



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 5, Issue No. 7

March 2006

March Meeting: Naturalization

Mar 31
6:00 pm UBC

Gems from Genealogists



When we go looking for ancestors on the Internet, one question that may bother us is, "Am I overlooking something?" MyHeritage Research offers a free search capability that they modestly claim is "The most powerful genealogy search engine on the planet." It does look in 355 genealogical databases at present, while searching up to 10 variant spellings of the surname. Searches can be saved and rerun periodically to look for new data. MyHeritage Research can be accessed at: <http://www.myheritage.com/FP/Company/myHeritageResearch.php?s=1&u=g0&lang=EN>.

This search site is a work in progress; some of the hits I received seemed inaccessible because of incorrect linkage. One can hope that such issues will be fixed.

Dug up by: Doug Wilson

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"Migration and Naturalization"

Marje Harris

Many of us were disappointed in January when Marje Harris had to cancel her appearance at our BAGS general meeting. But the cloud turned out to have a silver lining when Lesley Douthwaite, assistant manager at Clayton Library, took her place. While we were very happy to find another very knowledgeable genealogy speaker, we are also excited to announce that Marje will be with us this month. She will be speaking about migration and naturalization. When and where our relatives migrated to will help determine where they were naturalized.

Marje is a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker with vast genealogical experience and impressive credentials. Currently, she is the manager at Clayton Genealogical Library where she has worked for 28 years, making a total of 32 years with the Houston Public Library System. She holds memberships with the American Library Association, RUSA Round Table, Genealogy Committee, Texas Library Association, and Genealogy Round Table.

The University of North Texas was where Marje began her education and where she earned her BA in Library Science. She then earned her Master of Library Science at Texas Women's University. Her personal education continues through classes from the National Genealogical Society, the Houston Genealogical Institute, the Salt Lake Institutes of Genealogy, and others.

Her many credentials include teaching at Rice University with their continuing education program as well as Houston Community College, in addition to being a certified Genealogical Records Searcher. Other topics on which she has spoken include: Virginia Colonial Records, Introduction to Research in England, Afro-American Research, Civil War Research, Probate and Military Records, Research in Texas During the Time of Spain and Mexico, and Problem Solving Techniques.



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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:

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Message from the President

Loren Martin

The February general membership meeting was another success! The speaker, Bruce Krewinghaus, shared with us valuable information. The members again generously donated either delicious food to share or contributions to defray meeting expenses. The new "Yearbook" was available to be distributed to members in attendance, as was the "Quarterly" for those who have not picked-up their copy. The members once again included the pledge to the Texas flag in our opening ceremony.

In respect to our desire to make this a "**CAN DO YEAR**", your support is appreciated for the following important activities:

1. Telephone Committee - to improve our two-way communications within BAGS, a committee is being established to contact all members (especially those who have not been able to attend recent monthly meetings). Please contact Shirley Lindquist to help.
2. Ride share – Jeanine Lawrence is coordinating the "pairing-up" of the members who need transportation to meetings with those that can provide the transportation. Please inform her of either your need or ability to help.
3. Cookbook – please submit your recipes to Resa Hennings for the future BAGS cookbook.
4. Genealogical Book Sale – please give Dottie Crabb any extra genealogy books that you have (that are in quality condition) to be available at our August meeting. Dottie would appreciate your help in the pricing activity.
5. Genealogical Seminar - BAGS will support a major event to be held probably in September 2006. Contact Dick Warren to assist. In March, 2007, BAGS will jointly host a seminar with the Clayton Library Friends. The speaker at the March seminar is nationally known. Watch the website for more information and contact Alice Braud-Jones to assist.
6. Transcribing local cemetery data – plans are being made to organize a group to document tombstone information for nearby locations. Please contact Alice Braud-Jones to assist with this project.

Remember to continue to submit your articles and information for the newsletter and the quarterly, especially the "How I Came to Texas" stories.

When you have decided on the items that you can help with, please use your BAGS Yearbook to find the contact information for those members listed above.

For the latest BAGS news, please view the society website at www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

Loren



Online Survey of Research E-Genealogy

A PhD study is underway at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland, which will examine Internet family history resources and their users. It will investigate the users themselves, how users view both e-genealogical resources and libraries, and how these resources are used within the research process. One of the eventual aims of the project is to highlight methods of promoting the "added value" of UK Local Studies Library Collections, increasing their visibility to users online. The research also aims to identify, categorize and examine the available resources.



