

# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

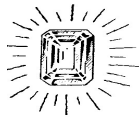
**Jun 26**  
**5:00 pm**  
**UBC**

Volume 4, Issue No. 10

June 2005

## June Meeting: Finding Aids

### Gems from Genealogists



Ever wonder about the meaning of some unfamiliar word or phrase in an old document? [About.com](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~randyj2222/gendict.html) has a file that deals with *ab neptis*, *mantach*, *handfast* and hundreds of others. You can access the file at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~randyj2222/gendict.html>

By the way, *ab neptis* means “a greatgranddaughter” and *mantach* is Welsh for “toothless”!

*Dug up by:* Doug Wilson

### Inside BAGS ---

- 2 President's Message
- 3 City Directories Intro
- 4 Posting Queries
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 6 Featured Ancestors
- 7 Committee Page
- 8 Online Extra (appears in online version only)

### “Library Resources as Finding Aids for Genealogists” Marje Harris

Ms. Marje Harris will be back with us this month to further speak on “Finding Aids”. She will concentrate on the resource that our libraries provide, and who knows more in this area than Marje?

Marje is the Manager at Clayton Library and, as most of us know, Clayton is the genealogical research unit of the Houston Public Library. In her 32 years with the Houston Public Library System, she has served 28 of those years at Clayton.



Marje obtained a MLS (Master of Library Science) from Texas Woman's University and a BA in Library Science/Education from the University of North Texas. She continues her education by taking classes from the National Genealogical Society, the Institute for Genealogical Research, the Houston Genealogical Institute, and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and has completed the Home Study Program through the National Genealogical Society.

Her library connections include a membership in the American Library Association, RUSA Round Table, and Genealogy Committee. She also is a member of the Texas Library Association, Genealogy Committee, and Genealogy Round Table.



Please come and share a thoroughly enjoyable and informative summer evening with Ms. Marje Harris. We meet at 5:00, Sunday, June 26, in the University Baptist Church Chapel. For directions or questions please call Ron. (281-332-3290)

## BAGS Officers

**President – Ron Cox**  
281-332-3290  
[president@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:president@TxBayAreaGen.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. -- Loren Martin**  
281-332-2435  
[lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. -- Dick Warren**  
281-461-1472  
[dick@merlins-web.com](mailto:dick@merlins-web.com)

**Recording Secy. – Mary Martin**  
281-332-2435  
[lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com)

**Corresponding Secy. – Shirley Lindquist**  
281-286-4125  
[slindquist@houston.rr.com](mailto:slindquist@houston.rr.com)

**Treasurer -- Resa Hennings**  
281-326-4936  
[resa@resa.us](mailto:resa@resa.us)

**Registrar – Rose Mary Fritz**  
281-337-5495  
[registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org)

## Newsletter Staff

*Editor*

Claudia Grafton

*Composition & Layout*

Doug Wilson

*June Proofreader*

Resa Hennings

*Photographer – Linda Goerland*

*Distribution – Linda Carrington*

*5 Gen. Charts – Tammy Frey*

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

Articles on genealogy are welcome. Inclusion is based on space available and is subject to editing. Please include permissions with copyrighted material submissions.

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

Editor, P.O. Box 891447,  
Houston, TX 77289-1447, or  
[claudiamg@ev1.net](mailto:claudiamg@ev1.net)

All rights reserved.

## Message from the President

Ron Cox

As you all know by now, I have tried to use this forum from time to time to call attention to matters that concern the well-being of our Society. I do this because I feel it is the duty of your elected officials to be aware of the Society's health and to make recommendations to you on how we can improve and/or make changes. At the same time, I have on several occasions tried to impress upon you, as a member, the importance of becoming involved to the point of volunteering for an elected or appointed position within the Society. At this point, I fear that we are reaching a crisis, in that it is becoming very difficult to find members who are willing to step up. The majority of your Board members have been in those positions for most of the life of the Society. They are gracious with their time and energy and are glad to be able to continue and help. You will find that this is so when you see the slate of candidates for office for the coming year. And while many of them serve in appointed positions, they too are ready to serve again. However, as I look toward the horizon I'm not seeing a lot of folks presenting themselves as possible replacements for the present Board. Our Bylaws require that a member serve a term on the Board in another position before being eligible for president.

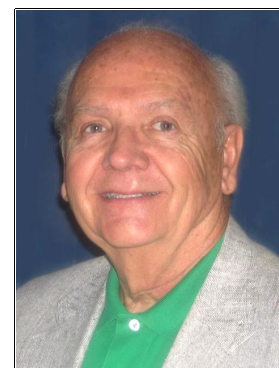
The crisis I spoke of before is illustrated literally right now in that our Newsletter Editor, Claudia Grafton, will not be serving past this present year. I don't need to tell you how important our Newsletter is to the life of our Society. Presently I would defy anyone to find a Newsletter more professional and informative. Claudia has done a superb job and I have a deep concern that we find someone with her talent to do that job. The good news is that someone out there is trainable and Claudia can provide that training.

