



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Apr 24
5:00 pm
UBC

Volume 4, Issue No. 8

April 2005

April Meeting: "Land Records and Deed Finding Aids"

Gems from Genealogists



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- Update: Encyclopedia of Genealogy

I recently created a new, free online service for genealogists, called the Encyclopedia of Genealogy. While I'm the person who created the "shell" of this new service, much of the information within it is written by newsletter readers like you. If you missed the announcement, you can read it at http://eogn.typepad.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2004/12/eencyclopedia_of.html.

Dug up by: Doug Wilson

Inside BAGS ---

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Topographic Maps/ Web News
- 4 Amendment/ Freeman Exhibit
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 6 Featured Ancestors
- 7 Committee Page
- 8 Online Extra (appears in online version only)

Loretta "Tommy" Burns

BAGS welcomes back Tommy Burns this month as our Guest Speaker for our April General Meeting. She will be speaking on "Land Records and Deed Finding Aids". Tommy is a good friend to BAGS and one of our more popular speakers.

Mrs. Burns has pursued genealogy as a hobby for over 40 years and professionally for 35 years. She has edited quarterlies for the Harris County Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society. In addition to editing, Tommy has published several census indices for specific southern counties, including the *Index to the 1911 Census of Louisiana* which covers Confederate veterans or their widows.

She has lectured at the Texas Library Association Convention and the American Library Association. Tommy has also chaired Conventions for the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughters of the American Revolution. We just don't have the room to mention all of Tommy's local and national accomplishments. Needless to say Loretta "Tommy" Burns is listed in "Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry" by William S. Philby.

LORETTA ELLIOTT BURNS

MEMBER

Southwest Archivists, Texas Historical Society, New England His. & Gen. Soc., Federation of Gen. Societies, New Orleans Gen. Society, Texas State Gen. Soc., Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of American Colonists, Colonial Dames of XVII Century, Colonial Dames of America, National Society Daughters of 1812, New England Women, and Friends of Clayton Library.

LIFETIME MEMBER

Magna Charta Dames, Pasadena Historical Society, North Carolina Gen. Soc., Mississippi Genealogy & His Soc., Montgomery Co. TX His. & Gen. Soc., Harris Co. TX Gen. Soc., Matagorda Co. TX Gen. Soc., and National Gen. Soc.

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2004 - 2005

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The Bay Area Genealogical Society is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the people of Harris and Galveston Counties, Texas, who have an interest in genealogy.

Questions or comments on the BAGS Newsletter should be addressed to:

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

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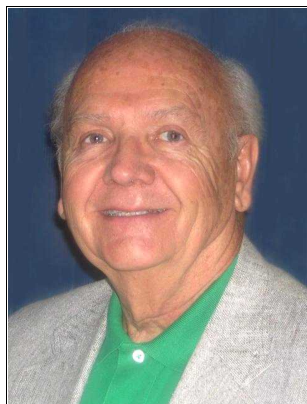
Message from the President

Ron Cox

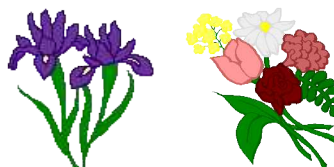
Well, Spring has sprung and Daylight Savings Time has begun. It's been a great last few months. We had a white Christmas and had, what my grandmother always said, our Easter norther. I'm sure many of you shivered at many an Easter morning sunrise service. I enjoyed Leon Hale's column in the Chronicle of how he traced the coming of Spring from the Valley back up to here. If you haven't already, I'm sure many of you will be getting out seeing the bluebonnets and other wildflowers that are so great this time of year. While the weather is good and you're out on the highway, why don't you make it a point to combine your trip with visits to some courthouses, cemeteries, and even the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Austin? All of us still have a few gaps in that family history that we've been planning to fill. What better time than when the weather is comfortable here in our great state? Remember, in more cases than we realize, we may help someone else by something we uncover.

Our display at Freeman Library is now over. Wasn't it great? I sure hope no one missed getting over there to see it. Let me give kudos again to the hard working members who not only put the display together but also had the duty to take it apart. They had to remove the items from the display case, carry them up to the second floor and then tend to the items, waiting for the owners to come by and pick them up. A lot of love was poured into that project. Hopefully you have your items back but if you don't, please make plans to pick your items up on the two remaining dates.