The first stage of the project is a five-minute online survey, which hopes to gather more information about anyone accessing UK information online for their family history research. This can be found at: <http://www.researchingegenealogy.co.uk>

For further details on the survey or any aspect of the research, please contact Kate Friday at prs.friday@rgu.ac.uk.

ARTICLE PROVIDED BY FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

Online Access to ArchiveGrid

Someone just brought my attention to a website just for genealogists (well, almost). And it is **free until May 31**: <http://archivegrid.org> Enjoy!

ArchiveGrid, like WorldCat, provides access only to general descriptive information about a collection, but that will not include every collection that may contain information about a given individual. And ArchiveGrid **may not** duplicate descriptive information that is already found in other manuscript catalogs, such as NUCMC or WorldCat.

For instance, WorldCat lists five libraries that hold a copy of an 8-page document about the Welsh minister Richard Blinman ("Rev. Richard Blinman of Marshfield, Gloucester and New London" by Isaac J. Greenwood): the Western Reserve (Ohio) Historical Society Library, the Boston Public Library, the New Hampshire State Library, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Yale University Library (that one in microform). These will not be listed on ArchiveGrid

Anyone searching for manuscripts will want to use all of the available online catalogs: ArchiveGrid,

Online Access to ArchiveGrid (cont'd)

WorldCat, and ArchivesUSA (which includes an online copy of the printed NUCMC volumes).

ARTICLE PROVIDED BY DREW SMITH VIA TREVIA WOOSTER BEVERLY

Everton Research Retreat

You're invited to the Research Retreat of a lifetime. This is an educational and fun experience that will forge the way you conduct research, and will introduce you to a whole new world of vast resources.

My Ancestors Found is hosting the retreat at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City—the largest genealogy library in the entire world. You receive one-on-one coaching every day with a professional researcher who will guide you in your own search for your ancestors. Imagine: Five full days of research, individualized classes, tours and more, April 3-8, 2006. For more information, go to www.myancestorsfound.com.

Family History Library
Salt Lake City



HGF Mini-Seminar

HOUSTON GENEALOGICAL FORUM'S
SATURDAY MINI-SEMINAR, APRIL 1, 2006

"New England Colonial Town & Church Records, Probate & Deed Research in New England, Research in Northern New England (ME, NH, VT) and New England Migrations"

The very distinguished genealogical author and speaker David Dearborn will be speaking to us on April 1st at Bayland Community Center. Mr. Dearborn's series of programs will begin at 10:00 am and conclude at approximately 3:30 pm with a break for lunch (which is on your own). We need your support by signing up early.

Please complete the registration form available from the Houston Genealogical Forum's website www.hgftx.org and mail your payment to the Houston Genealogical Forum at P.O. Box 271466, Houston, Texas 77277-1466. Checks should be made payable to the Houston Genealogical Forum.

For further information you may contact Jack Vaughan, the Houston Genealogical Forum's president, at jcvaughanlaw@pdq.net.

An orphan heirloom rescue is when folks write to me about family treasures they've found--maybe at an antiques store, on eBay, or in a dumpster-- that don't belong to their own families. I do the detective work to locate descendants of the original owner and the person who wrote kindly returns the item to the "rightful owner." Then I share the research trail so others can do the same, or perhaps pick up a tactic or two for their own research. You can find plenty of earlier orphan heirloom rescues on my [website](http://www.honoringourancestors.com/library_orphan.htm) at www.honoringourancestors.com/library_orphan.htm.

An Approaching Epidemic?

A recent submission caught my eye for several reasons. First, the surname was comparatively unusual. That's promising because I'd rather deal with unexpected spellings than have to sift through thousands of candidates. Second, it was fairly contemporary since dates mentioned were from the early 1900s. At most, I would probably have only a generation or two to cross to find a likely recipient. And third, it was a classic example of what I fear may become an epidemic in coming years--family items being casually discarded after a death in the family. This is even more likely to occur when the deceased lives far from their hometown.

