



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

**May 29**  
**5:00 pm**  
UBC

Volume 4, Issue No. 9

May 2005

## May Meeting: Using Maps in Genealogy

### Gems from Genealogists



We all love doing genealogy - in most cases it's a burning passion that takes up our every waking hour. But have we thought about leaving our love and skill to someone else? If you have children or grandchildren who could be interested, then take a look at this site and then introduce them to it!

I am the new coordinator for KidzGenWeb at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgwkidz/index.htm>

This is a web site for children and teens where they are able to post surnames, queries and class room genealogy projects so that other kids or adults may be able to help them with their search. Only children can post surnames and queries; however, adult researchers can answer the queries or post helpful hints.

Angela DiBlasi

*Dug up by Trevia Wooster Beverly*

### Inside BAGS ---

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### "Where in the World?"

#### Emily Croom

Maps are an important part of a genealogist's toolkit. City, county, and state maps help researchers become familiar with ancestral ground, locate cemeteries and other records, and learn about the role of geography in ancestral lives. Historical maps provide unique perspectives on ancestral communities and migration routes. Even some Web sites help genealogists locate named places and patented ancestral land.

Emily is the author of "The Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook: Essential Forms and Letters for All Genealogists", "The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook", "The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research", and "A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors". Both "Unpuzzling Your Past" and "The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook" have been chosen by Readers Digest and Book-of-the-Month Club as book offerings.



Being a native Houstonian, Emily has been actively involved in genealogical research in this area for over 30 years. She is a member of local, state, and national genealogical societies, including the Houston Genealogical Forum and the Clayton Library Friends. She's earned two

BA degrees (history and music) and a MA in history. A former public school teacher, Ms. Croom has taught genealogy for several continuing education facilities and has conducted an online genealogy class through Barnes and Noble University since 2001. For a complete schedule and activity update, please contact Emily at her website: <http://www.unpuzzling.com>.

Please come and share a BAGS special evening with one of our favorite speakers, Ms Emily Croom, 5:00pm on May 29<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be held at University Baptist Church 16106 Middlebrook Dr. in Clear Lake City and the public is invited. If you need a map to get there, Emily will show you the way! For more information please call the BAGS president, Ron Cox at 281-332-3290.

## BAGS Officers

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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,  
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## Message from the President

Ron Cox

It has come to my attention that many of you are concerned about the timing of our meeting programs. Many of you have voiced that concerned to others and myself. This is a problem but let me assure you it is being addressed. It is important that everyone, member and visitor alike, be given an informative and entertaining program at each of our monthly meetings. That is the mainstay of our Society. We all want information and we want it from authorities that can give it to us. I know all of you will agree that over the years that is the kind of programming we have received. We stand along side any other similar society in the quality of the programs that are produced by our speakers. That being said, it is not out of the question that, from time to time, we might have a program that is not to everyone's liking. Granted they may be too long or the data may not be easily digestible. However, we all suffer that kind of problem in many other aspects of our every day life. Think of the movies or plays or other forms of entertainment that you have attended, and probably paid good money for, and walked away very disappointed. Don't misunderstand. Your BAGS staff is addressing each and every concern about the length and content of the scheduled programs. In the meantime if you know someone who is really disturbed by one program or another, or any other aspects of our society, then perform whatever damage control you can to make them a happy camper. Please stay involved.

In the meantime, here's hoping all the Mothers had a happy day and all of you had a pleasant Cinco de Mayo.



*Ron*

I have been planning for a few months to tell our members about searching the Texas land grants. I did not wish to only write about the process about finding the record, but I also wanted to personalize the information by using a Bay Area Genealogical Society member's actual search to demonstrate the process of finding Texas land grants. As I do not have any ancestors who lived in Texas, I waited to write this article until I found a member who had an ancestor that owned land in Texas. This article is now possible because when I volunteered to assist at the Houston Archives, Paula Sinning mentioned that she had an ancestor who owned land in Texas.

To start, the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) maintains records of original land grants that have an abstract number issued by the TGLO. These records are maintained in the Land Grant Database. The Land Grant Database is accessible at:  
1700 N. Congress Ave., Suite 130, Austin, Texas 78701-1495

The Land Office has put some information about Texas Land records on the Internet. You can go to this website for more information:

[www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/landgrant.html](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/landgrant.html)

For those members who do not wish to travel to Austin and have access to a computer, the Land Grant Database can be searched from your home computer. The Land Grant Database web page is linked from the General Land Office web site or you may use this direct link:

<http://wwwdb.glo.state.tx.us/central/LandGrants/LandGrantsSearch.cfm>

I will use some information provided by Paula Sinning as an example of how to search the Land Grant Database. In case someone else can provide assistance to Paula, I am keeping some extra information that she sent to me.

