



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

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March 2005

BAGS MARCH GENERAL MEETING CANCELLED

The March 27th, 2005 meeting of the Bay Area Genealogical Society has been cancelled.

We have learned too late that the University Baptist Church will be closed after their Easter service. The BAGS has been unable to reschedule an alternative date. Board meetings are not cancelled.

Our next general meeting will be April 24th, 2005 and our topic is "Land Records and Deed Finding Aids" with Tommy Burns.

Enjoy your Easter and we will see you in April.

Freeman Library Exhibit - March 2005



Genealogy is ...

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The Bay Area Genealogical Society cordially invites its members and the local residents to come and observe the impressive display of genealogical artifacts located at the Freeman Public Library during the entire month of March.

Members of BAGS have loaned their priceless family heirlooms for this unusual exhibition to introduce the study of family history to the public. We have included more than 40 items in this diverse collection, some dating back to the early 1700's. We are so grateful to our members for their enthusiasm and cooperation in this grand endeavor.

Contributors to the display are requested to pick-up their items on Wednesday, March 30th, at the Freeman Library - 2nd floor Conference Room, between 10:00am and 2:00pm.



Dear Members,

Now that you are aware that we have had to cancel our March General Meeting, I feel a few words are in order. The decision to cancel was due to circumstances beyond our control. Our host, University Baptist Church, made the decision to close the church on Sunday evening in order to allow their support and service staff time off. They have apologized, through Jeanine Lawrence, for any inconvenience that decision may have caused. Effort was made by your Board to provide an alternate date but our scheduled speaker had other commitments.

I feel we should continue to remind ourselves what a really good thing we have going with University Baptist Church. Not only do they provide us a meeting place but they provide other services that may go unnoticed. For example, the beverage table, and the meeting equipment, such as microphones, podium, viewer, etc., are all provided by UBC. They set up our room, provide us with special tables and chairs by request, and security stays until we all leave. If any of you have ever been involved in securing space for meetings then you know what is available out there and what you don't get unless you pay heavily for it. Please keep in mind that these words come strictly as an observation from the BAGS President. University Baptist Church has never, nor I guess would ever, seek to remind us of how good we have it. I merely want us to remind ourselves from time to time that we need to appreciate it.

If you haven't yet made a visit to Freeman Library to see our display, please do so. The visual impact is great. It made me proud in two ways. First, I again must say what a magnificent presentation the committee members were able to compose. I watched how people, going in and out of the library, were drawn to the uniqueness of the items displayed. Many asked me questions and you could tell that many were saying that they too would like to start digging through some old trunks and boxes. Secondly, I am proud that so many of our members are so involved with their own genealogy and choose to share that with the rest of us. I know, once you see the display, that if you didn't share something this time, you will want to next year!



Ron

2004-2005 Officer Roster

President -- Ron Cox	281-332-3290	president@TxBayAreaGen.org
1 st Vice President – Loren Martin	281-332-2435	lmartin497@aol.com
2 nd Vice President – Dick Warren	281-461-1472	dick@merlins-web.com
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Corresp. Sec – Shirley Lindquist	281-286-4125	slindquist@houston.rr.com
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Registrar – Rose Mary Fritz	281-337-5495	registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

BAGS Newsletter Staff

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Proofreader – Barbara Stanley
Photographer – Linda Goerland
Distribution – Linda Carrington,
 5 Gen. Charts – Tammy Frey

We can spell our own present-day names, but all of us should be aware that others could have had multiple spellings of their names. How and why does this happen? How can we use the many names to search for our ancestors? There are many spellings of a name for many reasons. Some reasons range from incorrect transcriptions to ignorance of the "correct" spelling. Another reason is that the spelling has changed over the years.

Today we often misinterpret the handwriting of the past. A common occurrence in older handwriting was the use of a character that looks like our "f" but is an "s". There are many books and articles about reading old handwriting available to us.