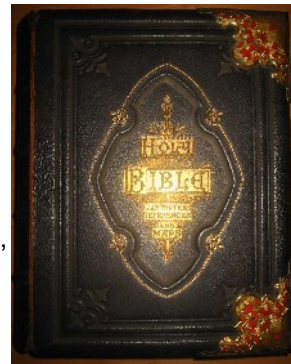
In this case, the submitter explained that her mother had purchased a bundle of documents at a flea market in Florida. For a whopping twenty-five cents, she left with a stranger's baptismal record, birth announcement, 5th birthday card, and commencement program, among other items. She made the purchase out of curiosity, but didn't know what to do with them after she'd read them. Fortunately, she told our submitter, who wrote to me and explained, "I'm a genealogist and I'd love to have these items if they had belonged to someone in my family. They might be just the thing somebody is wishing for."

Since this is such a contemporary case, I'm going to play a little coy with names in the interest of privacy, but my first step was to look for candidates in the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). Knowing that the papers had surfaced in a Florida flea market, it was a logical guess that I would find an entry in recent years--and sure enough, I found a gentleman matching all the details in the documents.

Going Backwards to Move Forward

I now had additional confirmation of his birth date which was in 1914, so I decided to locate him in the 1930 census. I was hoping to find some younger siblings I might be able to contact, but the census showed him to be an only child. The census did reveal one important fact; apparently he went by his middle name of Robert. This tidbit of information would turn out to be very helpful.

With this knowledge, I did a general search at Ancestry.com using the middle name and up popped a photo of Bob! If you haven't explored it yet, Ancestry.com recently added a [U.S. School Yearbooks collection](#). As luck would have it, Bob's yearbook was in this new collection. Until now, he had been a few biographical details, but now, he was looking up at me from the page!



The Role of Rootsweb

At this point, I decided to check out RootsWeb for Bob's home county--and I was in luck! Volunteers associated with this site had transcribed and uploaded details from years of vital records and obituaries. I found a reference to the marriage of Bob's parents and the death of his father, but sadly, I also found a reference to a 1995 obituary that appeared to be for a child of his. How could I tell? Because the volunteers had troubled to list the names of the parents of the deceased.

Back to Ancestry.com

Now I had the name of a likely son of Bob's, so I decided to enter it in the [U.S. Phone and Address Directories, 1993-2002](#) and the [U.S. Public Records Index](#). There were several entries, and better yet, something else I was hoping for--listings for another fellow of this same surname at the same address. A grandson perhaps?

I e-mailed the submitter and asked her to follow up with this possible grandson. Later that day--BINGO! It was Bob's grandson. Our submitter was delighted to report that the grandson was a genealogist, so we know the items will be appreciated and well cared for. Apparently, this was the second time a complete stranger had made the effort to return items to him. Someone else had sent him a bunch of pictures, including some of himself that he had never seen before. So there are more rescuers out there!

What's Next?

Starting with the May/June issue of [Ancestry Magazine](#), I'll have a new column called "Found," so I'm on the prowl for even more orphan heirlooms than before! If you have any, please submit them through www.honoringourancestors.com/HiQFM/apply_orphan.html.