Please also remember that we will be voting at our April general meeting on the Bylaw change affecting the elected officials' terms of office.



Ron



The United States Geological Survey (USGS) produces many maps. One of the most useful maps for the genealogist is their 1:24,000 scale topographic maps. The earth is divided by longitude and latitude which are measured in degrees; each degree is further measured in minutes. The 1:24,000 scale maps are detailed maps that show a part of the United States that is 7.5 minutes by 7.5 minutes of the earth. The 1:24,000 means that one inch on the map represents 24,000 inches (or 2,000 feet) on the earth. To put it another way, one inch on the map is a little larger than one-third of a mile.

You may find some use of these maps for your genealogical research. They list some buildings, cemeteries, rivers, lakes, roads and other major land features. You may get free map indexes and catalogs by writing to:

USGS Information Services, PO Box 25286,
Denver, CO 80225

Other ways of ordering are on the Internet at <http://geography.usgs.gov/> or by calling 1-888-ASK-USGS (1-888-275-8747).

For other types of maps, write to:

USGS EROS Data Center, 47914 252nd Street,
Sioux Falls, SD 57198

The current cost for a 1:24,000 scale topographic map is \$6, plus the \$5 handling charge per order.

I use a computer and the Internet but found that it was better to use the telephone to get an index and order form. When I used the telephone, I also received a small map that matched the list of numbers with a section of the state. Within five business days, the index arrived with an order form. Ask for a state index and you will get a list of all of the 1:24,000/1:25,000 scale topographic maps. You will also get a map index that contains a map of the state that is divided into squares. When you use the second index it is easier to locate the 1:24,000 scale topographic maps that you ordered.

I sometimes worry that I emphasize the Internet too much in my writings. For getting the map lists and order form, I recommend that you call 1-888-275-8747, instead of using the Internet. The phone is answered from 9am to 6pm CST.

I sent in my order and received my maps within two weeks of my first call. This was great service from a

government agency! The maps were not as valuable as the Sanborn insurance maps, but I used the maps to get a list of cemeteries near one of my ancestor's place of birth.

BAGS Website Activity

by Leo Waltz, BAGS Web Master

Many of you visit the BAGS website to read this newsletter, but there have been a few other changes over the past several months that I wanted to bring to your attention. The main entry at www.TxBayAreaGen.org is primarily targeted at new visitors to the site and those just wishing to see the meeting calendar and programs.

The Members Info Page should be your main page for getting recent information about the Society and its activities as it is updated more frequently than other pages. BAGS-related events, announcements, and links to photographs from meetings and past newsletters will appear here.

Recently I moved all information related to seminars, workshops, conferences, lectures, etc., to a new page which can be accessed from the Members Info Page. There is a page for the contents of the Quarterly editions going back to December 2001. The Quarterly is not online, but you can view online the tables of contents to see in which issue a given article appeared. Likewise, the Newsletter's major features are now listed for each issue, and the newsletter itself is online back to September 2003. Also newly added is an attendance count for all our meetings supplied by Jeanine Lawrence.

If you missed the BAGS exhibit at the Freeman Library, or just want to show it off to someone not in the area or a potential future member, I have a three page photo spread in PDF (Portable Document Format) to view. When you email others about BAGS, be sure to include our website URL (www.TxBayAreaGen.org) and invite them to visit either online or in person.

If you have an item of interest for the "Mail BAGS" section or for the Seminars page, just email me at Leo@TxBayAreaGen.org. And don't forget our Query Board; just click "Queries" at the top of the main entry page. It is open to any registered user of RootsWeb to post or reply.

The vote on the proposed amendment has been rescheduled for the April 24 BAGS general meeting. A vote "YES" is for bi-annual elections and a TWO YEAR TERM for elected Officers. A vote "NO" is for annual elections and a ONE YEAR TERM for elected Officers.

ARTICLE III

ELECTIONS

The existing bylaws state:

Section 1: Timing of Elections

Officers and members of the Board serve at the will of the general membership and will be elected annually according to the following schedule: in March the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee composed of two (2) Board members and three (3) from the general membership.

If the members approve the amendment, this section of the Bylaws will change to:

Officers and members of the Board serve at the will of the general membership and shall be elected to two year terms. Elections shall be held bi-annually according to the following schedule: in March of the election year, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee composed of two (2) Board members and three (3) from the general membership.

