



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 6, Issue No. 4

December 2006

December Meeting: Holiday Party and Leadership by George

Gems from
Genealogists



Allen County Public Library's Preservation Technician Becky Schipper offers advice on preserving your documents:

Silica gel can be used as a desiccant by placing it with damp materials to absorb moisture, or in an enclosed area to maintain a specific relative humidity. Artifacts should not be in direct contact with the gel.

Dug up by: Alice Braud-Jones

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“Against All Odds - Victory of Yorktown, Summer 1781” A Tribute to George Washington's Leadership

On Friday December 15, 2006, James (Jim) Hodges, PhD, professional speaker and author, will relate how General George Washington unified two nations, three armies, Congress, and civilians. Washington's armies marched 450 miles to defeat the British led by Cornwallis at Yorktown in the summer of 1781. BAGS members and their guests will learn how George Washington's courage and faith in God, his men and America sustained and strengthened his resolve and brought forth this great nation!



Through his intimate knowledge of this great man, Jim Hodges has a special calling that allows him to intricately reveal the ethical and universal principles of George Washington. For many years as a public speaker, Jim has shared the principles of "The Father of Our Country" with a fundamental reverence for General Washington's achievements.

Utilizing his speaking experience, Jim inspires audiences to appreciate and strive to emulate Washington as a superlative leader and mentor for all generations. He is a compassionate and gifted storyteller and gives vivid accounts of America's colonial history, both serious and amusing, while imparting messages of hope, strength, perseverance and universal faith!



Cornwallis surrenders to George Washington, October 19, 1781

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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:

Editor, P.O. Box 891447,
Houston, TX 77289-1447, or
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

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Message from the President

Loren Martin

As the calendar year is coming to a close, I am very proud of the many "CAN DO" accomplishments by our BAGS members this last twelve months.

We have continued to publish excellent monthly newsletters and quarterly reports containing informative and quality contributions to genealogical research in general. Many BAGS members have submitted wonderful articles that our proofreaders and editor have compiled into informative finished documents.

Outstanding entertaining and educational speakers have graced us with their presence and their knowledge each month. We have learned about immigration, migration trails, naturalization, Internet aids, frontier Texas, British research, local Seabrook, Texas happenings, 1890 census alternatives, and the value of newspapers and maps in discovering more about our ancestors.

Because of the efforts of our board, the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, now includes BAGS publications in their international PERSI (PERiodical Source Index) database and we are members of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

BAGS members established and heartily contribute to the telephone committee, improving our internal communications, and supporting our publicity committee that provides ongoing external communications and advertisement of our meetings, events, etc. Members provided an outstanding August "Show and Tell" which included a successful book sale. We organized and prepared the October 2006 "Remembering Our Military Ancestors" display at the Freeman Memorial Library.

Your BAGS board continues to negotiate with a large local cemetery to have the opportunity to transcribe and publish their headstone information. We hope this project will come to fruition in the next few months. This cemetery has never been transcribed so the entire genealogical community is anxiously awaiting their decision and several other local organizations have offered their assistance in the true genealogical community spirit.

Of course, all of these above efforts were in addition to the ongoing maintenance of our wonderful website, the regularly scheduled county bus trip program, daily support of our many administrative functions, and completion of a very successful genealogical seminar in September that attracted attendees from all over the state.

Preparations for 2007 meetings and planned activities are moving rapidly. This includes BAGS co-sponsorship with the Clayton Library Friends to host a genealogical conference with NARA Director, National Institute of Genealogical Research, Claire Miré Bettag, as the featured speaker on March 24, 2007. Additionally, new recipes for the BAGS cookbook project are pouring in and we are on schedule for a June publication.

BAGS is an exceptional organization of which we can all be very proud!

"George Washington" and I are looking forward to seeing you at the annual Christmas Party on Friday December 15th.

Loren



A very special time of the year is coming up. It is a time when we are surrounded by our families and friends, the people important to us. The Christmas season is a perfect time to get in touch with those family members you may not see or talk too much. It's a time when family stories get passed around, like "do you remember when....," a time to listen and remember. There are lots of shared memories that could come together to create a family memoir.

This is an opportunity to write and publish a family story in our quarterly. Wouldn't it be special to share a copy of our publication with the individuals you include in the article? I look forward to reading and publishing more of your family stories. Please submit articles or records to me at: sganch@verizon.net

Need help to start a "remember when" conversation with family to gain a deeper knowledge of your ancestors?

