



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 5, Issue No. 3

November 2005

November Meeting: Probate Records

Nov 18 6:00 pm
UBC

Gems from Genealogists



Many of us have ancestors who immigrated to the New York area. It has required considerable effort (and sometimes expense) to track down naturalization documents. Recently, the Italian Genealogical Group has created an index to the Eastern District records online at <http://italiangen.org>.

Click on "Databases" then "Eastern District Naturalizations". If you find your ancestor, you can use the data to request the naturalization records from the National Archives; NARA New York charges \$10.00.

Dug up by: Doug Wilson

Inside BAGS ---

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Holiday Party/ Hurricane Help
- 4 Thanksgiving Tales
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 6 Featured Ancestors
- 7 Committee Page
- 8 Online Extra (appears in online version only)

"For the Settling of My Temporal Estate: Using Probate Records in Genealogy"

Emily Croom

What are probate records and why do genealogists use them? What other records may provide information about an ancestor's death? Where can researchers find probate records, and what kinds of documents might they include? Who wrote wills and how can these documents benefit your research?



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, and are available in bookstores.

Being a native Houstonian, Emily has been actively involved in genealogical research in this area for over 30 years. She is a member of several genealogical societies and the Clayton Library Friends.

Emily is a very popular and informative speaker and our society is excited to welcome her again. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about indispensable probate records by attending the Bay Area Genealogical Society's November meeting.

BAGS Officers

President – Loren Martin
281-332-2435
president@TxBayAreaGen.org

1st Vice Pres. -- Alice Braud-Jones
281-380-8920
genealijonz@houston.rr.com

2nd Vice Pres. -- Dick Warren
281-461-1472
dick@merlins-web.com

Recording Secy. – Mary Martin
281-332-2435
lmartin497@aol.com

Corresponding Secy. – 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

Newsletter Staff

Editor
Linda Carrington

Compositor
Doug Wilson

Proofreaders – **Barbara Stanley**
Alice Braud-Jones

Photographers – **Linda Goerland**
Neil Miserendino, Leo Waltz

Distribution – **Lee Jared**

5 Gen. Charts – **Carole Varnado**

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
lmc62@houston.rr.com

All rights reserved.

Message from the President

Loren Martin

As we approach our national holiday of Thanksgiving, I would like to recognize some of the blessings that we receive as members of BAGS:

- Clayton Library in Houston is one of the very best genealogical libraries in the country;
- Clayton Library Friends are actively involved in the growth and improvements to this organization;
- the National Archives Regional site is relatively close-by in Ft. Worth;
- many other genealogical and historical societies are willing to share their knowledge and information;
- excellent local speakers available and willing to address our monthly meetings;
- our wonderful BAGS website and our monthly newsletter and quarterly publications;
- the great BAGS Hospitality Committee and all the giving members who provide the gourmet food at our membership meetings;
- many members of our Society who donate their time and support to ensure the achievements of all our programs and functions;
- the computer Internet that so easily allows us to do preliminary research;
- facilities that are available for us to do original source research at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, the National Archives in Washington, the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, the Newberry Library in Chicago, the New England Historical and Genealogical Society in Boston, and all the state archives and the many county courthouses;
- all of the historical and genealogical societies' programs that further our learning process; especially the Texas State Genealogy Society, the Angelina Conference, Samford University's IGHR, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and many other area groups; and
- the Harris County Bus program that provides transportation for our members to local libraries.

In addition, we as individuals should remember to be thankful that the terrible results of the many hurricanes this year did not have a worse effect upon our local and national neighbors and upon the many historical records stored in these areas.

Thanks!

Loren



Friday - December 16 - 6:30 pm.

It's time again for our fun, festive, and fabulous Holiday gathering. Our theme shall be "HOME for the HOLIDAYS" and after Katrina, Rita, and all else life gave us this year; "HOME" sounds pretty good to me!

This year we will not only be celebrating with the BAGS members. We are inviting various historical and genealogical groups and librarians, in addition to our past speakers, to share in our joys and blessings. BAGS members will have first priority when it comes to tables and seating, so be sure to buy or reserve your tickets ASAP. We will be serving a delicious three-course meal placed on stunning tables, designed by our talented table hostesses.