The Board expresses its gratitude to the ad hoc committee who managed all aspects of the BAGS display at Freeman Memorial Library for the month of March. They assembled members' contributed materials, designed the theme, arranged the display, and distributed members objects. The display was magnificent!



The hard-working group – Shirley Lindquist, Carol Varnado, Alice Jones, Claudia Grafton, and Linda Goerland

FREEMAN LIBRARY FINAL PICK-UP DATES

The Freeman display has been removed from the library and final pickup will be available at the April 24th General Meeting.

If, for any reason, you will not be attending this meeting, please notify Shirley Lindquist and make arrangements to pickup your items at the April 18th Board Meeting. You must call Shirley (281-286-4125) in order for your specific items to be brought to the Board meeting. All items must be returned to all owners by April 24th. We cannot be responsible for any items left after that date.

Events Calendar

All meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)

All members are invited to attend all meetings

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| • Monday, April 18, 2005 | 4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC |
| • Sunday, April 24, 2005 | 5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Chapel, UBC
"Land Records and Deed Finding Aids"
Speaker: Tommy Burns |
| • Monday, May 23, 2005 | 4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC |
| • Sunday, May 29, 2005 | 5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Chapel, UBC
"Where in the World? Using Maps in Genealogy"
Speaker: Emily Croom |

FAMILY HISTORY CENTER & THE EAST TEXAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Family History Conference, Tyler, TX, April 30

(<http://www.rootsweb.com/%7etxetgs/Meetings/fhc2005.html>)

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>)

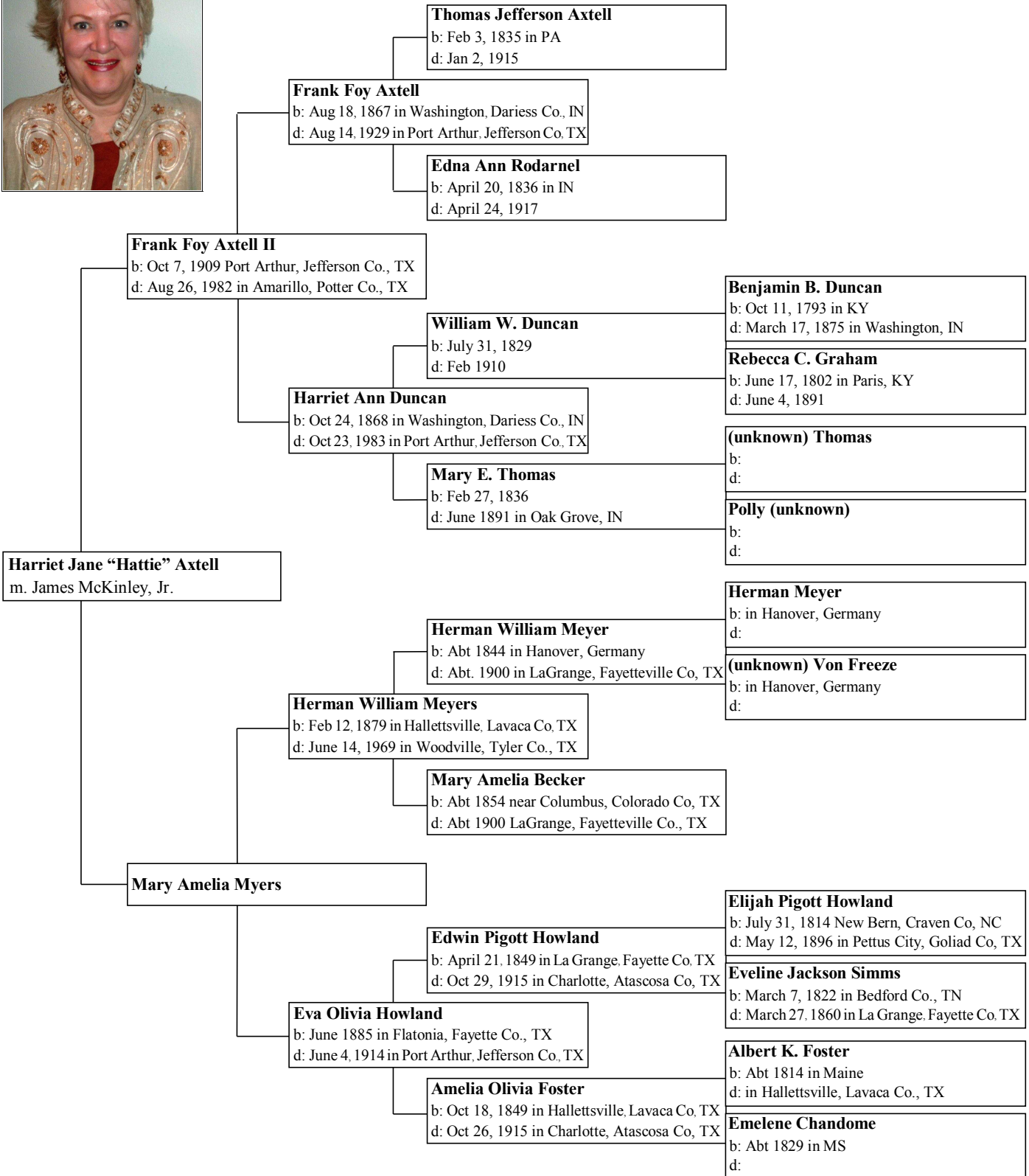
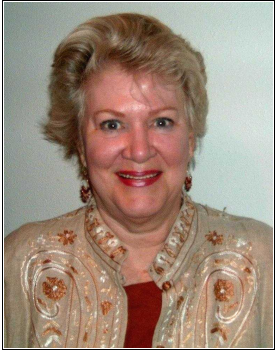
THE FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES and THE UTAH GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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