Paula looked up her great-great-grandfather William A. Earp (born 1837 in Alabama) who spent his adult life in Brown County, Texas. He died in 1921 in Brown County. Paula is trying to prove he was a Texas Ranger. She has information on him in the Civil War with the rank of private. She looked him up on the TGLO web site. She did send off for information about his service in the Civil War, however, as of the writing of this article, she has not received a reply. Paula is searching out his first wife's maiden name. She died when their children were very young and William remarried. The children's death certificates do not give the maiden name.

I repeated the search on the Land Grant Search webpage. I did not think the last name "Earp" was common, so I only entered the last name "Earp" as the original grantee. For people with more common names, you can search by adding the first name and possibly the

middle initial. The recommended formats are "Jones, Robert" or "Robert B Jones". When I searched only for "Earp", the result was a listing of about 70 records. I looked down the page and saw two records for "Wm. Earp" in Brown County, and one record for Wichita County. If you are like Paula and know the county, then you might be able to eliminate the person from Wichita County. If you were unsure of the county, then you should ask for copies of the land grants from whatever counties were listed. As for myself, I could not tell if the "Wm. Earp" in Wichita County was Paula's ancestor or not.

I clicked on the two records for "Wm. Earp" in Brown County. Here is that information:

County: Brown

Abstract Number: 301

District/Class: Travis Preemption

File Number: 108

Original Grantee: Wm. A. Earp

Acres: 160.00

County: Brown

Abstract Number: 304

District/Class: Travis Preemption

File Number: 377

Original Grantee: Wm. A. Earp

Acres: 160.00

There were also two records for Susan Earp in Brown County. It would now be up to Paula to research further using the land grant information for Susan Earp. After the land was passed to an owner, the records for that property will be kept in the individual Texas counties, so what do you do if you locate a record? Order a copy of the record from the Texas General Land Office.

Here is what Alice Jones has written about her experience:

"The search for the Texas Land Grants is so much better when you use the Internet. I have done research at the Land Office in Austin. The office is not equipped for researchers and has only one six foot table for visitors. It is right in the middle of two employees' work space and they have to retrieve all the records for you. If you want copies, they have to run them and it's \$1.00 per page....! Yes, \$1.00 per page. You may not put anything on the table other than a laptop or a single sheet of paper and pencil and they vigilantly enforce the rule."

For those members who have ancestors that may have obtained land from the State of Texas, searching the General Office Database is a great resource!



## French-Canadian Research

## Richard Eastman

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2005 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

One of the larger French-Canadian web sites around is called the *Acadian & French Canadian Ancestral Home*. While the word "Acadian" is in the title, I noticed that there is some information about Quebecois on the site as well. Nonetheless, the site focuses on Acadian genealogy.

Some of the features of this extensive web site include:

- The Ancestral Home newsletter, a monthly publication. I noticed the April 2005 edition has 21 articles, written by some well-known French-Canadian speakers and authors. The March 2005 newsletter has 18 articles.
- Acadian Family Names of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century
- Acadian/Amerindian Marriages
- A list of Mi'kmaq Marriages extracted from parish registers

registers

- Metis History
- A search engine of the site

The web site is owned and operated by Lucie LeBlanc Consentino, who is also editor of The Ancestral Home Newsletter. In addition to having served as past Vice-President, past Conference Chair, past Acadian Acquisitions person, and past Board Director of the American Canadian Genealogical Society of Manchester, New Hampshire, she is also a member of the Lawrence Heritage Genealogical Group in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

If you have Acadian ancestry, you will find much of interest at the Acadian & French Canadian Ancestral Home web site. I already found a number of my ancestors mentioned on the site, and I have not yet investigated everything there. I know I am going to spend some more time on the site this week.

The Acadian & French Canadian Ancestral Home web site is available at <http://www.acadian-home.org>.