Please accept these words as a yellow flag, meant to call your attention to a situation that must be remedied. I am waiting for solutions.



Flag Day – June 14

*Ron*



I first learned about City Directories when I lived with my parents and a gentleman came to the door as part of a survey to get information about the local City Directory. I can still remember a few things about that interview. He clearly identified himself as seeking answers to put in the City Directory and I remember answering all of his questions.

After he left, I thought that maybe I should have been wary of strangers and should not have answered his questions. After the City Directory, which contained the information that I supplied, was published, I went to my local library and verified that the information about our family (as reported by me) was correct.

As it turned out, he was just doing his job and our family information was included in the City Directory with the rest of the people from our town. Of course, I do not think I told my parents that some man came to the door and I answered all of his prying questions, but after reading this article, they now know. As a Genealogical researcher and in retrospect, I am glad that the person who answered the door (me) gave honest and complete answers that can be used for Genealogical research.

What is a City Directory and how do we use them for Genealogical research? City Directories were published to give information about individuals and businesses in a city. In the United States, City Directories have been published for some cities since the 1800s. In Europe, some City Directories were published even earlier than that.

Most City Directories in the United States contained this information: an alphabetical list of heads of households, a listing of the businesses, and a listing of the streets in a city with the occupant's names. City Directories also may have contained other information such as advertising for those businesses that purchased the space on the pages. (Not as valuable to us as Genealogical researchers).

Here are more complete descriptions about the information that we need to use.

Aside from an alphabetical list of heads of households, some city directories would also include the wife's name or other people may have been listed. The other people listed would include the names of unmarried women and if they were employed or widowed. Added bonuses for us are the City Directories which included the names of children.

The business listings in a City Directory were the equivalent of the present-day "Yellow Pages" in our phone books. Businesses could be located in a City Directory before telephone books existed or before telephone books became widespread.

Some City Directories contained a listing of the streets with the occupants of the street. The occupants of each address could have been a family, an individual or a business.

Now that you have been introduced to the topic of City Directories, how we use them for our research will be discussed in a future article.

Many BAGS members are aware of the numerous online query or message boards that exist on the Internet. For those unfamiliar with them in genealogy, they are a way of posting a name or other question and waiting for responses. These query boards are organized by locale, typically counties, or by surname or by topics such as obituaries, cemeteries, and adoptions. In addition most genealogical societies have query boards. BAGS has one and the link can be found at the top or bottom of the opening page of the BAGS web site.

Our own query board is not extremely active, but it is only one of hundreds or thousands in existence. As RootsWeb states, "Take advantage of the largest collection of genealogical messages on the Internet. This feature allows users to post and read important tips, information, and assistance as part of a helpful community of thousands of fellow researchers." A page where you can list or search all RootsWeb message boards is located here: <http://boards.rootsweb.com/> or you can click on "Message Boards" when on the BAGS or any other board.

The posting of queries on the BAGS board is not limited to our members, as anyone can post new messages or reply to others' queries as long as you are registered and logged in. There is no charge for being a registered user. You can receive e-mail notifications where there is a new message posted or just when your own posting has a new response. A tutorial on their use is available here:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=help&r=rw> or by clicking the "help" button on any board web page.

As an example, the Traweek query that our founder, Carolyn Hellen initiated in 2001 on the BAGS query board has had activity this month. It is a good example that replies can continue for years. In this case there were none in 2002 or 2004, but look at 2005. The collapsed (meaning the text of message is not shown) query tree is below. Each indentation indicates a reply to the less indented one above it. I have included the initial query from 2001, but not the 18 replies which are indicated below it. Many are replies to replies, so the thread has taken on a life of its own. Sometimes the replies may number in the hundreds, and sometimes there will not be a single response. Posting in multiple boards that are related to the subject can improve getting a response. Be prepared to wait, and make sure you use a permanent email address. Try to make the query subject meaningful and don't put something general like "Need help with an ancestor" as the message might not be read.

