



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 5, Issue No. 7

April 2006

April Meeting: Online at Clayton Library

Apr 28
6:00 pm UBC

Gems from Genealogists



The Secretary of State's office of the State of Missouri has made available online a database of death certificates. This ongoing project has an index covering the years 1910-1955, and images from 1910-1920. It can be accessed at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>.

Missouri depends on volunteers to transcribe their records. They plan to release early tax deeds, civil proceedings such as pardons, appointments by the governor, and the register of elected and appointed officials. If you have Missouri ancestors, you may want to consider volunteering. If so, the email address for the Electronic Records Archivist, Gerald Hirsch, is archvol@sos.mo.gov.

Dug up by: Carole Varnado

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“AncestryPlus and Heritage Quest”

Irene Walters

Search thousands of databases at once? Yes, you can online by going to AncestryPlus. Learn how AncestryPlus can add a lot of limbs to your family tree. Go beyond census records with Heritage Quest. You can easily learn about the 25,000+ books, PERSI, and the new Revolutionary War database found at the Heritage Quest resource. The tricks and tips provided in this program should expand your searching ability tremendously. All of this information and more will be presented by Irene Walters, Reference Librarian at Clayton Library for Genealogical Research.



Irene Walters

Irene was born and raised in rural New York State. She has a Master of Library Science degree from the State University of New York (S.U.N.Y.) at Buffalo. Irene has been a librarian at the Houston Public Library's Clayton Library for Genealogical Research since 1997. Irene's interest in genealogy extends back to her years as a teenager and encompasses much onsite research within New York State's court houses, town clerk's offices, historical societies, churches, libraries, and archives. Her personal genealogical research is concentrated in New York State, France, and Ireland.

Clayton Genealogical
Library



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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 March general membership meeting was another success with Marje Harris providing an entertaining and informative presentation! The members continued to generously donate either delicious food to share or contributions to defray meeting expenses. Remember to pick up your copy of the Yearbook or the Quarterly, if you haven't already.

When you are digging so diligently to uncover any little bit of information about your ancestors, remember to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. In other words, please carefully document current information about yourself and your family so that your descendants can later read this information and be eternally grateful to you.

Search / Document / Collect / Share / Communicate

The first step in documenting your family is to record the known facts. Write down what you know. Then talk to all your living relatives to expand and verify this basic information. Continue to search all available sources to expand your family information. Always record the source for the recorded information – census records, published records, family written data, or verbal history (needs to be verified by source information). You are a detective who must collect all the “clues” and carefully put the pieces of the puzzle together. Do not fail to collect all the “clues”. As the popular television shows use crime scene investigation and forensic science to solve their mysteries, you must do similar detailed investigative effort. Pieces of information that you discover may not, at the time, seem to be relevant or pertain to your family. However, additional discoveries may show that the next-door-neighbor or the witness to a legal event is really a married sister or niece of your ancestor and a part of your extended family. Do not limit your collection of clues to only your direct ancestors. Always have an open mind regarding spellings of names. Remember many of our ancestors could not read or write and the census takers often wrote what they thought they heard or unconsciously “translated” what was said into something familiar. Also the person providing the census information may not have really known the birth dates and birth places of other members of the household.

Publicize your information so that others can access it and help you to discover more facts about your family. Every member of BAGS should compile their own five-generation chart and submit it to the Quarterly. This five-generation chart is then available for others to view and determine if they have information to share with you. Communicate with others and combine your pieces of information with their pieces of information. The Internet is a valuable tool that can provide the index to the required source information and the opportunity to email over great distances.

Remember the accumulated sum is often greater than the individual pieces of data. Family knowledge comes from determining the correct relationships of the individual pieces of data and correctly combining them to form a complete picture to solve your puzzles.

The digging for gems of information is slow, hard work. But the reward of finding even the smallest gem is great. Keep taking small steps in the right direction and you will reach your goal of determining all your family history.

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

See you at the next meeting on April 28th and remember the meeting is a pot-luck food event.

Loren



In the coming issues of this newsletter I will be bringing you some software tips and tricks straight from Family Tree Maker (FTM) 2006, Genealogy.com, and Ancestry.com.

