



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 5, Issue No. 10

June 2006

June Meeting: English Research

Jun 30
6:00 pm UBC

Gems from Genealogists



This month's speaker, Lesley Douthwaite, will be discussing English research. If you are looking for English or Welsh ancestors, be sure to inform yourself on the broad range of archives that may hold records. A website that has a comprehensive index of these archives is <http://www.a2a.org.uk/>.

This organization, Access to Archives, has entries from 403 record offices and other repositories, with links and contact information. The indices are searchable, so you can determine if any repository has records you are interested in.

Dug up by: Doug Wilson

Inside BAGS ---

- 2 President's Message
- 3 FTM Search – part 3 / In Memoriam
- 4 Fascination with Family History
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 6 Featured Ancestors
- 7 Committee Page
- 8 Online Extra (appears in online version only)

“English Research” Lesley Douthwaite

With her strong library background, Mrs. Douthwaite has developed a personal interest in British and Scottish genealogy. She has twice attended seminars at Salt Lake City on researching English and Scottish ancestry. For her talk she will be discussing such resources as Civil Registration records, English census records, parish and other church records, and military records, concentrating particularly on those resources available at Clayton.



Born and raised in England. Mrs. Douthwaite received her undergraduate degree in modern languages from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and her Library Science qualification from the Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic. Her first library job was at the British Museum in London, followed by a position as a reference librarian at the University of Durham. After her husband's 1974 transfer took them to Kenya, Mrs. Douthwaite worked as the British Council Librarian in Mombasa for two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Douthwaite moved to the United States in 1976. Her genealogy interest came when she was appointed Head of the Local History and Genealogy Department at the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township in Morristown, NJ. Mrs. Douthwaite was employed as a Senior Reference Librarian in September 1999 by the Houston Public Library at Clayton Library for Genealogical Research when her husband's next transfer brought them to Houston. She has been at the Clayton Library ever since, becoming the Assistant Library Manager in July 2000.

She laughingly said they were going to remain in the U.S. for just a few years.

Ms. Douthwaite has experience and tenure in the Houston Library system with 17 years of librarian experience, 7 years at the Clayton Genealogy Library, with 6 of those years as Assistant Manager. She is a candidate for the Clayton Library Manager Position.

Mrs. Douthwaite has excellent library credentials. She is an accomplished senior reference librarian, subject specialist, experienced librarian and experienced genealogist cooperating with other library services units including Technical Services and Information Technology to enhance access to genealogical material. Plus, Mrs. Douthwaite has the added qualification of being an expert on the Clayton foreign collection, especially research in the United Kingdom and Scotland. As genealogists acquire family tree information and related historical connections from the internet, the Clayton's foreign collection will be a vital source for the necessary documentation proofs.

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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

Vacation Planning:

As we plan our summer fun and trips to see relatives, don't forget to think about genealogy. When you have the opportunity to talk to relatives, "pick their brains" about the family history and past events. Document this information and record current events, too.

While planning your trip routes, think about slight detours to visit county courthouses, libraries, and anywhere family information could be recorded. Definitely plan to visit these record keeping locations in the cities where you will already be staying. Washington, Boston, Chicago, Salt Lake City, and Fort Wayne, Indiana are like "Mecca" for genealogical research. For example, a county courthouse contains land, tax, marriage and court proceedings. Often you can access the original documents and the staff is usually very helpful.

BAGS Planning:

Please commit to support the projects of your excellent organization and lend a hand to help with as many of the following projects as you can:

- Genealogy book sale in August;
- Family Tree Maker Workshop in September;
- Freeman Library display in October;
- the cookbook;
- the various transcribing efforts;
- submitting articles for the "Newsletter" and the "Quarterly";
- be sure that you have a personal photograph on file for inclusion in the "Yearbook". A photographer will be available at every monthly meeting to take your picture.
- continuing into 2007, commit to attend our one-day workshop featuring Claire Miré Bettag, an internationally known speaker.

Hurricane Preparation Planning:

As residents of the Gulf Coast, we are unfortunately at risk for major hurricanes. As we learned last year with Katrina and Rita, our homes and possessions can be damaged or destroyed. Very valuable genealogical records are at risk. We all need to be prepared to protect and evacuate these records, in the event that it is necessary. Please be proactive in deciding what genealogy information should be protected and what information should be stored in movable containers. Family pictures and precious documents should be considered along with the detail results of our long labors and long search efforts.

P.S. - Unfortunately, Mary and I will not be in town for the June 30th BAGS general meeting. We will miss the opportunity to share with you our excellent speaker and the wonderful potluck food that you bring. See you on July 28th!