Traweek : [Carolyn Traweek Hellen](#) -- 10 Oct 2001

"TRAWEEK/TRAWICK/TRAYWICK - Researching all spellings of the name. If you have anyone with this family name contact me. I have nearly 4,000 connected in my data base. Carolyn Traweek Hellen [CRHellen@att.net](mailto:CRHellen@att.net) "

- [Re: Traweek](#) : [GLORIA ARDREY](#) -- 29 Dec 2001
- [Re: Traweek](#) : [Pam](#) -- 29 Jan 2003
  - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Carolyn Hellen](#) -- 30 Jan 2003
    - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Pam](#) -- 31 Jan 2003
- [Re: Traweek](#) : [Carol Allen](#) -- 22 Aug 2003
- [Re: Traweek](#) : [Maxine Karr](#) -- 16 Mar 2005
  - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Crarolyn Traweek Hellen](#) -- 17 Mar 2005
    - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Maxine Karr](#) -- 17 Mar 2005
      - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Caroyn Traweek Hellen](#) -- 19 Mar 2005
        - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Maxine Karr](#) -- 19 Mar 2005
          - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Sherry Hyde](#) -- 7 Jun 2005
  - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Sherry Hyde](#) -- 7 Jun 2005
    - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Maxine H Karr](#) -- 8 Jun 2005
    - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Maxine H Karr](#) -- 8 Jun 2005
      - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Sherry Hyde](#) -- 10 Jun 2005
        - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Maxine H Karr](#) -- 10 Jun 2005
          - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Sherry Hyde](#) -- 11 Jun 2005
            - [Re: Traweek](#) : [Maxine H Karr](#) -- 11 Jun 2005

## Events Calendar

Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)

Members are invited to attend all meetings

- 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
- Monday, July 25, 2005 4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
- Sunday, July 31, 2005 5:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Chapel, UBC  
“The DNA Project and How Our Members Can Benefit from Contributing to the DNA Pool”  
Speaker: Max Blankfield

### **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>)

### **TEXAS CZECH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Genealogy Conference, Caldwell, TX, July 21-23 (<http://www.txczgs.org/05confpg1.html>)

### **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>)

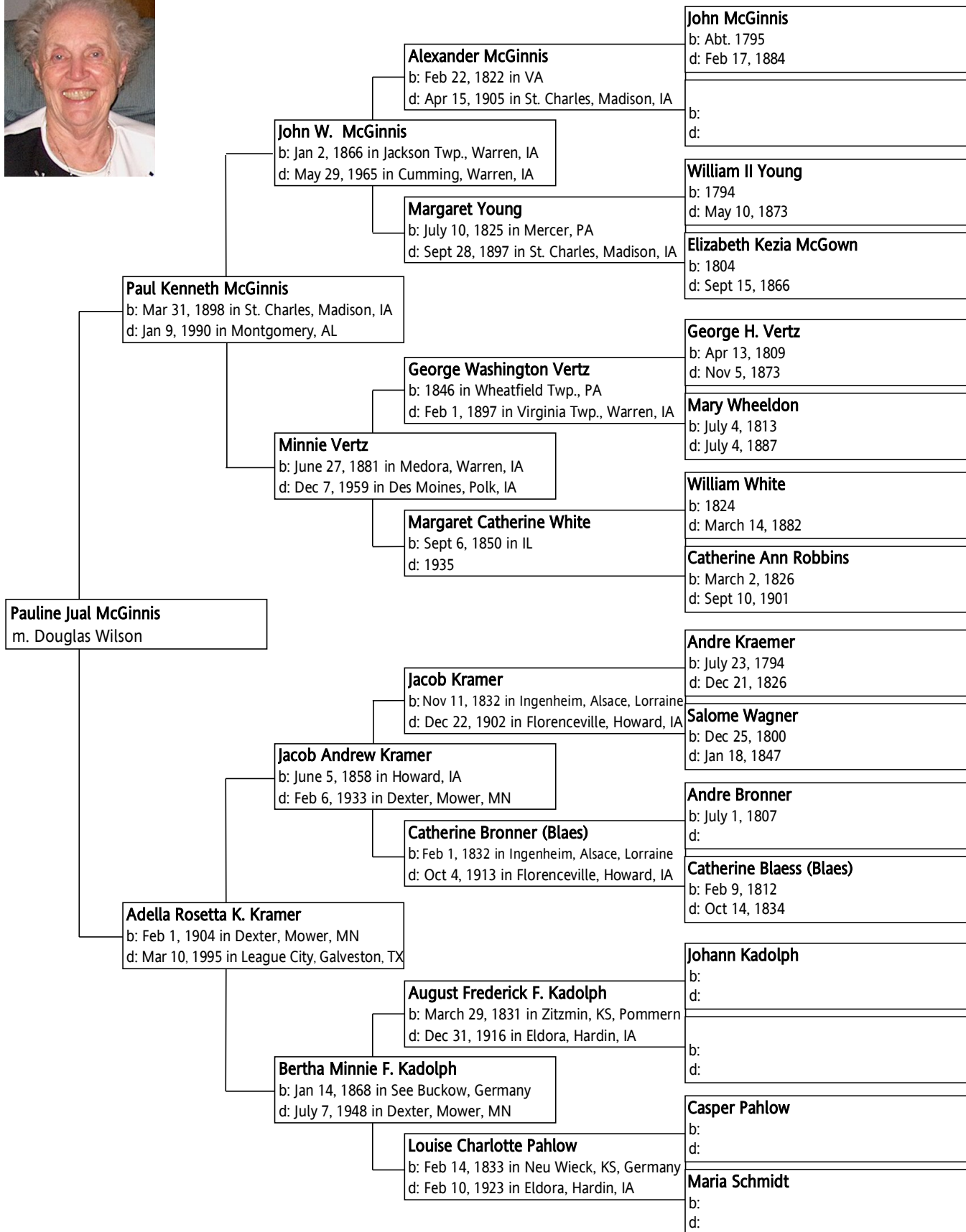
### **TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Annual Conference, Lubbock, TX, October 21-22 (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsgs/>)