What about the story that your ancestor's name was changed when they came from overseas? Let me illustrate, we currently use the Latin alphabet. Many parts of the world use other writing forms. For example, Greece uses the Greek alphabet, Russia and parts of Eastern Europe use the Cyrillic alphabet. How is someone from Eastern Europe, Japan, China, India, etc., able to write his name in English? Someone had to either translate or transliterate the name. If your ancestor did not know how to write his name then someone else had to spell the name phonetically.

What can we do about this? Keep a list of all of the variations of your research name. Douglas Wilson has developed this list in the search for his great-grandmother, Julia Costello, who came from County Galway in Ireland:

Caslow	Irish	Costellow	Irish
Castela	Italian	Costelo	Irish
Castella	Irish	Costelow	Irish
Castello	Irish	Costillo	Irish
Castellow	Irish, Italian	Costilo	Irish
Castelo	Spanish	Costilow	Irish
Casteloe	Galway	Costlow	Irish
Castelow	Irish	Costolla	
Castlow	Irish	Costola	
Coslow	Irish	Costolo	Irish
Costalo	Irish	Costoloe	Irish
Costela	Irish, Italian	Costolow	Irish
Costella	Italian		
Costello	Irish, English		
Costelloe	Irish, English		

There is also the possibility of spelling the above names with the first letter of "K". To sum up, there are more than 25 variations of this one name.

With the possibility of spelling Costello with the first letter "K", you would have more than 50 variations of this one name.

Here is what I recommend:

- 1.) Make a list of the variations of the names you are researching.
- 2.) When you are researching, make a mark to the right of each variation where you have found a match.

For example: If Doug found one birth record and one marriage record with the spelling "Costello" and one baptismal record with the spelling "Costela" then his page would look like this:

Variation of name	Records found							
	Bir	Bap	Mar	Dth	Cen	Mil	Chch	Lnd
Costello	X		X					
Costela				X				

- 3.) Always search the variations where you have already found a record. So Doug would always search for "Costello" and "Costela". If you cannot locate a record, then search by using the other spellings.

- 4.) If possible search by the Soundex - The code used in census records to index names by sound. "Smith, Smyth, Smythe", and other variations all have the same Soundex code. Doug has these Soundex codes for his names:

C240

C234

As the Soundex code has reduced the variations in the list of names down to two, this example shows the value of the Soundex coding of names.

Go back to locations, libraries, and records that you have searched in the past where you have failed to find records. Use your list of spelling variations and try to find records with the different spellings. If you previously only searched for "Jim Smith", now you need to use your list of spelling variations and search again. One more important note: If you have a name that is common (Smith), you MUST search using other details, such as the year and locale. When you add up the many records containing common names and your many spelling variations, you could spend too much time on one search, so for common names, you must know other details.

You may know how to spell your name, but the chances are very good that there are records with other spellings. Prepare yourself !!

Historic Sandy Point Cemetery is located in Sandy Point, Texas, approximately two miles north of Rosharon, in Brazoria County. A Texas State Historical Marker stands beside FM 521 near the cemetery, which is on private property, approximately one-half mile from the road. The cemetery is the resting place for two of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred colonists in Texas; Francis Bingham and John W. Bradley. The land surrounding Sandy Point Cemetery was not on one of Brazoria County's many antebellum plantations, but was surrounded by five plantations. The Bingham plantation was located to the north, the Coffee plantation to the west, and the Compton, Smith, and Tankersley plantations to the south. Members of all these families were buried there.

William Jefferson Kyle (1803 – 1864) and Thomas Jefferson Coffee (1805 – 1858) were prominent local businessmen buried at Sandy Point with members of their families. Four Confederate soldiers were buried at Sandy Point: Aurelius J. Terry, Clinton Terry, J. Glassell Smith, and Harrison Tankersley. Aurelius Terry was also a veteran of the Mexican War. The Terrys were brothers of Col. Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Terry, organizer and leader of Terry's Texas Rangers. He was killed leading the Rangers during their first battle in 1861. The cemetery's historical marker and other sources claim that Col. Terry was temporarily buried at Sandy Point Cemetery before his remains were moved to Glenwood Cemetery in Houston. Convincing evidence, including published eyewitness accounts, states that Col. Terry was originally buried at his Oakland Plantation in the Sugar Land area. The Glenwood Cemetery records show that his remains were moved from Sugar Land to Houston in 1880.

