



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 5, Issue No. 8

May 2006

May Meeting: Texas Pioneer

May 26
6:00 pm UBC

Gems from Genealogists



Recently I had occasion to obtain a Galveston County resident's death certificate from 1960; so I went to the Galveston County extension office on Oak Street in La Marque. I had the exact name, parents info, birth date, death date, etc., but I was not sure whether the individual had died at one of the hospitals in Galveston or at Mainland Center Hospital in Texas City. The clerk advised me that if they did a search in Galveston County, regardless of whether they located the record or not, I would still have to pay the full \$21.00 fee; and if the individual died in Texas City, although in Galveston County, they would not have the record at that location.

I then went to the funeral home that had handled the burial. They looked up the record and advised that indeed my ancestor had died in Texas City and the record would reside there. I proceeded to the City Hall in Texas City and within a few moments, purchased the death certificate. It would have been very costly lesson to have spent \$21.00 only to learn that, although in Galveston County, Texas City keeps their own records! Worth making a phone call or two!

Dug up by: Alice Braud-Jones

Inside BAGS ---

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"Undaunted – A Norwegian Woman in Frontier Texas" Charles H. Russell

Charles H. Russell, a retired college dean and professor of history, holds a PhD from Columbia University. His interest in Elise Waerenskjold is shared with his Norwegian wife, Inger, who helped him translate Waerenskjold's writing as he did the research for this book.



ELISE WAERESKJOLD – 1855
IN TEXAS

Elise Waerenskjold is known to fans of Texas women writers as "the lady with the pen", from the title of a book of her writings. A forward-looking journalist, she sent letters and articles back to Norway, encouraging others to follow her footsteps to Texas, where a small colony of Norwegian settlers was making a new life along--but distinct from--other European immigrants.

Undaunted is the first full biography of Waerenskjold during her Texas years, a life story that shows much about Texas, especially in the Norwegian colonies, from 1847 to the middle of the nineteenth century. Moreover, it tells the story of a strong and independent thinker who championed women's rights, who was pro-Union and against slavery (though her husband was in the Confederate army and was subsequently murdered in Reconstruction era violence), and who left an intriguing body of writing about life on the edges of Texas settlement.

Charles H. Russell's vivid account of Waerenskjold describes not only the influence among her countrymen but also her own life, which was a saga of considerable drama itself. Russell offers a clear and entrancing window into immigrant life in frontier Texas and the issues that shaped women's lives and elicited their talents.

BAGS Officers

President – Loren Martin

281-332-2435
president@TxBayAreaGen.org

1st Vice Pres. -- Alice Braud-Jones

281-380-8920
genealijonz at 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
shirleylindquist@sbcglobal.net

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
lm62@houston.rr.com

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Message from the President

Loren Martin

The April general membership meeting was well attended and the members again generously donated either delicious food to share or contributions to defray the meeting expenses.

Please arrange to pick up your copy of the new Yearbook or Quarterly if you have not already done so.

Many exciting “CAN DO” activities are occurring, as described later in this newsletter. The support of all BAGS members is greatly appreciated in strengthening our excellent genealogical group.

BAGS would like to thank Marje Harris for her many years of service at the Clayton Library and her many very informative and entertaining presentations to BAGS. Best wishes to you in your future endeavors.

As we as a nation get ready to honor our fallen military personnel on Memorial Day, I began to realize that every day is a memorial day for a genealogist.

By our diligent daily efforts to discover and record information about our ancestors, we are honoring and preserving their accomplishments. All of our ancestors deserve to be honored. Whether they were prominent, famous people or just hard-working common folk, they do deserve credit for their accomplishments. Their stories are really amazing! They often traveled great distances into unknown territories leaving most of their families and friends. They endured many hardship and tragedies. Their accomplishments may not have been great, compared to others, however remember one of their indirect accomplishments was each of us.

In fact, as I continued to realize, every day should be a memorial day, a veterans day, and a thanksgiving day for a genealogist. We do have so many wonderful memories and so many people to honor and who deserve our thanks. These people are from both yesteryears and also living today.

For the latest BAGS news, please view our website at www.TxBayAreaGen.org. Leo Waltz does an outstanding job of rapidly posting all new information.