FTM is a powerful yet easy-to-use program that lets you build your family tree, search for your ancestors, design attractive family tree printouts, and share your family information with others. The on-line tutorial is at <http://familytreemaker.com/help/tutorials/gettingstarted2006/>.

In future issues you will see text and graphics for searches, building the family view, chart design, and sharing the results of your research and documentation in your family book.

Becoming friendly with FTM's capabilities will enhance your family tree and the stories of your ancestors that not only let you know more about them but also will keep your relatives and friends informed. I've found some pretty juicy ones hanging off my tree.

My notes here are based on the most recent version of FTM. Depending on your version, steps may appear different but because the functions are similar you will be able to follow along easily.

The next few topics will introduce you to the powerful program features you will be using. Since you probably have organized your tree, we will start next month with the capability that is most useful and will surprise you with its results. Most recently, I found an extremely well documented tree for a friend that reached back to 1054 AD.

Search: One of the most powerful features of Family Tree Maker is its ability to search the world's largest family history website, Ancestry.com, at the click of a button.

Two particularly powerful aspects of the search feature are the star rating system and the web merge function. This series will show you how to use these features to best advantage.

Of course, to benefit from this search function you will need a current subscription to Ancestry.com.

Build: Family View

The Family View is the main location where you view, enter, and edit information for a single, nuclear family.

Design: Charts Overview

As your family tree grows larger, charts help you visualize the "big picture" and provide an attractive way to display your family tree.

Family Tree Maker lets you select from a broad range of charts to meet every need and preference. Charts can be customized in an almost infinite variety of ways.

Share: Book Overview

The Book feature lets you share the results of your research with family and friends in a format that anyone can view.

Your book can contain a title page, various chapters, an index, and a table of contents. You can include a variety of trees, text items, photos, maps, and timelines to add interest and detail.

The standard output format for a book is an Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format) file. This format can be viewed on screen by anyone with a copy of the free Adobe Reader installed on their computer.

You can also print the finished product to share with someone without a computer.

What's New: Overview

(an ad for FTM): Family Tree Maker 2006 has several new features, enhancements, and refinements. These combine to make the process of building, searching, designing, and sharing your family tree easier, more intuitive, and more fun than ever. Consider an upgrade if you are using an older version to take advantage of them.

Among these are:

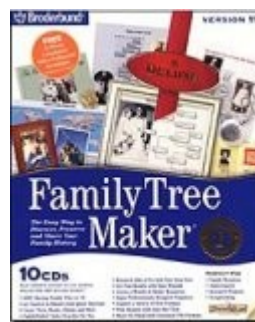
- Three new research features: Family Facts, Research Tips, and Contact Other Researchers,
- A streamlined interface for adding and editing individual and family data,
- Dramatically increased (*30 times larger*) notes capacity,
- A redesigned Backups feature that now includes a new Internet Backup service to help safeguard your valuable data, and
- Redesigned Source-Citation dialog box to help document your research.

Conclusion

I'm confident that you'll agree the less you have to worry about the mechanics of family history, the more you'll enjoy discovering the stories of your ancestors.

We hope that this newsletter series will be helpful in getting you off to a good start or enhancing the skills you already have.

Next Time: Searches, Part 1.



Marje Harris Retires as Clayton Library Manager

Attached is Marje's letter to the Clayton Library Friends. After discussing her retirement with her, I can assure you that she made a free choice.

She stated in her letter, "it is working with you the patrons of this library that has been a daily joy." I can say that it has been our joy to have worked with her.

Personally, I will miss her and her support of the CLF mission to enrich the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research.

Dick Warren

To My Clayton Library Friends From Marje Harris, Manager Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research



I want to let you know that I am retiring from Clayton Library. My last working day will be 11 May 2006.

Clayton Library has been a wonderful experience for me. For 34 years it has not been just a job but something I have enjoyed and into which I have been delighted to put my head, heart, and life. But it is working with you the patrons of this library that has been a daily joy. Talking with you each day has allowed me to continue learning the subject of genealogy, find new ideas for search strategies, and different ways of looking at problems. You have also provided suggestions on new resources to add to the collection as well as new ways of doing things. Thank you for your wonderful support and friendship

This past year has been difficult and I truly appreciate the wonderful cards, letters, words of encouragement, the vote of confidence and the multifaceted support that you have provided. You have helped me to get through these troubling times and helped me to know I was not alone.