Try some of the questions suggested in "Getting to Know You" by Erik Jackson in the *Real Simple* magazine (November 2005, Vol 6, Issue 10) on pages 119-130. Examples of shared stories of family treasures are provided in the same issue on pages 265-275. These articles are available from a local library that carries a subscription to *Real Simple*, or online at www.realsimple.com/talk

Need some tips on how to prepare and conduct an oral interview?

Root Television, LLC is an online resource (www.rootstelevision.com), produced by Marcy Brown and professional genealogist Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, that provides several short instruction videos entitled "Capturing the Past" to help make the interview an enriching experience. Access the five videos online at www.rootstelevision.com/players/player_howto.html then click on the **Oral History** Tab and choose an episode. These videos do include short advertisements and require installation of free Adobe/Flash Player 8.

Considering a family reunion in 2007?

Simplifying suggestions for the seemingly daunting tasks of choosing a location, inviting relatives, planning activities, and funding are provided in "All Together Now" by Jennifer Wilson in the *Family Circle* magazine (June 2006) on pages 46-57. This article is available from a local library that has a subscription to *Family Circle*, or online at www.familycircle.com by entering in their search box the exact text with quotes: "all together now".

Reunions Magazine also provides a plethora of information on how to plan and conduct a family reunion. The website www.reunionsmag.com and a bi-monthly publication offer suggestions and advice for successful family get-togethers in a myriad of locations, themes and styles.

Want Ads

Wanted: Members interested in surname information for Fischer, Bonham, or Lyon contact Patricia Bates.

Wanted: Members interested in surname information for Roddy, Fikes, or Wood contact Gloria Dupuy.

Wanted: Surname information for Harper, Oglesby, and Hobgood contact Kathleen McConathy.

Wanted: BAGS Members with energy, innovative ideas and great sales skills to solicit and coordinate genealogical seminar door prize contributions for the March 24, 2007 BAGS/CLF Seminar featuring Claire Mire Bettag. Contact Alice Braud-Jones genealijonz@houston.rr.com

Wanted: BAGS Members with good telephone and interpersonal skills to solicit and coordinate genealogical seminar vendors for the March 24, 2007 BAGS/CLF Seminar featuring Claire Mire Bettag. Contact Alice Braud-Jones genealijonz@houston.rr.com

The following submissions will be collected and published in the January 2007 BAGS newsletter as recommendations by the BAGS membership.

Wanted: A recommendation for class, seminar, or workshop scheduled in 2007 that could help a fellow researcher. Contact Kim Zrubek newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org or 281-482-7135

Wanted: A recommendation for a resource (books, microfilm, online, etc.) that you found extremely useful for your genealogical research in 2006. Contact Kim Zrubek newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org or 281-482-7135

BAGS Want Ads are brief requests by members for information about research problems, for services or programs, offers for assisting members, or other matters that pertain to the society's purposes. The submissions must have a contact name. Answers to Want Ads will normally not be published, but we reserve the right to do so. All submissions are subject to editing for length and content.

BAGS Brags

Kathleen Shanahan Maca, a BAGS member, has written an article entitled "Grave Messages" which will appear in the January/February 2007 issue of Family Chronicle magazine. It deals with decrypting iconography on tombstones. This magazine can be found at the Clayton Library.



White House photo by Susan Sterner

Official White House Christmas Tree

2001

Events Calendar

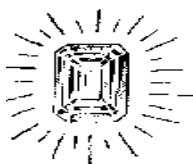
BAGS Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) Members are invited to attend all meetings	
■Tuesday, January 16th, 2007	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■Monday, January 22nd, 2007	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Friday, January 26th, 2007	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “Cite Your Sources!” Speaker: Gay Carter Preceding the BAGS general meeting, there will be another new member meeting for those unable to attend the first meeting, and those who would like to return.
■Thursday, February 15th, 2007	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■Monday, February 19th, 2007	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Friday, February 23rd, 2007	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC Subject and speaker to be announced
■Saturday, March 24th, 2007	BAGS and Clayton Library Friends Joint Seminar Speaker: Claire Miré Bettag

BAGS Featured in Library Display

During the month of January, BAGS will be featured in the lobby display case at the Friendswood Public Library. The BAGS display committee will install the exhibit.