Loren



Search: Overview


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 tutorial chapter will show you how to use these features to best advantage.

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

Search: Search button on the Toolbar

Now let's do a search to see what records we can discover for one of your ancestors. Click the **Index**

 toolbar button and use the Index feature to select one of your grandparents (or great-grandparents). With that grandparent highlighted in the Family View window, click the **Web Search**

Resources  toolbar button; then click **Web Search Results** on the drop-down menu.

You'll see a moving magnifying glass for a few seconds (depending on the speed of your Internet connection); then the Web Search window appears.


This window consists of three panels. The upper, main panel displays the records found in order of descending quality. This panel includes the star

rating for each record (more about this later) as well as the individual's name, the database the record came from, and other information.

The lower left panel displays the specific data from the selected record that will be merged into your Family File if you chose to accept it. The lower right panel displays the data currently in your file for the selected individual.

If you have few or no matches, try a different grandparent for now. Later we'll look at strategies to improve your search results.

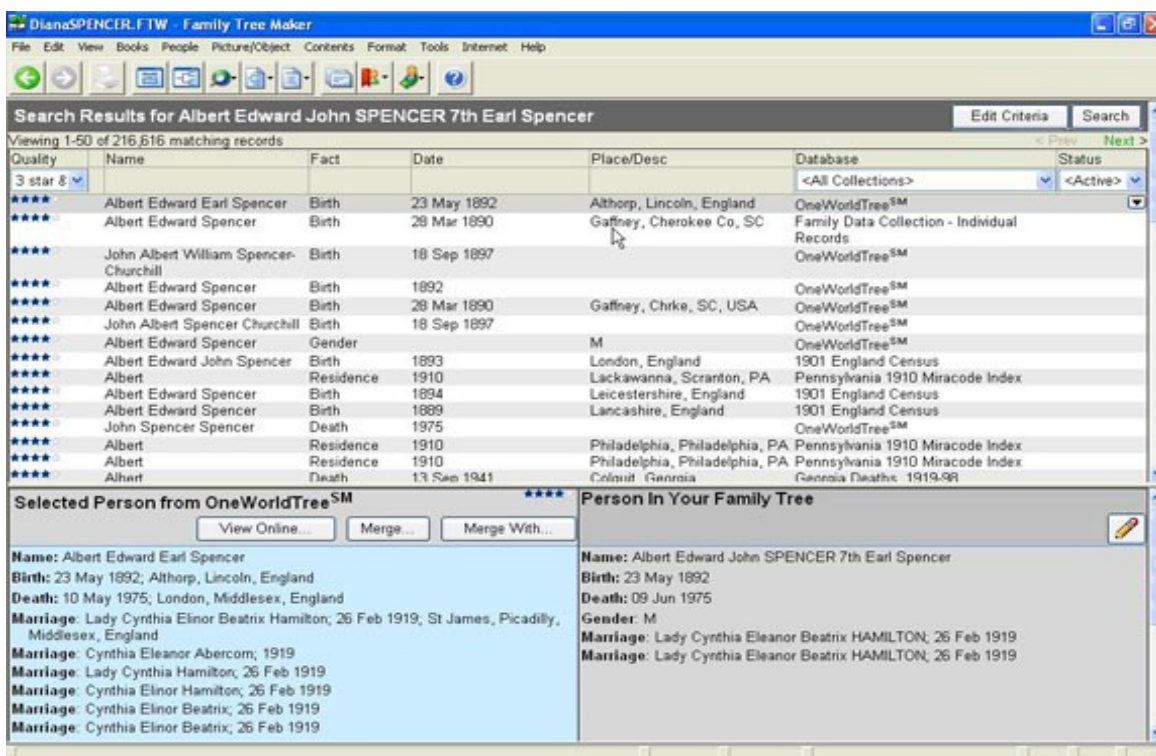
This Web Search capability is available wherever the search icon appears: in the Family View, on the toolbar, in the Pedigree View, and on the Pedigree View Side Panel.

Click the **Back** button  at the top left of your screen.