Two formal surveys of Sandy Point Cemetery have been conducted, with the earliest dated 1948 by the Daughters of the American Revolution's Asa Underwood Chapter. In 1963, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Cradle of Texas Chapter, completed their own survey of the cemetery and published it with other Brazoria cemeteries in 1965. Due to many fallen trees and severe overgrowth, recent surveys were incomplete.

On June 13th, 1998, Alvin resident Cathy Nash met with the Brazoria County Historical Museum's director to report the cemetery's deplorable condition. The Museum's Cemetery Committee was formed that day, led by Nash, and dozens of dead trees were removed during workdays scheduled when weather permitted.

The cemetery was fenced, through funds provided by the Velasco Cemetery Association, an action necessary to prevent cattle from knocking tombstones over while using them as scratching posts. An elaborate brick mausoleum standing near the cemetery entrance was collapsing due to trees growing through

the bricks. Committee members met with Graham Luhn, a restoration architect, and Johnny Pollan, an archeological expert, to determine the best methods of restoring the building, dated from 1859. Work began on January 22, 2003 by committee members under the guidance of master bricklayer, Boot Ermis. More than one thousand man-hours went into the mausoleum project alone.

Many tombstones have been cleaned and reset, and photographs have been taken of the individual stones and family plots. Transcription errors in the earlier surveys were partially caused by duplicate markers and are still shown on several Internet websites. Attempts to get these errors corrected have been unsuccessful.

Sandy Point Cemetery was granted historical cemetery designation by the Texas Historical Commission in 2003, and a marker celebrating this status was dedicated on May 22, 2004. Nearly one hundred people attended the ceremony including thirty-two descendants and relatives of the Sandy Point residents buried in the cemetery. A brief history of the cemetery was presented as well as details about the mausoleum's restoration. A map of the cemetery was made available to attendees, showing the twenty- one plots and surnames of those buried in each one. There are eighty-eight known burials in Sandy Point Cemetery. The earliest existing tombstone is dated 1852, and the latest burial took place in 1996.

The restoration continues in 2005, now in its sixth year. I am currently researching the families buried there with help from the historical museum's family files, which are collections of family histories compiled throughout the years. Adding the census research and Brazoria County land and probate records, the histories of the land and people are coming together. Anyone with information about the cemetery or persons buried there may contact me: Melodey M. Hauch
(281) 554 – 4250 rhauch@houston.rr.com

The Texas Historical Cemetery Guardianship Association is a new Texas non-profit organization whose purpose is to locate abandoned, neglected, and historic cemeteries primarily in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Matagorda Counties. The Association will research the backgrounds of those cemeteries, raise funds for restoration and preservation, and cooperate with other interested organizations and individuals, in restoration and preservation activities. The Association's president is Nancy Howard. Meetings are held monthly at the Brazoria County Historical Museum, 100 East Cedar, Courthouse Square, Angleton, TX 77515. For more information, contact Jamie Murray at the museum; research@bchm.org

Events Calendar	All meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)
Monday, March 20, 2005	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC All BAGS members are invited to attend.
Sunday, March 27, 2005	BAGS MEETING CANCELLED Amendment vote April 24, 2005
Wednesday March 30, 2005	10:00 am – 2:00 pm BAGS Members pickup Freeman Library display items, 2 nd floor Conference Room
Monday, April 18, 2005	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting; Room LC-210, UBC All BAGS members are invited to attend.
Sunday, April 24, 2005	5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Chapel, UBC “Land Records and Deed Finding Aids” Speaker: Tommy Burns

HOUSTON GENEALOGICAL FORUM

JOHN PHILLIP COLLETTA, PhD, is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. He conducts workshops for the National Archives and the Smithsonian Institution. Meeting and Seminar will be held on Saturday, April 2nd, at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, TX

10:00 am to noon - Regular Forum meeting; Dr. Colletta will be the speaker.

1:00 to 3:00 pm - Mini Seminar; Dr. Colletta's topics will be “Only a Few Bones” and “Using Federal Court Records in Genealogy”. Registration for non-members is \$40.00, and for members is \$30.00.