HAL-PC TMC-SIG

User group for The Master Genealogist software. HAL-PC Headquarters, Houston, TX, Third Saturday (except July and December) 12 noon, Bdunquez@aol.com , WTRQTT@houston.rr.com or <http://www.hal-pc.org/>.

Ancestors of Harriet Jane Axtell (McKinley)



Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Our trips scheduled to the Clayton Library are:

- Wednesday, May 11
- Wednesday, June 8
- Wednesday, August 10
- Wednesday, September 21

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. We are back to the parking lot before 4:00. 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.

We have an interesting time searching for ancestors. Claudia Grafton found an ancestor named Rev. Sparrow Nickerson. She especially liked the name Sparrow; it sounded gentle to her, but he didn't look like a Sparrow in the picture that she found of him. Later, Claudia found that Sparrow was the maiden name of one of his female ancestors. We find many interesting names that are not used today.

The Society's website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, always has a current listing of library trips. Join us and see what you can find.

Message from the Registrar

Rose Mary Fritz, BAGS Registrar

We always welcome new members. 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 changes in name, address, e-mail, or phone number at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Quarterly Update

Susie Ganch

The March Quarterly is ready, but I still need articles for the June Quarterly. Please send in your "How I Came to Texas" stories so you will not be left off the BAGS Heritage Map. Also, please submit family histories from any area or any local history of interest. Queries are also welcome. E-mail your submissions to sganch@verizon.net or mail them to Susie Ganch, 2393 Golden Shores Lane, League City, TX, 77573.

Harris County Archives

Judy Henderson, Coordinator

The largest group of volunteers from BAGS showed up on Wednesday, April 6. Mary Martin, Mary Pearson, Paula Sinning, Marilyn Turner, Ann Davidson, and Judy Henderson had a very productive workday at the archives indexing, rehousing, and shelving old tax assessor records for future research.

We are planning trips for the first Wednesday of each month with the exception of July and August. So our next dates before summer vacation will be May 4 and June 1. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the work and the fun.



Harris County Archives Open House

Robert Eckels, Harris County Judge
And Harris County Commissioners
El Franco Lee – Precinct 1 Steve Radack – Precinct 3
Sylvia R. Garcia – Precinct 2 Jerry Eversole – Precinct 4

Cordially invite you to a
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Open House for
Harris County Archives
Tuesday, April 19, 2005
Harris County Criminal Justice Center
1201 Franklin, 12th Floor
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: 12:30 p.m.
Open House: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Let's plan on having a large delegation from BAGS. For car-pooling information contact Judy Henderson at 281-482-7888 or judy38@hal-pc.org

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$2,936.41
Income	\$100.00
Expenses	-\$216.30
Balance on hand 3/21/05	\$2,820.11



Clayton
House



BAGS website:
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 copyrighted, 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

**Deadline for
May Issue is
May 7, 2005**