Loren



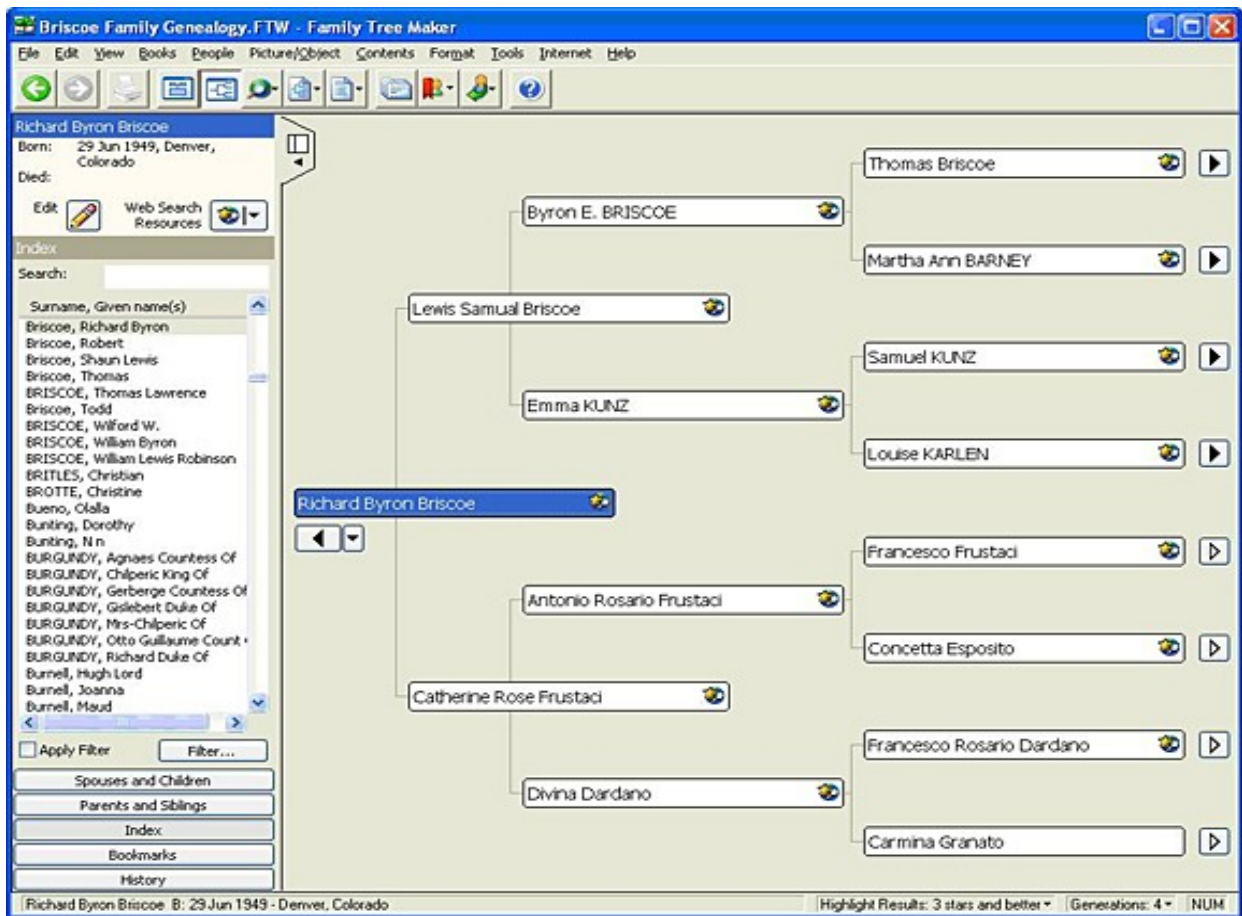
Star ranking in Pedigree View



Click the **Pedigree** button. Note that there is a Web Search button (similar to the Web Search button in the Family View) at the end of most name fields. You can click any of these to do a web search as well. There may be one or more name fields without a Web Search button. This does not mean that there are no results for that individual. It only means that the ranking criteria you're currently using won't show any results. Try selecting a lower star rating. In the Pedigree View, you can adjust the star rating by clicking "Highlight Results" at the lower right

of your screen. You can use the same procedure to set your criteria higher if you have too many results. Try experimenting with different star rankings to see the number of results you get from each.

Click the tab at the top left to open the Pedigree View Side Panel (if it isn't already open). Note that there is a Web Search Results button in the top area of the side panel. This button displays a gold star when there are search results that match your current criteria. Again, the absence of a gold star doesn't mean that there are no results. This just tells you that you need to adjust the star rating part of your search criteria.