During the meal, we will be enjoying the exceptional musical talents of Marcus Shoults and Matt Stites followed by fun and games towards the evening's end. Tickets are \$12.50, are available for purchase now, and will be for sale at our November meeting. Please contact

Resa Hennings at 281-326-4936 or resa@resa.us to reserve your tickets. We will allow tickets sales through November or until we reach capacity and **no tickets will be sold at the door.**

If you are interested in becoming a table hostess, please contact Linda Goerland at 281-326-1476 or egoerland1@houston.rr.com. For all other information or questions contact Claudia Grafton at 281-337-1054 or claudiamg@ev1.net; or look on the BAGS website at www.TxBayAreaGen.org. Happy Holidays !!



Hurricane Help

Dear Colleagues:

Genealogists have long been active proponents supporting archival repositories. I'm sure you join us in expressing our concern for our colleagues that suffered serious damage during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Society of Southwest Archivists and the Society of American Archivists are pleased to announce the formation of an Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund—a fund established to address the stabilization and recovery needs of archival repositories that have been directly affected by hurricanes. Any repository that holds archival records or special collections and that is located in the hurricane-affected areas of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas or Mississippi is eligible to apply for this grant. The repository need not be a member of SSA or SAA.

I'm writing to ask you to join me in making a contribution to this fund. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible

donation will go toward rebuilding the archival organizations within the Gulf Coast area. Though there are a number of other hurricane relief funds established by various entities throughout the country, the SSA/SAA grant fund is the only one established by archivists for archival repositories.

You may donate in two ways:

1. via the web at www.ssacares.org or www.archivists.org and follow the links to the online donation form, payment with Visa or MasterCard;
2. a check made payable to the Society of American Archivists with a note that it is for the SSA/SAA grant fund. Mail to SAA; 527 Wells St., 5th Floor; Chicago, IL 60607.

Sincerely,
Brenda Gunn, President
Society of Southwest Archivists

A long-lived genealogical tale is that our ancestors came over on the Mayflower. Following is a list of surnames of Mayflower families: Alden, Allerton, Billington, Bradford, Brewster, Browne, Chilton, Cooke, Doty, Eaton, Fletcher, Fuller, Hopkins, Howland, More, Mullins, Priest, Rogers, Sameson, Soule, Standish, Tilley, Warren, White, and Winslow.

These Pilgrims (not Puritans) did not like the fact that in England there was only one accepted state religion, the Church of England. They, like the Scots-Irish, decided it was time to find a place where they could worship God in their own way, without the dictates of the government.

The Pilgrims, like the Puritans, were from England, but they were not the same group. Though both came to the Boston area, the Pilgrims established the Plymouth Colony in 1620, ten years before the Puritans established the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and were called "separatists" due to their self-imposed extraction from the church. They believed in a simple, less formal way of worship. The Pilgrims were warm, generous and thoughtful in their dealings with their fellow citizens and with the Indians they met in America.

Following is an account of the first Pilgrim Thanksgiving as it was written in a letter from Edward Winslow in Plymouth, 21 Dec. 1621:

"We set last spring some twenty acres of Indian corn, and sowed some six acres of barley and peas. According to the manner of the Indians we manured our ground with herrings (alewives) which we have in great abundance and take with great ease at our doors. Our corn did prove well, and God be praised, we had a good increase in Indian corn. Our barley did indifferent good, but our peas not worth the gathering. We feared they were too late sown. They came up very well and blossomed, but the sun parched them in the blossom. Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might, after a special manner, rejoice together, after we had gathered in the fruits of our labors. They four in one day killed as many fowl as with little help besides, served the Company for almost a week, at which time, amongst our recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their

great king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted. They went out and killed five deer, which they brought in to the Plantation, and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others...

"We have found the Indians very faithful in their Covenant of Peace with us; very loving and ready to pleasure us. Some of us have been fifty miles into the country by land with them.

"There is now great peace amongst us, and we, for our parts, walk as peaceably and safely in the woods here as in the highways in England.

"I never in my life remember a more seasonable year than we have enjoyed. If we have but once kine [cows], horses and sheep, I make no question but men might live as contented here, as in any part of the world."

It was the Pilgrims who established Plymouth Colony. It was the Pilgrims who celebrated that first Thanksgiving with the Indians. It was the Pilgrims who brought our American principles of democratic government into being. There is a wonderful website called at <http://www.mayflowerfamilies.com/> where you can search to your heart's content. The other website I would like to direct you to is <http://www.mayflower.org/>.

When you have proven your Mayflower ancestry, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants is a heritage organization you may wish to investigate. In order to join you must have documented proof that your ancestor was on the Mayflower. Mary Eck, 13205 George Rd., San Antonio TX 78230-3081 is the contact for the Texas chapter.