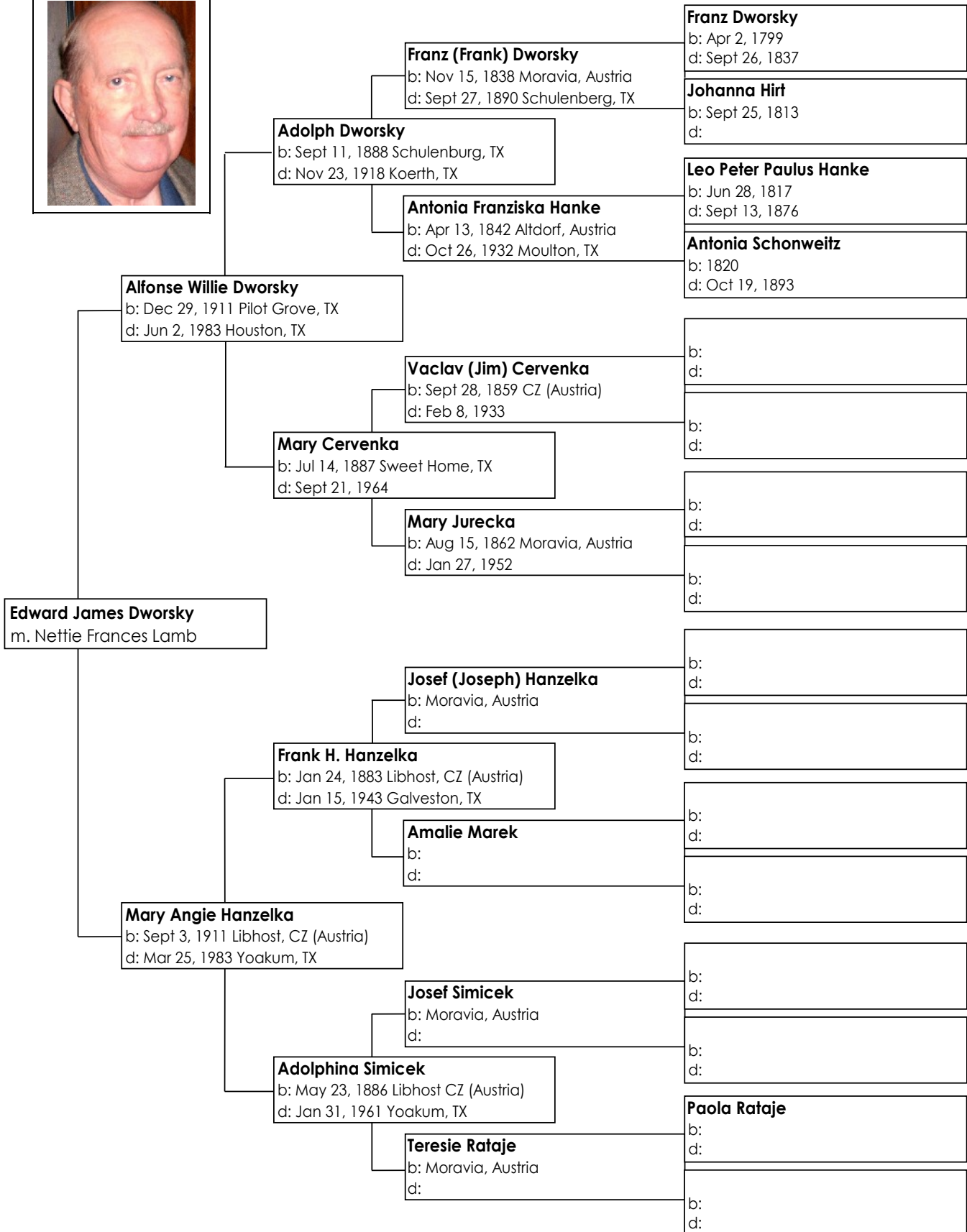
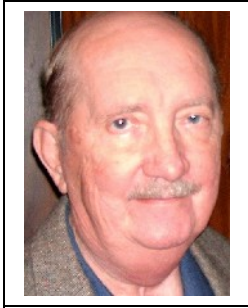
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Events Calendar

BAGS Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) Members are invited to attend all meetings	
■ Monday, March 27th, 2006	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■ Friday, March 31st, 2006	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “Migration and Naturalization” Speaker: Marje Harris
■ Friday, March 31st, 2006	Houston Genealogical Forum, Bayland Center, Houston, Texas Free Class 3: Courthouse Records Speaker: David Hardin, Clayton Librarian
■ Saturday, April 1st, 2006	HGF Mini-Seminar, Bayland Center, Houston, Texas “New England Colonial Town & Church Records, Probate & Deed Research in New England, Research in Northern New England (ME,NH,VT) and New England Migrations” Speaker: David Dearborn
■ Monday, April 17th, 2006	Friendswood Monthly Genealogy Workshop, Friendswood Public Library Family History Center features and information provided by LDS database Speaker: Judie Fite King
■ Monday, April 24th, 2006	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■ Thursday, April 27th, 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■ Friday, April 28th, 2006	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “Searching Ancestry Plus and Heritage Quest” Speaker: Irene Walters
■ Saturday, April 29th, 2006	Alexander Lover Chapter NSDAR Lineage Committee - Basic Research Workshop, Pines Presbyterian Church Houston, Texas “Sources at Clayton Genealogical Library” by Marje Harris “What is Proof” by Elaine Baxter
■ Wednesday, May 10th, 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■ Thur. - Sat., July 20-22, 2006	Angelina College Genealogy Conference, Luftkin, Texas 30 different lecture topics given by various lecturers
■ Fri. - Sat., October 27-28, 2006	Texas State Genealogy Society 2006 Conference, MacGorman Conference Ct, Ft. Worth, Texas Sessions for beginners thru advanced researchers
■ Saturday, March 24th, 2007	Joint Conference, BAGS & Clayton Library Friends Speaker: Claire Miré Bettag