Search: Star ranking system

One key to successful searching is knowing how to use the star rating system. Each record is assigned from one to five stars, depending on how closely it matches the data for the subject of your search. The closest matches (with the most stars) display at the top of the list. The default search setting is three stars, meaning that only results with three or more stars will be displayed.


Continued on page 4




Continued from page 3

The more information you have about an individual, the better your search will be. Often this means making a "best guess" about some dates and places. If you only have a rough idea about a birth or death date and/or place, your educated guess is preferable to no information at all.

Using the Index feature, navigate to a different

grandparent by clicking the **Index**  toolbar button, highlighting his name and clicking the **OK** button. With that grandparent's name highlighted, click the **Web**

Search Resources  button to the right of and just below that person's Death place field. The Web Search window appears with the results of this search.

At the top of the Search Results panel appears a line that reads: "Viewing 1-7 of 7 matching records," or something similar. If there are few or no results, this means that your ranking criteria are probably too high. Assuming you haven't made any changes, your search was done using the default setting of three stars.

Change the ranking criteria for your search by clicking the down arrow at the top of the Quality column. Select **2 star**, and click the **Search** button at the top right of the Search Results panel. The search is launched again with your new criteria. When it's done, you should see a larger number of results.

See "Search , Part 2" next month

BAGS Hosting FTM Workshop Dick Warren

Family Tree Maker [FTM] is a genealogy software program used by many in our BAGS family. We are developing a workshop that will help you to enhancing your skills in using the software. You will be able to see first hand how the program's power can assist in documenting and publishing your own family tree research. **Paula Park**, an FTM Regional Representative, will walk us through Family Tree Maker capabilities at a workshop **Saturday, September 30th, 2006**. We are planning a few breaks in the presentation for hands on practice with Paula. Bring your laptop with FTM, version 2005 or 2006 installed. More details will be available in the coming months. Stay tuned.

Some of the topics that will be covered in the workshop are:

- FTM is a program that you can use to build your family tree. Simply enter or transfer what you already know. A tutorial will walk you step-by-step through the process.
- FTM can be used to record and organize your family's information to create tree charts, reports, calendars, scrapbooks, heirloom quality books and more!
- FTM will search the largest online collection of family history at Ancestry.com for your ancestors based on the information in your tree. The Web Search report will allow you to compare the results side-by-side with what is in your tree, so you can quickly determine whether the information is relevant to you. The new Web Merge feature lets you import the information directly into your FTM file.
- Bring your family story to life by customizing a wide variety of charts and reports with images, photos, colors, fonts, borders and box styles.
- Share your research with your relatives with a beautiful family book filled with stories, charts, photographs, maps, time lines and more. Or you can share your work digitally – on CD-ROM or through a free Internet homepage.

"Can-Do Year"

Loren Martin

BAGS members are supporting our organization in a variety of ways.

- Telephone Committee - improving two-way communications within BAGS, volunteer Connie Ogden is coordinator.
- Ride Share – Jeanine Lawrence is coordinating the "pairing-up" of the members who need transportation to meetings with those who can provide it.
- Cookbook – recipes are being submitted to Resa Hennings for the upcoming BAGS cookbook. We would especially like to have family recipes with accompanying stories.
- Genealogical Book Sale – Dottie Crabb is receiving from members extra, quality-condition, genealogy books to be available at our August meeting. Dottie would appreciate your help in the pricing.
- Genealogical Seminar - jointly with the Clayton Library Friends, BAGS is sponsoring a major event on March 24, 2007 with Claire Miré Bettag.
- Transcribing local cemetery data – a group is been organized to document tombstone information for nearby cemeteries. We are fortunate to have one of our members, Betty Leonard, who has experience with a large project in Ohio.
- Tammy Frey has volunteered to support our publicity.



Old Texarkana

Remember to continue to submit your articles and information for the Newsletter and the Quarterly, especially your five-generation charts and "How I Came to Texas" stories.