(www.hgftx.org)

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Conference in the States, Nashville, TN, June 1-4 (<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/>)

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

International Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR), Birmingham, AL, June 12-17
(www.fgs.org/2005conf/FGS-2005.htm)

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of PENNSYLVANIA

Summer Camp, Philadelphia, PA, June 20-24 (<http://www.genpa.org/program.html>)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE of GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH (NIGR)

National Archives, Washington, DC, July 10-16 (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin/>)

ANGELINA COLLEGE

Genealogy Conference, Lufkin, TX, July 21-23 (<http://www.angelina.cc.tx.us/genealogy.htm>)

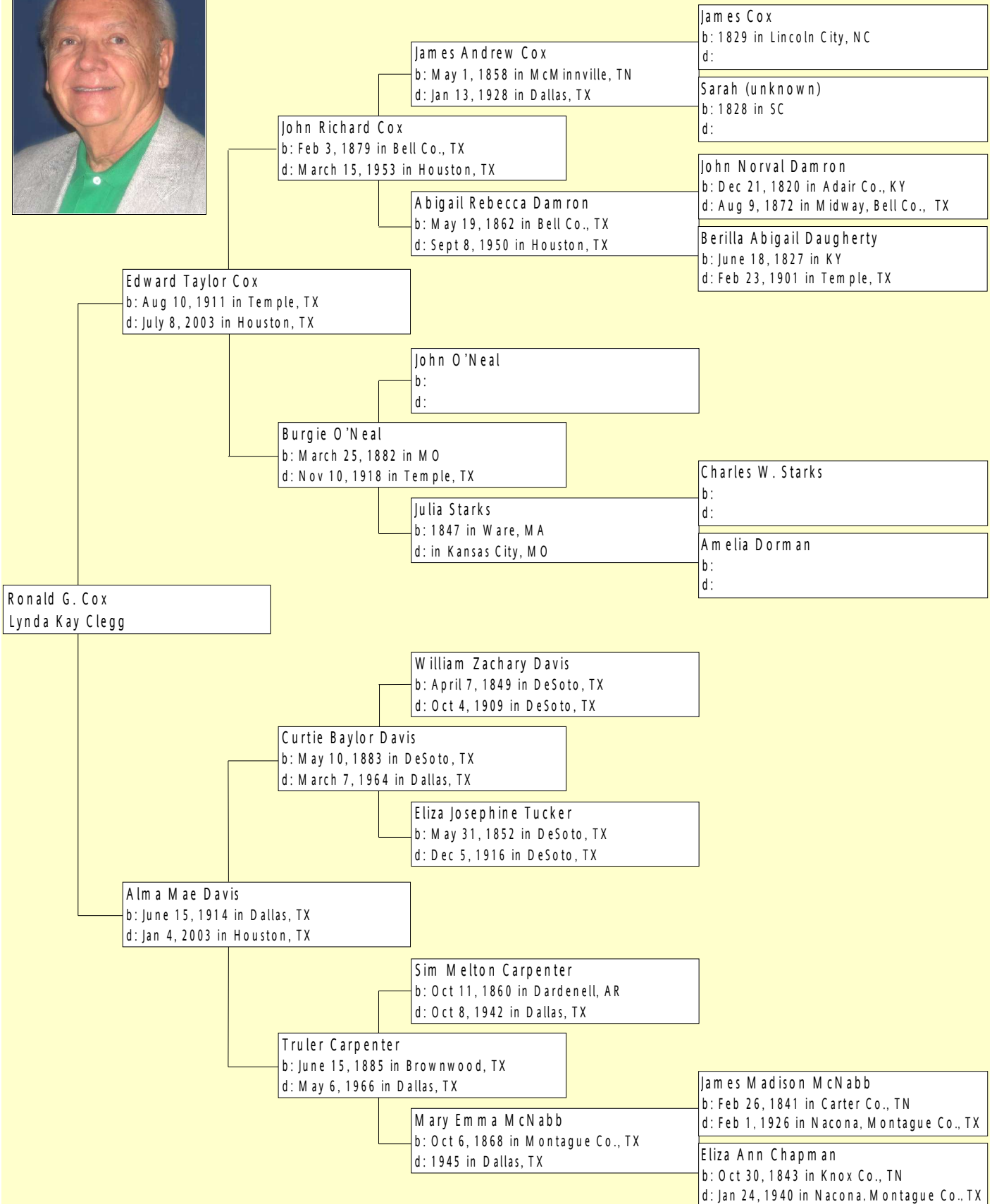
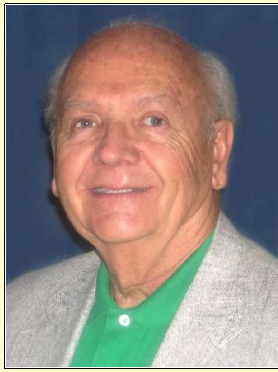
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE of GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Richmond, VA, July 30 - August 4 (<http://www.vgs.org/events.htm>)