Ancestors of Edward James Dworsky



Committee News

Quarterly

Susie Ganch, Editor

We need articles for the March 2006 Quarterly as soon as possible. We still have about 8 pages to fill. Please submit your family histories, local histories, vital records such as Bible records. We welcome all articles from our members. If you do not have a personal family story to relate, how about digging something up in our local history or a local family history? We are trying to find members willing to help transcribe local cemeteries for publication. Please let us know if you would be interested in working on these projects.

We could also transcribe public records from Galveston and Harris Counties for publication. If you have other ideas for local projects we could do and publish in our quarterly, please let us know. Our quarterly is a genealogical resource which will be accessed by many non-members through the libraries. We now have our quarterlies at Allen County Library and they will be indexed as part of PERSI. This is great for our quarterly and for our society.

Please do your part to make sure our Quarterlies remain a vital part of our Society and a meaningful resource for genealogical research.

Submit your articles (and ideas) to me at sganch@verizon.net.

Hospitality

Lee Jared, Coordinator

These folks kindly contributed to our potluck dinner at the February meeting: Diane Kropp, Neil Miserandino, Jeanine Lawrence, Glen Cress, Carole Lynn O'Neal, Mary Martin, Susie Ganch, Delores White, Leslie Fehlman, Connie Ogden, and Lee Jared. Thank you all so much. (If we missed your name, our apologies.)

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$3,687.51
Income	+\$178.45
Expenses	-\$254.63
Balance on hand 2/20	\$3,611.23

Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

We welcome new members Bill Best and James C. McLane, Jr., both of Houston. Mr. McLane joined the society at the Patron level. His support of BAGS is most appreciated.

Members, please notify me at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org of any changes in name, address, email or phone number. We may need to contact you with important information.

Membership applications for new or renewing members can be found on the BAGS website. Send a completed application form 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

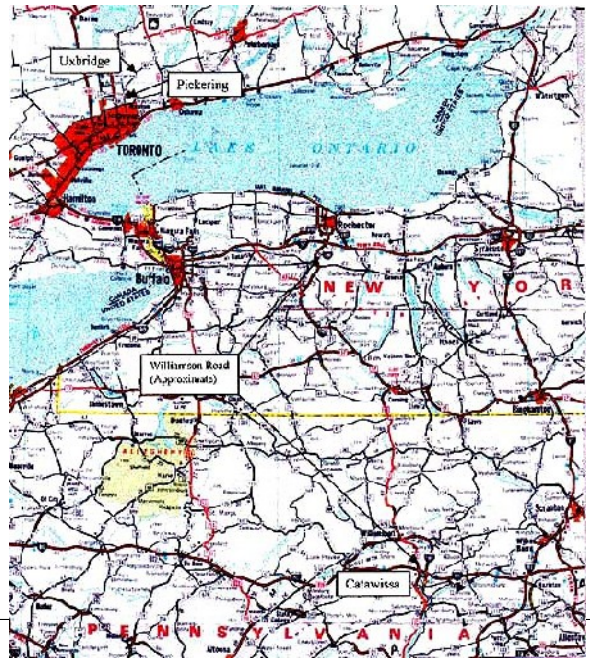
Better still, bring your application to the general meeting on Friday, March 31st and enjoy Marje Harris' program on *Immigration and Naturalization*.

Library Trips

Mary Martin, Coordinator

We have trips scheduled to the Clayton Library on Thursday, April 27th and Wednesday, May 10th. 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 will be back to the parking lot before 4:00 pm. If you have any questions or would like to attend the trips, please call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435, or e-mail lmartin497@aol.com. Sign-up sheets are also available at our general meetings. Bring a sack lunch and join us for an interesting trip to the library. There are a couple of places where you can eat lunch that are within walking distance of the library.

The Society's website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, always has a current listing of library trips.



February 2006 Speaker, Bruce Krewinghaus and migration route maps.

REMINDER
General Meeting
Friday, March 31st, 6:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
April Issue is
April 8th, 2006

BAGS website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org