Events Calendar

BAGS Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) Members are invited to attend all meetings	
•Monday, November 14, 2005	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
•Friday, November 18, 2005	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “Using Probate Records in Genealogy” Speaker: Emily Croom
•Wednesday, December 7, 2005	9:00 am Harris County Archives trip, meet @ Clear Lake Bible Church, El Dorado @ Hwy 3, contact Judy Henderson, 281-482-7888 or judy38@hal-pc.org
•Monday, December 12, 2005	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
•Wednesday, December 14, 2005	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
•Friday, December 16, 2005	6:30 pm BAGS Annual Holiday Dinner Party Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC
•Tuesday, January 17, 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
•Tuesday, March 14, 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library

Quarterly Update

With the completion of the September Quarterly which we handed out at the last general meeting, I have now completed the first year of my service as its editor. It has been a very rewarding experience although a bit harrowing at times.

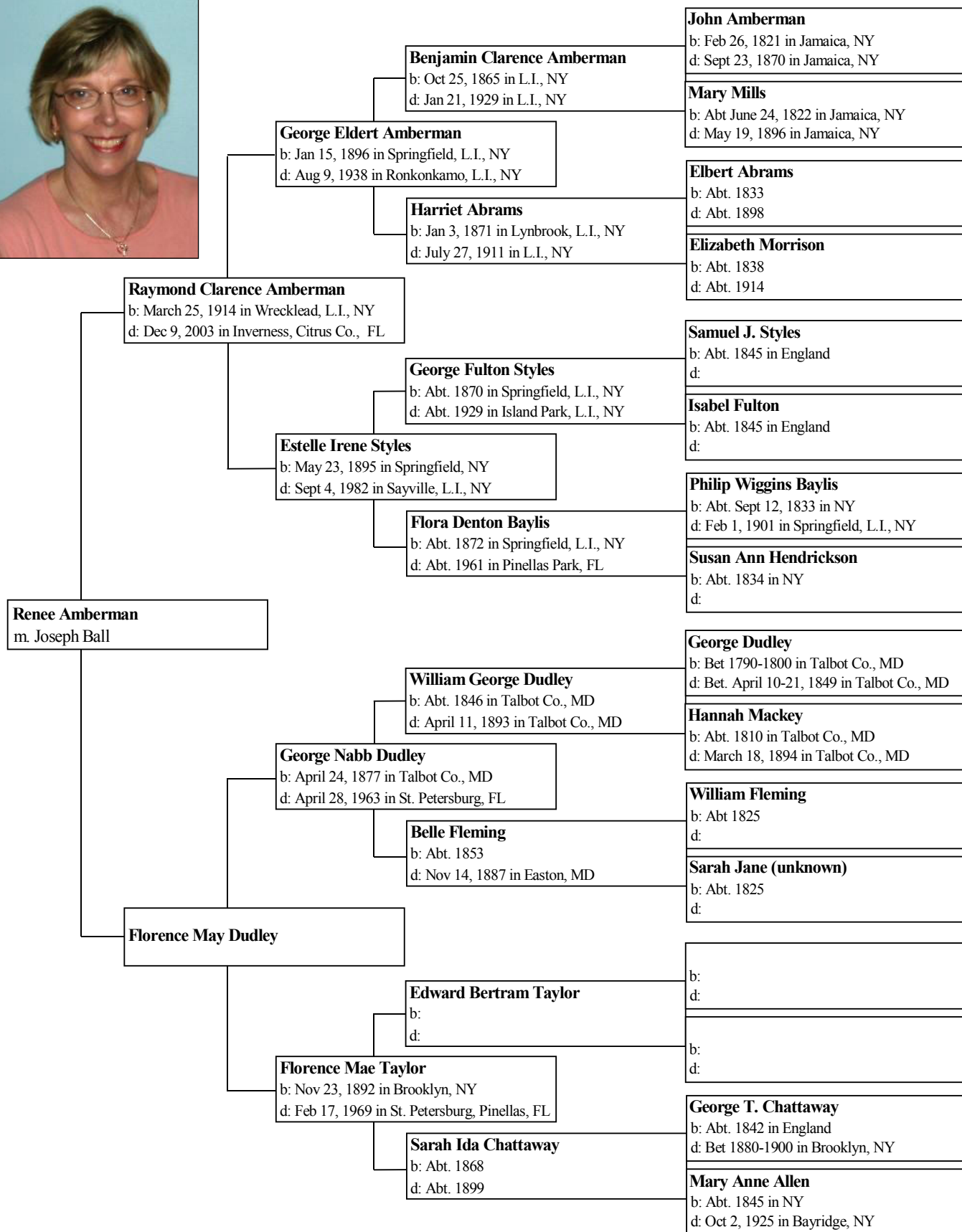
Loren Martin pointed out that our quarterly needs to be accurate in order to serve as a credible genealogical source. Since I do not have the time or the resources to check out the accuracy of every article submitted, I have to ask that you make sure your material is correct before you submit it. If you send me corrections after you submit it, I will make the corrections if the quarterly has not already gone to print. I hope this does not discourage any of you in submitting articles. After I prepare the article for print, I will email you a copy of exactly what is going in the printed edition so that you can give me a final approval before I have it printed. We can include a corrections section in the next quarterly if the current deadline is missed.