## Harris County Archives

## Judy Henderson

### Open House

The official opening of the Harris County Archives was a big success. We had the opportunity to see many of the types of Harris County materials available open to the public for research. Robert Eckels, County Judge of the Commissioners' Court; representatives of the four County Commissioners; Charles Bacarisse, District Clerk; Paul Scott, Director of Facilities Department sponsoring the archives; Ray Miller, Texas story teller and journalist; and the general public were there to celebrate. The archives are open every Tuesday from 1 pm to 4 pm and by appointment. If you call ahead at 713-368-7640, Sarah Jackson will be able to tell what is available and have it ready for you. Take advantage of this opportunity.



Paula Sinning, Judge Eckels, Judy Henderson, Claudia Grafton, Mary Martin. (Not shown: Ann Davidson)

### Volunteers

For May, Paula Sinning and Mary Martin were able to go and help Sarah. Although the archives are now open to the public, there is a warehouse full of boxes of material yet to be indexed and prepared for public use. Come and take advantage of the opportunity to help.

The next trip before summer break is Wednesday, June 1. Put this date on your calendar now, and contact Judy Henderson to let her know you are coming. Email: [judy38@hal-pc.org](mailto:judy38@hal-pc.org) or phone 281-482-7888.



Neil Miserendino and Paula Sinning

## Events Calendar

All meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)

All members are invited to attend all meetings

- 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
- Monday, June 20, 2005 4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
- Sunday, June 26, 2005 5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting; Chapel, UBC  
"Library Resources as Finding Aids for Genealogists"  
Speaker: Marje Harris

### **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  
<http://www.samford.edu/schools/ighr/ighr.html>

### **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>)

### **BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY**

Genealogy and Family History Conference, Provo, UT, July 26-29  
(<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/>)

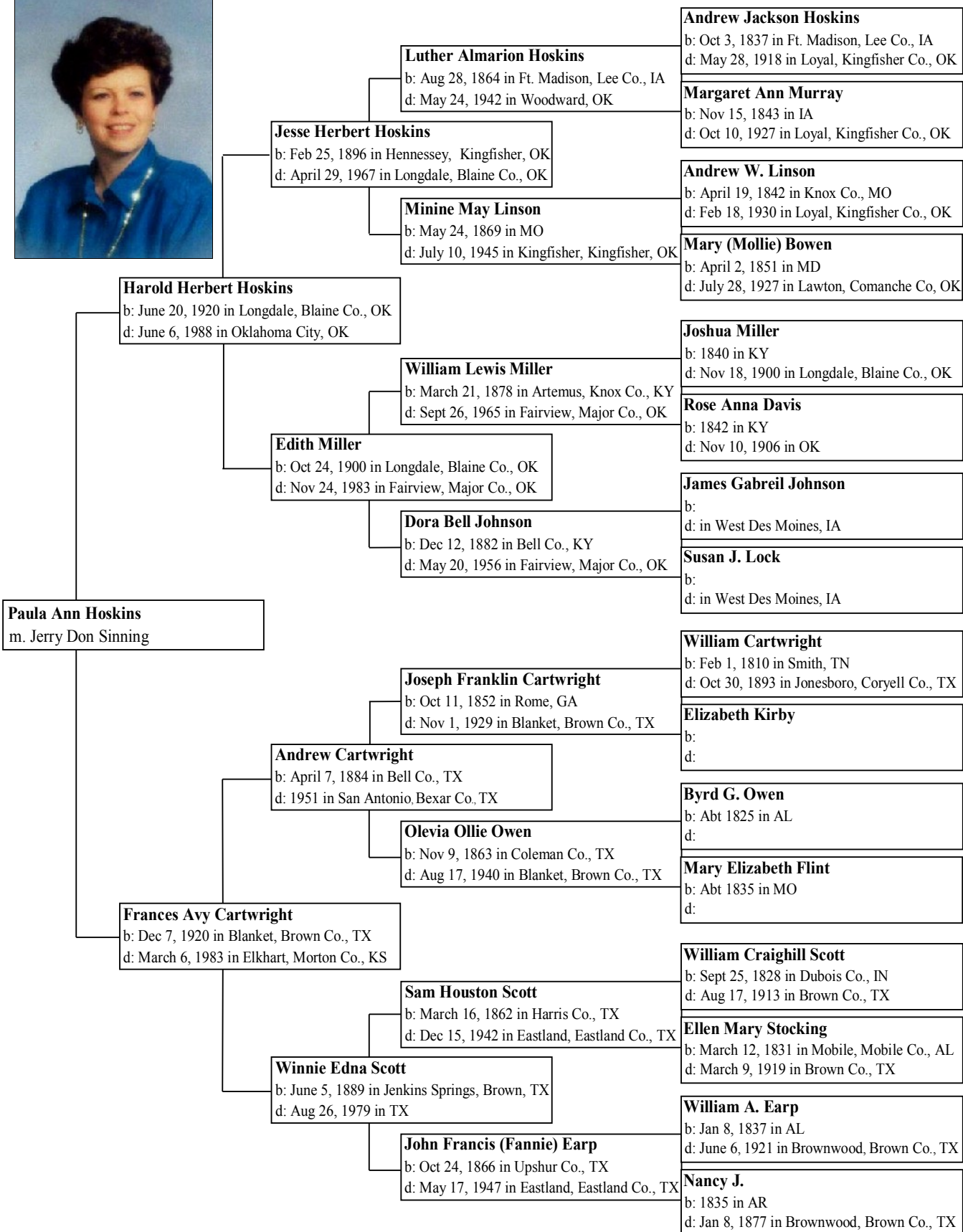
### **VIRGINIA INSTITUTE of GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