THE FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES and THE UTAH GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

FGS/UGA Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, September 7-10
(www.fgs.org/2005conf/FGS-2005.htm)

Ancestors of Ronald G. Cox



Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

The scheduled Spring and Summer trips to Clayton Library are:

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

Wednesday, September 21, 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 general meetings. We have a good time on our bus trips sharing information with each other and telling each other stories.

The Society's website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, always has a current listing of library trips. See you at the library!

Quarterly

Susie Ganch, Coordinator

I have enjoyed each and every member's articles and I'm anxious to share them with you all. The Quarterly will be available to members for pick-up at the April general meeting. Please submit your historical or genealogical articles to me for future publications. Queries are also welcomed.

Remember to get your "How I Came to Texas" stories in, so that you will not be left off the BAGS Heritage Map. Please e-mail all submissions to me at sganch@verizon.net (put "Quarterly" in the subject line). You may also mail them to me at 2329 Golden Shores Lane, League City, TX 77573. Thank You .

Hospitality

Lee Jared, Coordinator

These people contributed to the February food table:

La Vonda Chance	Bobbie Morrison
Linda Cox	Mary Pearson
Tammy Frey	Katie Perry
Sue McCown	Leo Waltz
Hattie McKinley	Sandra Watters
Neil Miserendino	Thank you!

Harris County Archives

Judy Henderson, Coordinator

Going to the Harris County Archives is a wonderful opportunity to learn about conserving valuable resources and to get to know your fellow genealogists. In

March, Neil Miserendino, Paula Sinning, and Judy Henderson spent the day helping Sara Jackson, Archivist, index film and a Justice of the Peace Docket.

The next trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6. Since there will be no March meeting of BAGS, you will need to contact me if you are going.



Archives Special Event

On April 19, the Harris County Archives is having an official Open House from 10 am to 3 pm.

Car pooling will be available for both events. Contact Judy Henderson at 281-482-7888 or judy38@hal-pc.org.

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$3,503.71
Income	70.00
Expenses	- 637.30
Balance on hand 2-21-05	\$2,936.41

Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, BAGS Registrar

Please welcome our newest members:

Ron and Irene Smith of Friendswood
Dana B. Huoni of Santa Fe

The Application/Renewal form can be found on the BAGS website: www.TxBayAreaGen.org . Send the completed form and your check to: Rose Mary Fritz, BAGS Registrar, 5001 Casa Grande, Dickinson, TX 77539-7504. Please notify me of any updates or changes in name, address, e-mail, or phone number at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org .



Setup crew (from left) Shirley Lindquist, Carol Varnado, Alice Jones, Claudia Grafton, Linda Goerland, Bob Mitchell

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the members and installation team that made the Freeman Library exhibit such a success!



March 27 Society Meeting Cancelled



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 copyrighted, then please include permission with the submittals.

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

Next Meeting

Date: 24 April 2005
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: University Baptist Church Chapel
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX

Speaker: Tommy Burns

Subject: "Land Records and Deed Finding Aids"

BAGS website;
www.TxBayAreaGen.org

**Deadline for
April Issue is
April 2, 2005**