That said, please send articles and records for inclusion in the Quarterly. We have no “How I Got to Texas” articles for the next issue. If I do not get any by November 5, I will not include the Texas section in the December Quarterly. I know you all have stories and interesting research you have found in your genealogical quest. Please, let us use some of that in our publication. We can also publish our Bible records, vital records, cemetery transcriptions or any other interesting historical documents. Have your ancestors or family members written anything about their history? We could use it for the Quarterly. I would also like to see some queries in our quarterly. I have had a query section in only one quarterly this year because I have not received any submissions of queries from members.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the articles submitted during the last year and we have had many compliments on our Quarterly. Let's continue to provide information, articles and submissions to promote our history and our society. Please send submissions to me by email at sganch@verizon.net. If you do not have email, you may mail it to me at 2393 Golden Shores Lane, League City, TX 77573.

Susie Ganch, Quarterly Editor

Ancestors of Renee Ambermann (Ball)



Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Our trips scheduled to the Clayton Library are: December 14, 2005, January 17, 2006, February 8, 2006, and March 14, 2006.

We will meet in front of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street. Departure in the county bus is at 9:00 am and we leave the Clayton Library at 3:00 pm. We will return 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 email me at lmartin497@aol.com. There will also be sign-up sheets at the meetings. We had 14 members go to the Clayton Library on October 25th. We were able to add Wednesday, February 8th, 2006 by being on Harris County's short trip list.

I had someone ask me at the last society meeting if we had trips to the George Memorial Library in Richmond, TX. We have had trips there twice. If we can get nine people who are interested in a trip to this library, we could use one of the dates that we have currently. We could use Wednesday, February 8th or Tuesday, March 14th. Our October speaker, Wolfram Von Maszewski, is in charge of the genealogy department of the George Memorial Library. If you are interested in going to this library, please let me know and we can arrange a trip to Richmond.

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

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$2,524.74
Income	\$455.00
Expenses	-\$19.20
Balance on hand 10/24	\$2,960.54

Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

Let's welcome Ruby Cubley who has reinstated her BAGS membership. She is researching Cubley, Speckels, and Strange.

Have you renewed your membership? We rely on your dues to support the excellent programs provided by the Society. To renew your membership send a completed application form (found on the BAGS website and in the latest *BAGS Quarterly*) and your check for \$20.00 for single membership or \$25.00 for family membership to:

BAGS Registrar
5001 Casa Grande
Dickinson, TX 77539-7504

Better still, take your renewal application to the next meeting on November 18th. Why not invite a friend to join you? You will both enjoy Emily Croom's program on probate records.

Members, please notify me at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org of any changes in name, address, email or phone number.

Hospitality

Coordinator – **position vacant**

October food contributors were:

Alice Braud-Jones	Paula Sinning
Rose Mary Fritz	Claudia Grafton
Resa Hennings	Jeanine Lawrence
Mary Martin	Polly Wilson

We regret omitting Mike Cown from the list of September food suppliers. The Society is grateful for all the generous folks who make our light suppers so special.

BAGS has an urgent need to replace our Hospitality Committee chair. The duty of this committee is to organize / coordinate, with all members who attend our monthly meetings, to bring food for all of us to enjoy. We are very grateful to last year's committee, chaired by Lee Jared, for the wonderful food that was available at every monthly meeting. For this wonderful food to continue, members will need to step forward!



Matt Stites



Marcus Shoults

The Entertainers
at
“Home for the Holidays”

REMINDER

General Meeting Friday
November 18, 6:00 pm, Great
Room (2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
December Issue is
November 26, 2005



BAGS website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org