph. Here is an example: From the left, there is a girl in a dress. Next is the mother, holding a baby of indeterminate sex. The father is standing in a suit with a vest. It appears that the father has a pocket watch because the chain is visible in the photograph. On the right of the father, is a boy who appears to be no older than 12 or 13. The last person pictured is a boy who is younger than the first boy is and older than the girl.

Use this description to make it easier to discuss with other people who will be helping you to identify the people. If you have relatives that will help you with the identification, then send them a copy and ask if they can identify the people in the picture. You should keep one copy (and always the original).

Now you know there is a family with two older boys, one girl and one other child. Take that information and match it to your family group sheets. Eliminate any family that did not have this many surviving children. Next eliminate any family that did not have at least two boys and one girl.

Do you know how you inherited this photograph? If yes, then it's possible that the people in the photo are direct ancestors of the family members from whom you obtained the picture. Do you have more photographs of this family? If yes, then the chances increase that the

relationship may be found. After all, how many people keep multiple photographs of strangers?

As you work to identify the people in the photograph, write more details about the people, the setting and the clothes they are wearing. Are there any distinguishing features of any of the people? Check the shape of the nose of the people. The nose may be one facial feature that you can compare to other known ancestors in other photographs and the same person at a different age.

Next you need to check the hair styles of both the men and the women. Then, like today, hair fashions change over time and even the amount of facial hair on the men would come in and go out of style.

The style of clothes also matters. With practice, if you consult history books about hair styles and clothing fashions, you will be able to identify the date the photograph within ten years. If the people were wearing a particular uniform, that could be very helpful in identifying the photograph. When you cannot narrow the date of when the picture was taken, then you may have to consult with an expert.

Let us assume that you have narrowed the date of the photograph to a specific ten-year period. Again examine the list of possible ancestors that you found and eliminate the families that do not fit with your estimate about when the picture was taken. Hopefully, your list of possible families is smaller, and you may want to send a copy of the picture to other direct relatives of your "suspects". You could also ask for copies of other relatives' photographs. Next, you can try another round of trying to match the people up by distinguishing facial features.

This process of identifying photographs is an art that you can learn. It is not necessarily who is in the photograph. Many times the identification will be made by eliminating who cannot be in the photograph. The process would be harder if the photograph is only of one person, but it still can be worth the effort.



It has become a beautiful tradition at the end of each December for the BAGS members and their guests to attend our Holiday dinner.

This year's December 19th celebration had several new twists. BAGS members brought their own beautiful place settings and centerpieces so that each table was decorated in a unique holiday theme. Chef Sam Saladina honored us with a delicious three course dinner and we were surprised to learn that it was not only his last buffet of the year, but his last preparation before retiring!



The party began long before the first hot roll was buttered, as members arrived and began making their tables memorable. Even a few spouses who are rarely seen at meetings, came and helped. The loving thought and preparation which went into each design became obvious as the afternoon unfolded. If you admired the beautiful calligraphy on the table markers, you should know that Lee Jared made them, and Einar Goerland made the festive place cards.



Resa Henning's  
Table

Claudia Grafton's Table

Ned Yelverton played seasonal favorites on the piano, setting a wonderful holiday mood, and new young member Marcus Shoults provided classical music on his acoustical guitar, accompanied by his friend Alex Bettisa, while the members went through the buffet line and ate.



Linda Goerland  
passes Santa Hat

Ron Cox introduced all the tables and all the former speakers we invited as our guests. We were very happy to invite these people who have done such wonderful programs for us in the past few years. A nice surprise was the arrival of Carolyn Hellen with her family. She was in from Alabama and was able to join us for dinner. Towards the evening's end, the members played "Pass the Santa Hat" and anyone who wanted could stop the hat and share a Christmas memory. It was a memorable night from beginning to end.

After most of the members left, the table hostesses stayed to clear the tables and pack up all their precious belongings, and to our surprise we were treated to a final Christmas present: Polly and Doug Wilson's grandson played the loveliest collection of classical and holiday music during our clean-up activities. We were working and yet felt so special and spoiled. It just made the evening perfect. We need to include Matt Stites in next year's holiday entertainment line-up.