Finally, I believe it is time for someone else to take over the leadership of Clayton Library. With the heritage of Mary Flo Ulmer and Maxine Alcorn, I am confident that who ever becomes head of this library will follow in their wonderful, strong, and dedicated leadership and continue to make Clayton Library one of the top genealogical libraries in the United States. As I have said many times, this is not my library but yours and I know you will give the new manager of Clayton Library your full support.

It has been a terrific 34 years. You have helped make a job an exciting experience. Ya'll are positively wonderful, marvelous, and just awfully nice.

I thank you each and every one of you,

/s/

Marje

Events Calendar

BAGS Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) Members are invited to attend all meetings	
■Monday, April 24 th , 2006	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Thursday, April 27 th , 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■Friday, April 28 th , 2006	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2 nd Floor, UBC "AncestryPlus and Heritage Quest" Speaker: Irene Walters
■Saturday, April 29 th , 2006	Alexander Love 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 10 th , 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■Monday, May 22 nd , 2006	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Friday, May 26 th , 2006	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2 nd Floor, UBC "Undaunted - A Norwegian Woman in Frontier Texas" Speaker: Charles H. Russell
■Thur. - Sat., July 20-22, 2006	Angelina College Genealogy Conference, Lufkin, Texas 30 different lecture topics given by various lecturers
■Wednesday, August 9 th , 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■Thursday, September 7 th , 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■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 24 th , 2007	Joint Conference, BAGS & Clayton Library Friends Speaker: Claire Miré Bettag

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 24 March 2007!

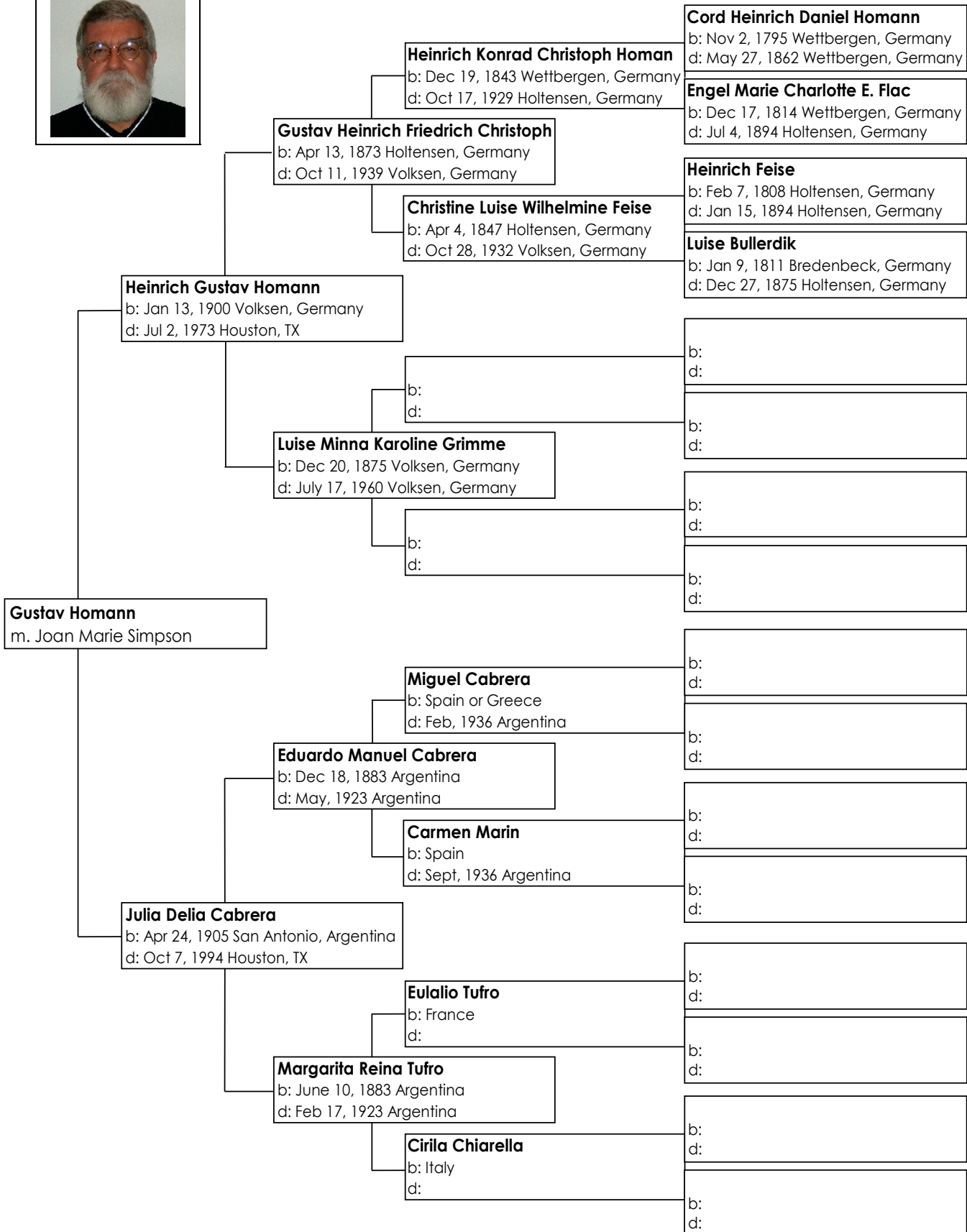
Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS) and Clayton Library Friends (CLF) are co-sponsoring a genealogical conference, with nationally recognized genealogist Claire Miré Bettag as the featured speaker.