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 (<http://www.fgs.org/2005conf/FGS-2005.htm>)"

# Ancestors of Paula Ann Hoskins (Sinning)



# Committee News

## Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

We welcome new member Berton F. Young, Jr. of Houston. The membership application/renewal form can be found on the BAGS website: [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org). Send the completed form and your check to: 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 the BAGS website given above.

## Quarterly

Susie Ganch, Editor

I am really enjoying the articles our members are submitting for our quarterly and I am so glad that we have a publication to share these articles with all of our members, as well as with the public who might read them at Clayton Library or some of the other libraries where we place them. I am finding that our members have wonderful stories to tell resulting from their family research. Keep those articles coming so we can publish more family histories. Remember, the quarterly can only be as good as the material submitted by our members. Don't forget to submit your "How I got to Texas" story so you can join the others on our BAGS Heritage Map.

Starting with the June issue, we will also include a section devoted to the activities of our society. Let me know if you have something you would like to include in this section. Please email your submission to [sganch@verizon.net](mailto:sganch@verizon.net) or mail them to me at 2393 Golden Shores Lane, League City, Texas 77573.

## Hospitality

Lee Jared, Coordinator

These people contributed to the April food table:

Annette Bowen	Lee Jared
Mary Brandhorst	Melissa Jared
Claudia Grafton	Margaret Mitchell
Signe Hawley	Betty Ryman
Joan Homann	

## BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$2,820.11
Income	77.40
Expenses	77.98
Balance on hand Date	\$2,819.53

## Yearbook

Neil Miserendino, Editor

Many of the members have seen me taking photographs at the General meetings. This year, we have included photographs of the officers in the yearbook. The goal for our next yearbook is to include photographs of the entire membership.

For those members who may not make it to the upcoming meetings, you may send me a copy one photograph of yourself. I will actually start assembling the yearbook this fall, but I will have a cut-off date and need time to complete the task. So, if I have not photographed you, or if you have a favorite photograph of yourself, send a copy to me at the BAGS Post Office Box (located within this newsletter), c/o "Yearbook photographs". You may also send me a photograph electronically at: [psrambling@aol.com](mailto:psrambling@aol.com)

## Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, Coordinator

Our trips scheduled to the Clayton Library are:

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 am. and leave the Clayton Library at 3:00 pm. We are back to the parking lot before 4:00 pm. If you have any questions or would like to schedule the trips, please call me at 281-332-2435, or we will have sign-up sheets at the meetings.

The Clayton Library has opened many doors to my past and I love sharing the things that I find with the rest of my family members. They are so thrilled to find out something new, especially about my mother's family. My mother passed away before I found most of her family information, so I share it with her brother, sisters, and my cousins. It brings us closer together. It also makes the history of our country become more alive as I see my ancestors as a part of it.

Recently, Loren and I visited Boston and saw a statue of the "minuteman" located near the bridge between Lexington and Concord, Mass. I had previously found an ancestor of mine that had participated as a "minuteman" in a battle near that location. His name was Bezaleel Flagg. Since that time I've discovered two more "minuteman" ancestors and their names were Paul Pratt and William Flagg. I now know why I was such a convincing minuteman in my fifth grade play – it's in my blood!

The Society's website, [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org), always has a current listing of library trips. Join us and see what you can find.





Rosenberg Library,  
Galveston, Texas



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 copyrighted, then please include permissions with the submittals.

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Deadline for  
June Issue is  
June 4, 2005