**Thank you all for making 2004 a better year.**



Wanda Yelverton's  
Christmas Story

Festive Table by the  
Daughters of the Republic  
of Texas

Events Calendar	All meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)
Monday, January 24, 2005	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC All BAGS members are invited to attend.
Sunday, January 30, 2005	5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Chapel, UBC Kathryn Black Morrow: Writing your Family History "From Overwhelming Junk into a Written History"
Monday, February 21, 2005	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC All BAGS members are invited to attend.
Sunday, February 27, 2005	5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Chapel, UBC Marje Harris and Robert de Berardinis "Finding Aids – Questions & Answers"

## Seminar -- Using Genealogical Records

by Dick Warren

The Clayton Library Friends and the Houston Genealogical Forum announces a Clayton Library Seminar six-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".

The course is designed for all genealogists, those just interested, a beginner and experienced.

The program series starts VERY SOON, on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Classes will be held on Thursdays starting January 20<sup>th</sup> through February 24, 2005. at The Bayland Community Center 6400 Bissonnet 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. These times have been set aside for you

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

January 20, 2005 PASSENGER, IMMIGRATION AND MIGRATION RECORDS (*Instructor: Marje Harris, Manager of the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research*)

January 27, 2005 STATE AND FEDERAL LAND RECORDS (*Instructor: David Hardin, Reference Librarian at the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research*)

February 3, 2005 NEW ENGLAND: INTRODUCTION TO REGIONAL RESEARCH (*Instructor: Loretta "Tommy" Burns*)

February 10, 2005 CITE YOUR SOURCES AND EVIDENCE (*Instructor: Robert de Berardinis, writer and speaker*)

February 17, 2005 USING TEXAS MAPS (*Instructor: Will Howard, Assistant Manager of the Texas Room, Houston Public Library*)

February 24, 2005 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE (*Instructor: Gay E. Carter, Reference/Documents Librarian, Neumann Library, UH-Clear Lake*)

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](http://www.hgftx.org).

See you there.