"FTM Search" will be continued in the July 2006 Newsletter

IN MEMORIAM

The condolences of the entire newsletter staff go out to the following:

Shirley Lindquist whose daughter, Catherine Lindquist passed away in September of 2005; Tammy Frey whose father, Gerald Bullin, passed away in September of 2005;

Mary Pearson whose mother, Ina Estelle Stepp, passed away in February of 2006; and Phillip Van Nordstrand whose wife, Dottie Van Nordstrand passed away this month.

We also remember the BAGS members who have left us: Evelyn Allen who passed away in October of 2005 and Mary Saxe who passed away in April of 2006.

Introduction

My personal fascination with history probably began during the many hours curled up in front of the fireplace on winter evenings, listening to my father, Thomas Corwin Myers (1890-1948) tell his spellbinding stories.

His High School yearbook already proclaims him not only an essayist of merit, but humorously refers to him as a teller of tall tales. He worked on a newspaper for several years in his youth, and was a Baptist circuit minister at one time, riding on horseback to neighboring communities in northern Minnesota to preach the gospel. He wrote many lengthy epic poems and authored a romantic historical novel, Arden Acres, published in the 1930's, which he wrote on the train while commuting from Glen Ellyn to Chicago.

Stories for us as children were filled with excitement and adventure and also, history. Tales of his ancestor who came to America shortly after the landing of the Mayflower (he didn't mention the Dutch ancestor living in New Amsterdam who had his ear cut off and was exiled to New Jersey for the crime of adultery). One great grandfather fought in 1776 as a revolutionary soldier and settled near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania after the war; another great-grandfather was a Loyalist, fought on the side of the British, and had his land confiscated by the new American government. Another ancestor was a shipbuilder during the War of 1812, while his two sons fought in the war. When the family traveled overland to southwestern Ohio in the 1800's by wagon and canal barge, they settled in Troy, Ohio where the Parke family home still stands near the canal. Another was killed by Indians in an early Ohio massacre. His father and grandfather both enlisted on the same day in the Union Army during the War Between the States, while his uncle was captured by Confederates and confined to Libby Prison, A brother fought with Teddy Roosevelt in the Mexican War. What a history lesson!

He told of times of peace mid prosperity, tales of lifetimes spent farming on the frontier, fur trappers and

traders, coopers, hatters, school masters and school teachers, judges, attorneys, cabinet makers and small town journalist/newspapermen came from his seemingly endless and fertile imagination.

Adventures of his own father, who was an Indian scout after the Civil War for the army and explored most other Western States on horseback, have given an extra dimension to traveling to me, always wondering if HE traveled through this same mountain pass or riverway some hundred years before. (This also gave me reason to check old hotel registers). What a thrill it might have been to find his name!

Every family in the Myers line was here before 1776, perhaps six to eight generations before the Revolutionary War.

So when I embarked on the more quiet adventure of genealogy, I was intrigued by the prospect of determining just what part was fact and what part fiction in those marvelous stories.

A grandmother who was a red-haired Scotch/Irish woman and smoked a little white clay pipe? A French Canadian fur trapper and trader? An Indian Scout? A young man stolen by Indians who grew up to become a well respected Indian Chief, negotiator for Indian tribes in Washington, D.C. A massacre by Indians? Martha Washington as a cousin!

I can't give you the thrill and excitement I experienced as these stories fell upon my childish ears, nor the suspense of putting together the clues and pieces of existing records. But I can share with you what I have found in published records.

This is the beginning, the bare bones, taken from seemingly endless files. There are many photos and personal letters, the U. S. Army War Records and Pension files as well as Canadian Archives to be added and new clues turning up all the time.

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Connie Ogden



Indian Scout



Canal Barge

Connie's fascinating ancestor stories and time lines will appear in BAGS Quarterlies.

Events Calendar

BAGS Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) Members are invited to attend all meetings	
■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
■Monday, July 24th, 2006	4:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Friday, July 28th, 2006	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “Seabrook Happenings” Speaker: Emogene Brummerhop
■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 Center, Ft. Worth, Texas Sessions for beginners thru advanced researchers