Gems from Genealogists

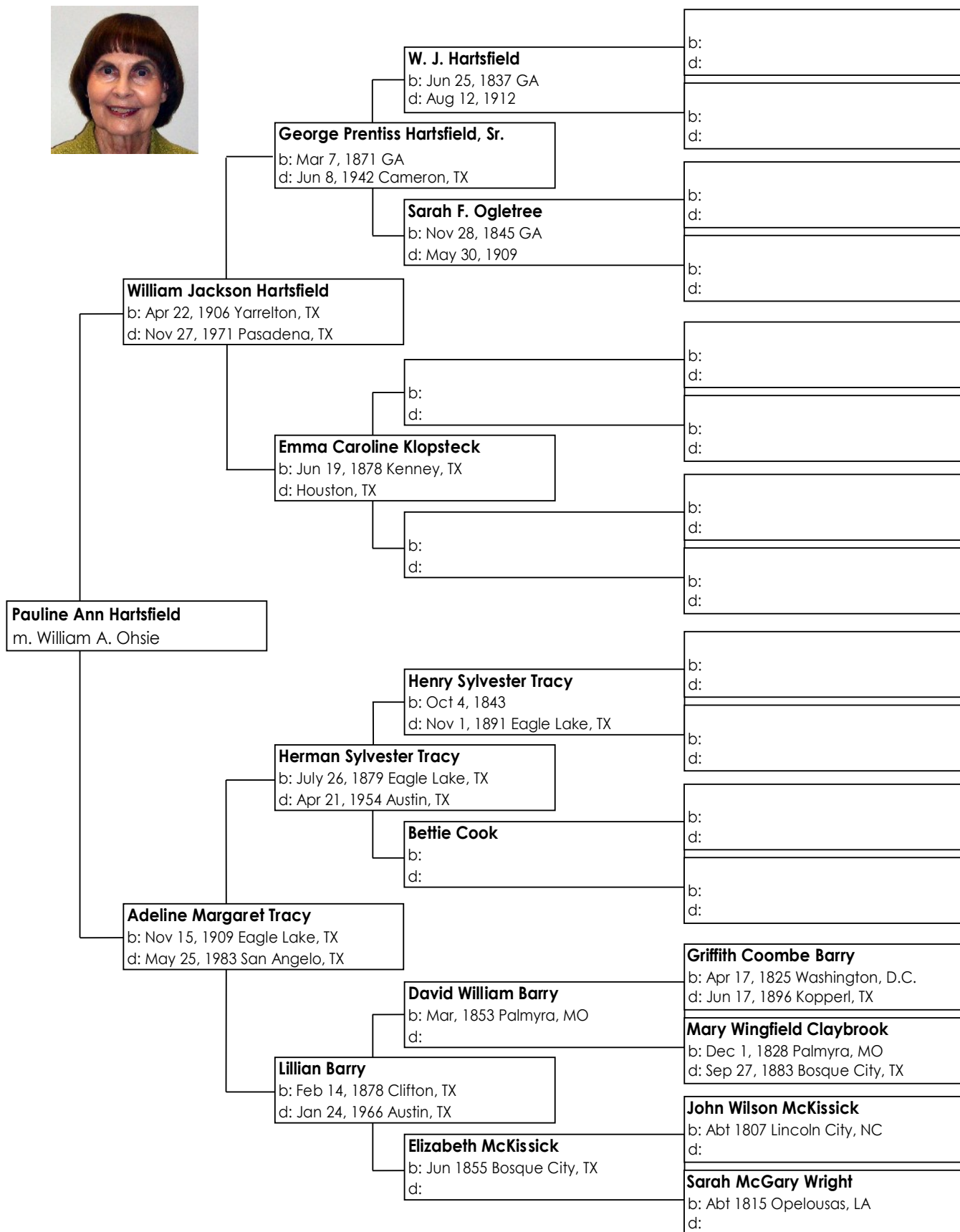
Dug up by: Alice Braud-Jones



In September 2006, ProQuest announced PERiodical Source Index (PERSI) has been updated to include over 235,000 articles published in 2004 and 2005. PERSI now contains nearly 2 million citations from over 6,500 genealogy and local history periodicals published in the United States and Canada since 1800. Search for a specific surname, locality, periodical, or how-to advice. You can access PERSI within HeritageQuest database available at many Texas public libraries.

Helen Hall Library in League City provides a monthly "how-to-use" class on HeritageQuest database including PERSI. Registration is required: 281-554-1102.

Ancestors of Pauline Hartsfield Ohsie



Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Our next scheduled trip to the Clayton Library is after the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Hopefully, everyone will be recovered from the hustle and bustle of the season and ready to begin their research again. **Two trips are currently scheduled: Tuesday, January 16, 2007, and Thursday, February 15, 2007.**

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 attend either trip, please call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435, or email Mary at [Imartin497 <at> aol.com](mailto:Imartin497@aol.com). Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings.