Dick Warren, Clayton Library Friends

# Ancestors of Betty Ann Cook (Little)



**Betty Ann Cook**  
m. Walter Porter Little

**Charles Alfred Cook**  
b: July 13, 1912 in College Park, GA  
d: Jan 18, 1974 in Memphis, TN

**Rufus Kilgore Cook**  
b: Nov 30, 1890 in Blakely, GA  
d: March 8, 1943 in Philadelphia, PA

**Alfred Hill Cook**  
b: April 19, 1860 in Blakely, GA  
d: July 23, 1890 in Sheffield, AL

**Ida Alice Kilgore**  
b: May 6, 1867 in Clark Co., GA  
d: Dec 11, 1937 in Hardeman, TN

**William Crosby Dickey Cook**  
b: March 13, 1813 in SC  
d: Dec 30, 1863 in Blakely, GA

**Sarah Amanda Cook Middleton**  
b: March 7, 1830 in Elbert Co., GA  
d: Jan 27, 1879 in Blakely, GA

**Willis Norris Kilgore**  
b: March 14, 1844 in Gwinnett Co., GA  
d: July 14, 1914 in College Park, Fulton Co., GA

**Abigail Kilgore**  
b: March 8, 1849 in Walton Co., GA  
d: July 3, 1938 in College Park, Fulton Co., GA

**John W. McHugh**  
b: 1842 in SC  
d: May 12, 1864 in Spotsylvania, VA

**Syntha Davis**  
b: Dec 13, 1846 in GA  
d: July 3, 1900 in Gwinnett Co., GA

**Faith McHugh**  
b: Feb 19, 1894 in Buford, GA  
d: March 8, 1982 in Elkton, MD

**Charles McHugh**  
b: March 1861 in GA  
d:

**Clinton Durham**  
b: 1838 in SC  
d:

**Martha Durham**  
b: Dec 1866 in SC  
d:

**Theresa (unknown)**  
b: 1844 in SC  
d:

**Elisha J. Thurmond**  
b: Sept 29, 1826 in Jackson Co., GA  
d: Nov 23, 1898 in White Co., GA

**Henry Star Thurmond**  
b: Sept 23, 1879 in White Co., GA  
d: Nov 5, 1930 in Chocopee, GA

**Mary A. (unknown)**  
b: 1800 in SC  
d:

**Susan Caroline Sosbee**  
b: Dec 8, 1837 in SC  
d: May 29, 1904 in Stephens Co., GA

**Chessie Irene Thurmond**  
b: Dec 24, 1912 in Jefferson Co., GA  
d: March 25, 1998 in Webster, TX

**Hinesberry Whitfield**  
b: 1819 in NC  
d: Feb 14, 1852 in Franklin Co., GA

**Peter Whitfield**  
b: Nov 1860 in Banks Co., GA  
d: 1940 in Homer, GA

**Susan Waycaster**  
b: 1832 in NC  
d:

**Millie Etta Whitfield**  
b: May 20, 1883 in Banks Co., GA  
d: May 28, 1973 in Gainesville, GA

**Tom Ayers**  
b: 1825 in GA  
d:

**Harriet Ayers**  
b: Dec 4, 1855 in Habersham Co., GA  
d: Feb 13, 1899 in Banks Co., GA

**Priscilla Bradley**  
b: 1825 in GA  
d:

# Committee News

## Clayton Library Trips Schedule

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Our trips to the Clayton Library will be:

**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 am. and leave the Clayton Library at 3:00 pm. 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.

When we went to the library in November, we had a new member, Marie Krnavek go with us. She had never been to the library before, and is just starting to work on genealogy. She wants to do it for her grandchildren. She was so excited to find her grandfather in the 1930 Census. She found some more information in the state books that might be her family. She said, "The librarians were so friendly and helpful." She is excited about going to the library again in January.

The Society's website, [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org), always has a current listing of library trips. See you at the library!

## Quarterly Update

By Susie Ganch

The Quarterly is in need of original articles, research tips, family histories and queries. Please email your submissions to me at [sganch@verizon.net](mailto: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.

## BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$2,674.91
Income	1,407.25
Expenses	- 548.25
Balance on hand 12-31-04	\$3,533.91

## BAGS Freeman Library Display For March 2005

Shirley Lindquist, Library Coordinator

BAGS is excited and honored to have the opportunity to display at the Freeman Library, Clear Lake. The glass display case in the entrance to the library will be used for our exhibit. This is a great chance to educate and show off our organization!

At the November general meeting members listed items they could lend for the display, such as old framed photos, scrapbooks, artifacts, quilts, and family memorabilia. The display cases will be locked so all items on exhibit will be secure.

Each item for the display will need a brief typed description accompanying it, along with owner's name. All contributing members will be contacted in the next few weeks to schedule delivery and pickup dates for their display items.

A sign up list will be available to members at the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 2005 Yearbook

Neil Miserendino - Yearbook Editor.

The 2005 BAGS Yearbook is at the printer and will be distributed at the January meeting.

## New Year Message

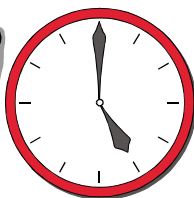
Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

If you wish to renew your membership or join the Bay Area Genealogical Society, please send your check made out to "BAGS" and a filled out application form to Bay Area Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447, Attn: Rose Mary Fritz. You will find the Application/Renewal form which all members, old and new, are asked to fill out at [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org)  
Thank You





BAGS 2004 Holiday Party



**Next Meeting**

Date: 30 January 2005

Time: 5:00 pm

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

Speaker: Kathryn Black Morrow

Subject: Writing Your Family History  
"From Overwhelming Junk into a  
Written History"

BAGS website;  
[www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org)

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 is subject to editing. If articles are copywritten, then please include permissions with the submittals.

Mail to: BAGS Newsletter, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447 or e-mail to [claudiamg@ev1.net](mailto:claudiamg@ev1.net)

**Deadline for  
February Issue is  
February 5, 2005**