### **BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

- Possible trip to Salt Lake City Family History Library, October 2005. If interested, contact Alice Jones, 281-480-6944 or [genealijonz@houston.rr.com](mailto:genealijonz@houston.rr.com)
- Marilyn Hughes plans a fall trip to prominent East Coast libraries and would like a “Buddy”. 281-335-0458 or [mhgenarch@aol.com](mailto:mhgenarch@aol.com)

# Ancestors of Pauline Jual McGinnis (Wilson)



# Committee News

## Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Our next BAGS trips scheduled to the Clayton Library are: 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 general meetings.

Our group enjoys chatting on the bus and exchanging ideas. I have learned about resources that Clayton Library has that I had not thought about before from someone else. Bert Young is a new member of our Society. He went to the library with us in May, and he is going again in June to see what interesting facts that he can uncover about his ancestors.

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

## Hospitality

Lee Jared, Coordinator

These people contributed to the May food table:

Leona Cook	Neil Miserendino
Rose Mary Fritz	Paula Sinning
Shirley Hughes	Carole Varnado
Shirley Lindquist	Delores White
Virginia Mason	Polly Wilson

Thank you for excellent contributions!

## Nominating Committee

Shirley Lindquist, Chairperson

The Nominating Committee is gathering names of candidates for the Board of Directors to serve the 2005-2007 term. Any member interested in serving may contact Jackie Wittschen (281-996-8648) for more information.

## BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$2,819.53
Income	20.00
Expenses	<u>343.50</u>
Balance on hand 5/23	\$2,496.03

## Quarterly Update

Susie Ganch, Editor

The June Quarterly is ready for press and I hope everyone enjoys reading the articles as much as I did. We have three more "How I Got to Texas" articles and more places to mark on our BAGS Heritage Map. We also have our first "If I could Spend a Day with an Ancestor" story and a wonderful narrative of life in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century written by someone who lived it. I hope these articles inspire all of you to submit your own stories about your ancestors so our quarterly can truly reflect our members' history. Remember, we also invite you to send queries or any articles of historical interest. 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.

## Harris County Archives

Judy Henderson, Coordinator

In June, Mary Martin, Mary Pearson, and Judy Henderson volunteered at the Harris County Archives. Both Marys worked on old books, verified the contents, and got them ready to shelve. Judy continued indexing the 1860-1879 Justice of the Peace dockets for Justice DeBajlegethy. Basically, we discovered that people haven't changed. The Archives gives us the opportunity to become familiar with people in Houston during that time – some well-known and others not. Our local history begins to come alive before our very eyes.

There will not be an organized trip to the archives during July and August because of vacation time. However, if you have time to volunteer, don't let that stop you. Sarah Jackson is very willing to work with people individually with their own schedule. If you have the time and want to go, contact Sarah by phone at (713) 368-7640 or by email at [sarah\\_jackson@fpm.co.harris.tx.us](mailto:sarah_jackson@fpm.co.harris.tx.us).

Have a good summer. The next scheduled trip will be Wednesday, September 7, so mark those calendars.

## Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

Let's give a warm welcome to new member Kathleen Shanahan Maca of Houston. If you have a friend who is interested in BAGS membership please let them know that the membership application form can be found on the BAGS website. They should send the completed form and check to: BAGS Registrar, 5001 Casa Grande, Dickinson, TX 77539-7504.

Better still, invite them to a meeting where they can join. Members, please notify me of any changes in name, address, E-mail, or phone number, at [registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org)



Czech Heritage Society Library, Houston, Texas



Deadline for  
July Issue is  
July 9, 2005

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