Events Calendar

BAGS Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) Members are invited to attend all meetings	
■Monday, May 22nd, 2006	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Friday, May 26th, 2006	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “A Norwegian Woman in Frontier Texas” Speaker: Charles H. Russell
■Monday, June 26th, 2006	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Friday, June 30th, 2006	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “English Research” Speaker: Lesley Douthwaite
■Thur. - Sat., July 20-22, 2006	Angelina College Genealogy Conference, Lufkin, Texas 30 different lecture topics given by various lecturers
■Wednesday, August 9th, 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■Thursday, September 7th, 2006	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■Saturday, September 30th, 2006	BAGS Workshop “Using Family Tree Maker” Speaker: Paula Park, FTM Representative
■Fri. - Sat., October 27-28, 2006	Texas State Genealogy Society 2006 Conference, MacGorman Conference Ct, Ft. Worth, Texas Sessions for beginners thru advanced researchers

Clayton House Restoration

The Clayton Library Friends are moving forward to restore and expand the Clayton House at the Clayton Library. This massive project has received wonderful financial support from many people; however additional contributions are needed before the completion of this task. Our BAGS vice-presidents, Dick Warren and Alice Braud-Jones, and board member Claudia Grafton are also officers for the Clayton Library Friends and would welcome your support in this task.



LOREN MARTIN

BAGS Quarterly

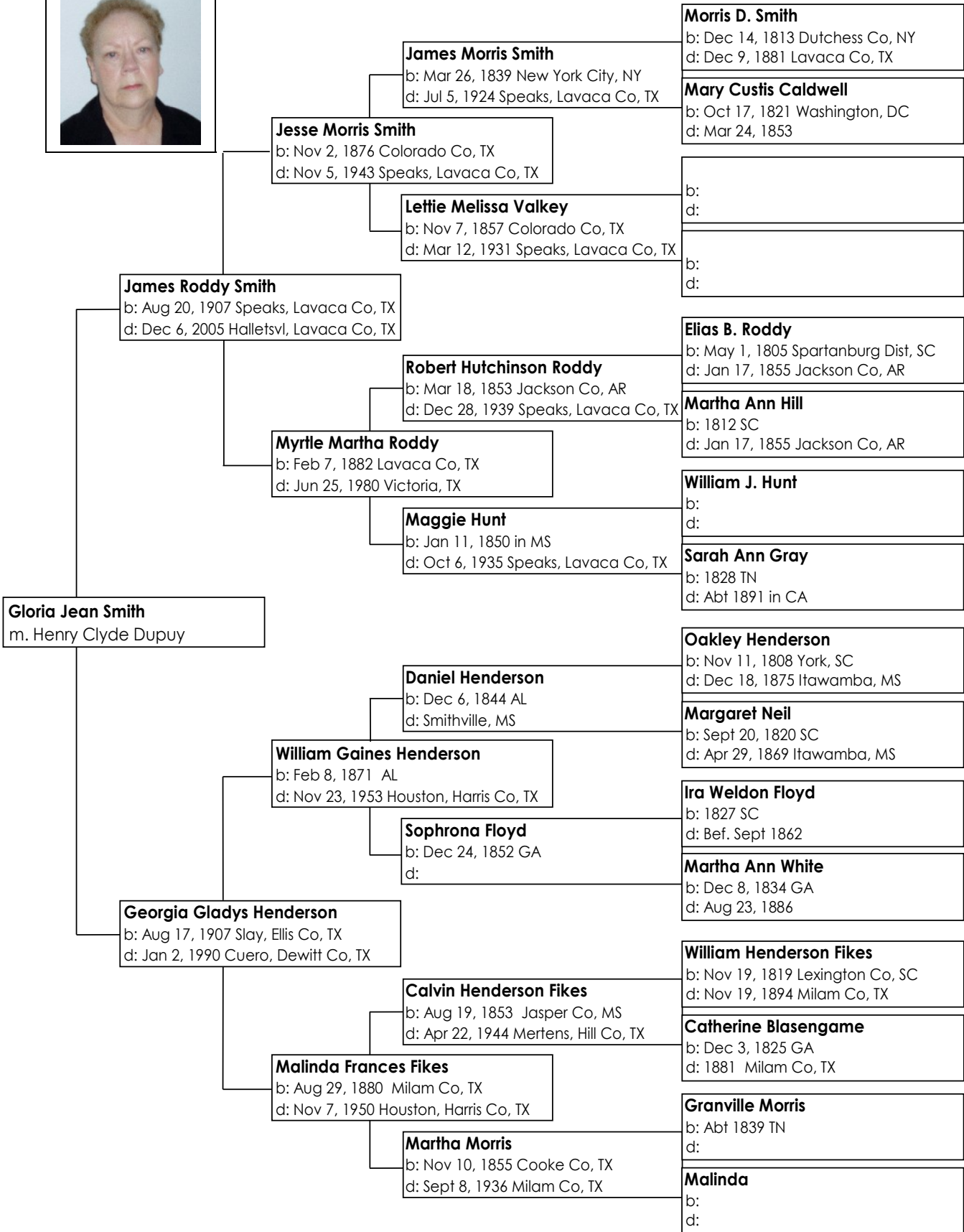
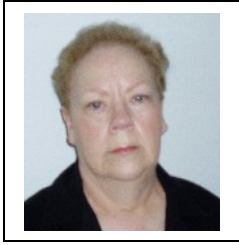
We need articles for our June and September Quarterlies at this time. Starting with the June 2006 issue, we will have a couple of new sections in our Quarterlies:

- a Clayton Library Report which will feature articles on holdings or research at the library, and
- a new Family Events section in our BAGS News.

Please help us by submitting your material for our Quarterlies so that we may continue to have a quality publication. You may email submissions to sganch@verizon.net.

SUSIE GANCH

Ancestors of Gloria Smith Dupuy



Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library Scheduled

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Two trips are scheduled to go to the Clayton Library:

**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 the 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 participate in 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. We had a new person go to the library with us last time named Rose Mitchell. Rose enjoyed going with us and joined BAGS the next evening at our Society meeting.

The BAGS website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, always has a current listing of library trips. Bring a sack lunch and join us to see what new and interesting information you can find about your ancestors!

Publicity

Tammy Frey, Coordinator

We are trying to make sure that information currently published about our group is accurate. There are some things you can do to help.

1. If our information does not appear in the calendar/events section of your local paper, please bring me a copy of the paper at the next meeting so that I can see about adding it to our list of contacts.
2. When upcoming BAGS meetings are mentioned in your local publication, see if the information is accurate. I cannot check all the publications each month. If you would be interested in helping with this, let me know.
3. We are compiling a list of other genealogical or historical organizations that would be interested in receiving monthly meeting and special events information. I would need the name of the organization and contact information (preferably email) for the person who should receive the information.

Tammy Frey can be reached at 281-286-1486 or tfrey99@hotmail.com.

Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

Let's give a warm welcome to our new members Susie and Stephen Moncla of Seabrook. Susie is a librarian at the Helen Hall Library in League City. Steve is a chemistry teacher. They are researching Franklin, Bowles, Boddie, Miers, Saucier, and Gray families. Kim Zrubek of the Friendswood Public Library is also a new member. Rose M. Mitchell, another new member, is researching the McColgan, Persinger, Lee, and Costanzaro families. Barbara Laing Larsen, a newcomer to genealogy, joined the Society at our last meeting. I know she would appreciate your help and guidance.

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, take your application to the next BAGS meeting on Friday, May 26th and enjoy Charles H. Russell's discussion of his new book "Undaunted: A Norwegian Woman in Frontier Texas."

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$3,087.30
Income	+\$70.10
Expenses	-\$92.64
Balance on hand 4/28	\$3,064.76

Memorial Day History

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was widely observed on May 30, 1868, by a proclamation of General John Logan, first commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. By the late 1800's many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day. After World War I, observances also began to honor those veterans who had died in all of America's wars.

Many communities claim to have been the first to honor our soldiers, however in May of 1966 the United States government recognized Waterloo, New York, as the "birthplace of Memorial Day". Waterloo was recognized because no other city could claim to have been so well-planned and complete with annual, community-wide continuity of observances.

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11th. Several southern states continue to also set aside a special day for honoring the Confederate dead, which is usually called Confederate Memorial Day. Texas has designated Confederate Heroes Day on January 19th.



ARLINGTON CEMETERY ON MEMORIAL DAY 2004



REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEMORIAL, MOTLEY CO., TX

REMINDER

General Meeting
Friday, May 26th, 6:00 pm,
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
June Issue is
June 10th, 2006



BAGS website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org