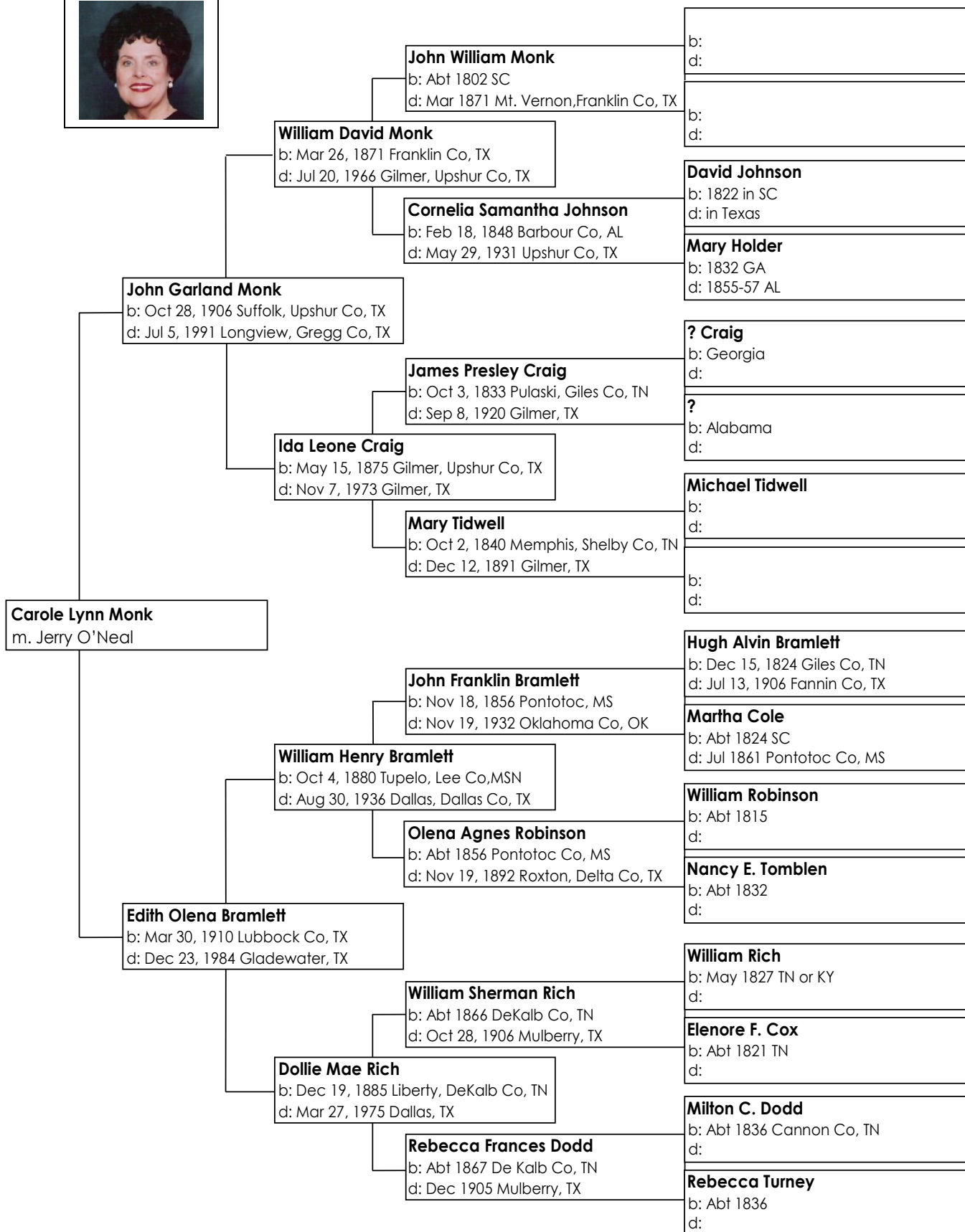
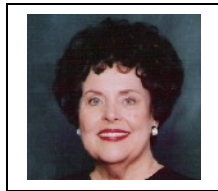
Clayton Library Friends and Bay Area Genealogical Society Team Up to Bring Nationally Recognized Speaker Claire Miré Bettag to Houston Saturday, March 24th, 2007

Claire Miré Bettag, Director of the National Institute of Genealogical Research (NIGR) will present a one-day genealogical workshop in Houston/Clear Lake, TX, on Saturday, March 24, 2007.

Ms Bettag, CG CGL, is a professional genealogist based in Washington DC, certified since 1997. She conducts research in Louisiana, Europe, Salt Lake City, and Washington DC. A contributing author to *Professional Genealogy*, she has published articles to the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *APG Quarterly*, and other professional publications. Her lecturing venues include the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University, NGS, FGS national conferences and local/regional genealogical events. Claire serves as a trustee of the Board of Certification of Genealogists, a member of the editorial board of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and is a volunteer at the National Archives to Washington, DC. Her M.A. in French is from Columbia University; she has studied in France as a Fulbright fellow and in Quebec, Spain, and Mexico.