This is a good opportunity to go with other people who are doing genealogical research and may be able to share some tips to help you find your own ancestors. It is always a great way to relax and leave the driving to a very capable county bus driver. The BAGS website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, always has a current listing of library trips. Occasionally, we are able to plan an extra trip if a slot becomes available, and it will be reflected on the website as soon as it is scheduled.

Bring a sack lunch and join us to see what you can discover about your ancestors! If you would rather not bring a sack lunch, there is a delicatessen just a couple of blocks from the library on Caroline Street.

Call for Five-Generation Charts

Carole Varnado, Chairman

Please submit your Five-Generation Chart to be published. Also, if you have added information to your chart since it was published, please resubmit it to:

Carole Varnado
3711 Canary Grass Lane
Houston, TX 77059
cvarnado@houston.rr.com

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$6,857.57
Income	+\$0.00
Expenses	<u>-\$322.20</u>
Balance on hand 11/30	\$6,535.37

Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

I hope you all find a genealogical treat under your Christmas trees this year.

Membership applications for new or reinstating members may be found on the BAGS website at: www.TxBayAreaGen.org. You may bring your application to the next BAGS meeting or 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

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.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

New Members

Shirley Lindquist, Coordinator

Seven new members attended the BAGS new member meeting preceding the November general meeting. Several new members have genealogical research experience and others are novices.

On January 26, 2007, preceding the BAGS general meeting, we will have another new member meeting for those who were unable to attend the first meeting, and those who would like to return.

Some new members are interested in a mentor and will be offered the opportunity to work with an experienced member.

Every new member will receive a BAGS New Member Packet and is asked to attend a new member meeting, or talk with Shirley Lindquist, the BAGS New Member Services Committee Chairman, regarding BAGS membership and genealogical research.

In 2007 a short Beginning Genealogical Research Class may be scheduled for those interested.



REMINDER

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

Deadline for
January Issue is
January 5th, 2007

BAGS website:
www.TxBayAreaGen.org



**Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS)
and
Clayton Library Friends
Host NARA Top Genealogist
Claire Mire Bettag, CG, CGL
Saturday, March 24, 2007
8:30 am – 3:00 pm
University Baptist Church
Houston (Clear Lake City), TX**



Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS), and Clayton Library Friends (CLF) are co-sponsoring a one-day seminar featuring popular genealogical speaker Claire Mire Bettag, CG, CGL.

When: Saturday, March 24, 2007

Where: **University Baptist Church,
16106 Middlebrook Dr,
Houston (Clear Lake City), TX**

Time: **8:30 am Registration
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Program** (inclusive of lunch break)

Ms. Bettag, Washington, DC- based Director, National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) National Institute of Genealogical Research. She is a contributing author to *Professional Genealogy*, has also published articles in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and *APG Quarterly*. A Samford University IGHR Program Coordinator, Claire will enlighten BAGS and CLF members, guests and interested family history buffs on the following topics:

General Records:

- Assumptions in Genealogical Research – Your Own Worst Enemy
- Historical Documentary Publications as Genealogical Resources

Federal Records:

- Homestead Records at the National Archives
- NARA Records and Information at Your Fingertips

To register for this national event, go to:

[http:// www.txbayareagen.org](http://www.txbayareagen.org) OR <http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org/>

Hope to see you and your guests at this exciting educational conference!

Bay Area Genealogical Society & Clayton Library Friends

Seminar Registration Form

Featuring **Claire Miré Bettag**
 Saturday, March 24, 2007 - 8:30 am.

University Baptist Church – 16106 Middlebrook Dr -- Houston, TX 77059

Name: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

I am a member of the _____ Genealogical Society

More Info? Check out: <http://www.TXBayAreaGen.Org>
<http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org>

Registration Fees: (Circle One)

Super Early Registration = **\$30.00** postmarked or received by the registrar by **31 December 2006**

Early Registration = **\$35.00** postmarked/received by **31 January 2007**

Registration = **\$40.00** postmarked /received by **17 March 2007**

Registration at Door = **\$45.00** (NO Lunch Available)

Box Lunch = \$8.00 Choose: Roast Beef _____ Ham _____ Tuna _____
 Turkey _____ Veggie _____

____ Registration(s) in the amount of	\$.00
____ Lunch(es) in the amount of	\$.00
Contribution to the BAGS or CLF (circle one) in the amount of	\$.00
Grand total:	\$.00

Mail your registration fee and this form

to: Ms. Rose Mary Fritz
 BETTAG Seminar Registrar
 5001 Casa Grande
 Dickinson, TX 77539

Questions ?
 Contact Alice Braud-Jones
genealijonz@houston.rr.com