A professional genealogist, Claire Miré Bettag is:

- the current Director of the National Archives' (NARA) National Institute on Genealogical Research,
- a trustee of the Board of Certification of Genealogists,
- a director of the Association of Professional Genealogists,
- a featured coordinator of Samford University's Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, and
- a recently-retired co-editor of NGS Quarterly.

Watch this newsletter, the BAGS website, and CLF Quarterly in the months to come for more information on this national event!

Ancestors of Gustav Homann



Committee News

Clayton Library Trips

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Four new trips have been scheduled to go to Clayton Library: **Thursday, April 27th; Wednesday, May 10th; Wednesday, August 9th; and Thursday, September 7th.**

We will meet in front of the **Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street.** The county bus departs at 9:00 am. and leaves Clayton Library at 3:00 pm. to arrive back at the parking lot before 4:00 pm. If you have any questions or would like to join us on any of the trips, please call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435, or email Mary at lmartin497@aol.com. Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings. Bus trip participants always have an interesting time searching for ancestors, and enjoy each others' company and exchanging ideas.

As a new grandmother, I am happy that I have some family history to pass on to my children and grandchildren. When I was a child, I wished that I had known more about my family. I did come from a family who worked at preserving the family history and shared it with the rest of the family so that I was able to take the gathered information and build the family history that we now have today.

Join us on our library trips and see what interesting things you can find to share with your family and others and see how your family fits in with the history of this nation. BAGS' website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, always has a current listing of library trips. Bring a sack lunch and join us to see what gems you can find!

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$3,611.33
Income	+\$220.00
Expenses	-\$746.03
Balance on hand 3/27	\$3,087.30

Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

We welcome new member Edith E. Harp of Houston who is researching the Harp, Almond, Ferrell, Bynum, Ewers, Gordon, and Hill families.

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 next BAGS meeting on Friday, April 28th and enjoy Irene Walters' program on *Ancestry Plus and Heritage Quest*.

Honor the Texas Flag!

Please join in our pledge to the Texas flag at each general meeting.

**Honor the Texas flag;
I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one
and indivisible.**





National Archives
Washington, DC



NARA Regional Archives
Fort Worth, Texas



NARA Regional Archives
Morrow, Georgia



Library of Congress
Washington, DC

REMINDER

General Meeting Friday
April 28, 6:00 pm, Great Room
(2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
May Issue is
May 6, 2006



BAGS website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org