Watch this newsletter for time and place to be announced.

Ancestors of Carole Lynn O'Neal



Committee News

“CAN DO YEAR”

Loren Martin

BAGS members are becoming more involved in supporting our wonderful organization.

- Telephone Committee - Connie Ogden is coordinating the contacting of members (especially those who have not been able to attend recent monthly meetings).
- Ride Share – Jeanine Lawrence is coordinating the “pairing up” of the members who need transportation to meetings with those who can provide the transportation. Please inform her of either your need or ability to help.
- Cookbook – recipes are being submitted to Resa Hennings for the upcoming BAGS cookbook. When you take food to a monthly meeting, please submit the recipe for your contribution. We would especially like to have family recipes and an accompanying family story for that special section of the cookbook.
- Genealogical Book Sale – Dottie Crabb is receiving extra genealogy books (in quality condition) to be made available for sale at our August meeting. Dottie would appreciate your help in the pricing of these books.
- BAGS will once again prepare the display at the Freeman Library for the month of October. Shirley Lindquist is chairing this committee and needs assistance.
- Transcribing local cemetery data-- A group is being organized to document tombstone information for nearby locations. We are awaiting approval from management of a large local cemetery to conduct this service for them and publish the results.

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. We are fortunate to have these excellent publications, along with our Yearbook, that are the envy of other groups. Please help contribute so we can maintain our high quality level.

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$3,064.76
Income	+\$234.50
Expenses	-\$293.09
Balance on hand 5/26	\$3,006.17

Trips to Clayton Library Scheduled

Mary Martin, Coordinator

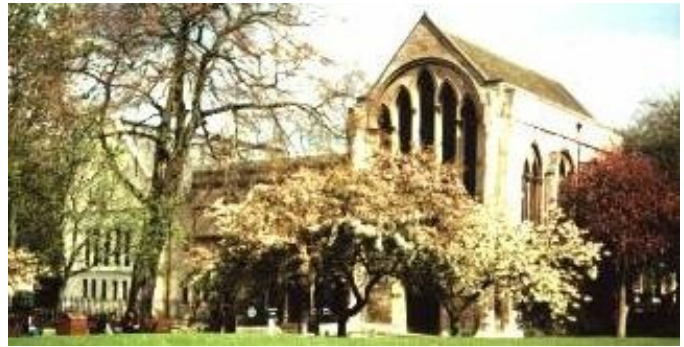
Two trips are currently scheduled to Clayton Library: Wednesday, August 9th and Thursday, September 7th. We will meet in front of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street. The county bus departs at 9:00 am and leaves the Clayton Library at 3:00 pm to arrive back 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 me at 281-332-2435, or email me at lmartin497@aol.com. Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings. We added another trip on Thursday, June 8th and the bus was nearly full! We are occasionally offered these dates on short notice when another group cancels their trip. Bus trips like these are posted on the website as soon as we learn of them, so regularly check the website for new dates. A notice is also sent out by email, so check your email to see if something new is happening.

Personally, on the most recent trip, I was excited to find an ancestor on a roll of microfilm after looking at the roll for about an hour and a half. It was the baptism of my great-great-great grandmother Caroline (Adams) Pratt, her brothers Reuben and Abraham, and her sister, Amanda. I found a record where her widowed mother, Susanna (Flagg) Adams, my great-great-great-great grandmother also joined the Congregational Church in Monson, MA on 1 June 1817. This was in the Corbin Collection at Clayton Library. It is a collection of microfilmed papers from the counties in Western Massachusetts. When I found this, I was closer to a death date of my “elusive Ephraim Adams” AKA John Adams and a place where he may have lived. Ephraim Adams was my great-great-great-great grandfather. I also located an isolated entry in the Oxford, MA vital records book about a Henrietta Adams who married a man named William Larned of Oxford, MA; Henrietta was from Monson, MA. I was searching for the birth of Caroline Adams which I didn’t find in the book, but Caroline had a sister named Henrietta. I was looking in the Monson records to see if this Henrietta might be her sister when I found the other records with the date of the baptisms of 6 July 1817. The children were referred to as the children of Widow Susanna Adams. I had a “great day”, and I think that the others did too, from the chatter of the voices on the bus. **Please submit your stories of great finds to our newsletter for publication in future issues.**

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, then share it with the entire BAGS organization!



York Archives



York Minster Library

English Archives



New Borthwick Institute

REMINDER
General Meeting
Friday, June 30th, 6:00 pm,
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
July Issue is
July 8th, 2006

BAGS website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org

