



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 6, Issue No. 6

February 2007

February Meeting: "Texas History in Slave Trade Records" -- Kathryn Black Morrow

Kathryn is a working historian and researcher. She just completed a three-year project with Texas Southern University summarizing and indexing a series of more than 200 original documents pertaining to the slave trade in early Texas. Kathryn published the index on this series in December 2006 as a book titled *The Guide to the Texas Slave Trade Series, 1818-1886*. Her book *Defender of America's Gulf Coast; Ellington Field, Texas 1917-2005* is due out in the Spring of 2007. She has also published several poems and short stories.



Kathryn is a native Texan, born in the Garden Oaks subdivision in Houston. She was the youngest child of an Air Force officer who served at Ellington Field in the early 1950's. She began her career as a professional historical and genealogical researcher at the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in Raleigh, North Carolina. She also taught family history and research methods at the Coastal Carolina Community College. She now has thirty-eight years of experience in academic document research, family research and historical documentation. She has been a seminar instructor in research methods, organization, strategy, and primary source documentation. Kathryn's specialty is United States history and genealogical research with an emphasis on Texas, Oklahoma, Native American, and African American history. She works on independent grant projects and offers research support for Master's and doctoral papers, as well as book research and supportive writing. Kathryn is currently working with the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance on the Museum of Houston Online project.

Kathryn and her husband Michael live in Clear Lake and have four children and nine grandchildren scattered across the United States. Kathryn holds a B.A. in Modern Languages from Oklahoma City University, 1980 and a M.A. in History from University of Houston Clear Lake, 2003.

Inside BAGS ---

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Cruising / FSI
- 4 FamilySearch Indexing (FSI)
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 6 Featured Ancestors
- 7 Committee Page
- 8 Online Extra (in online version only)

February 23, 6:00 pm University Baptist Church

Kudos go to Bill Teas!

He saw Mary Olsen's five-generation chart in the January newsletter and was able to help her fill in some missing information.

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

Kim Zrubek

Compositor

Doug Wilson

Proofreaders – **Barbara Stanley**

Alice Braud-Jones

Photographers – **Linda Goerland**

Neil Miserendino

Distribution – **Shirley Robbins**

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
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

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Message from the President

Loren Martin

BAGS is in a very exciting time period, with many activities!

Next month on Saturday, March 24th BAGS and the Clayton Library Friends are co-hosting a family history seminar, featuring nationally-known speaker, Claire Mire Bettag. We are looking forward to delivering this major educational event to our community and are considering offering similar seminars on an annual basis.

BAGS has been working with several local community libraries to provide both genealogical displays and speakers for their events. Many of our members have been involved in these efforts.

When we were first formed for charitable and educational purposes, we conducted several genealogical mini-seminars to help our members learn how to better conduct their family searches. After one series of classes, BAGS organized a trip to visit the LDS Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. The BAGS Member Services committee, led by Shirley Lindquist, has recently renewed this educational effort and scheduled a class, "Genealogy - A Basic Course in Family History", on Saturday February 17, 2007. Alice Braud-Jones, BAGS 1st Vice President, and Doug Wilson, board member and newsletter layout director, will conduct this class.

Susie Ganch has worked diligently to obtain and sell our very own beautiful BAGS totes. Use of these totes to transport our genealogical material helps publicize BAGS when we take our bus trips to the Clayton Library. Thanks to Mary Martin, these bus trips are well organized and provide ongoing opportunities for even more members to join together and visit our local fantastic genealogical facility.

Many members are in the process of creating an outstanding BAGS cookbook. Along with Resa Hennings and Claudia Grafton, members are contributing family recipes and working on the editing and composition.

Thank you to all of the individuals who work to make BAGS so great!

Loren



Genealogy Cruise Conference

Resa Hennings

I had the good fortune to attend the second annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise sponsored by Wholly Genes, creator of The Master Genealogist ("TMG") genealogy software program. The Diamond Princess sailed from Los Angeles November 11-18, 2006, to Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas.

The real meat of the cruise, however, was the three days at sea when the 400 participants were addressed by an array of nationally-known published speakers. Internet author and guru Dick Eastman spoke about "Genealogy Searches on Google" and "The Latest Technology for Genealogists". Marsha Hoffman Rising, CG, FUGA, FASG, presented "The Critical Connection: Linking the Generations between 1850 and the Colonial Period" and "Pearls for Finding People." Outstanding New England genealogist, Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, spoke on "Transatlantic Migration" and "Before There Were Counties There Were Colonies." Author and recipient of numerous awards, Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak presented "Trace Your Roots with DNA" and "Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research." She was lead researcher for the PBS award-winning Ancestors series, among other equally notable endeavors.

Bob Velke, developer of TMG and Wholly Genes president, conducted numerous sessions showing participants how to use the program at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. He was assisted by the amazing TMG Tech Support staff, beta testers, and others extremely versed in the program's capabilities.

The third annual TMG Genealogy Conference and Cruise is in the planning stages! Stay tuned at www.whollygenes.com.



FamilySearch Indexing (FSI)

Doug Wilson

The Family History Library (FHL) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) is the largest of its kind in the world. Since the FHL was founded in 1894, the library has collected book and microform records worldwide. Their collection of more than 2.4 million reels of microfilm has been falling behind technologically as both film and camera manufacturers have been replaced chiefly by digital imaging. The LDS has begun converting the microfilm to digital images. The process has been largely automated, to the point that a roll of microfilm can be converted to digital images in about 20 minutes. This process is proceeding around the clock on multiple converters. Ultimately, all the images will be freely accessible on the Internet.

LDS has committed to index these records – an astounding effort since it requires people to do this. Over the last year or two, they have developed software that makes it practical to index the images from a home computer. They started out using LDS volunteers to debug the process and test the tutorials and helps. Now they are accepting other volunteers from the genealogical community at large. I have been indexing less than two months and completed about 1700 records. If you have spare time in chunks of a half hour or so, you can make a lasting contribution to this work. The "[computer specifications](#)" page lists the minimum hardware and software configuration required to volunteer. You will need a high-speed Internet connection.

Introduction

To access the FSI website, go to <http://www.familysearchindexing.org/en/index.jsp>. There are links to review the projects now being indexed and those that will be coming in the future. As I write this, one of the presently active projects is Texas Death Certificates 1951-1976. The LDS is managing ten other active projects. Five other organizations have active projects that are of particular interest to them. The 1900 U.S. Census for Texas is on the future list. You can see the project-specific instructions for any of the indexing projects. For example, let's look at the Texas Death Certificates by clicking on the "Projects" tab and then "[Texas_Death_Certificates_1951-1976](#)" link. You can see the great detail provided to help with the actual indexing.

--Continued on Page 4

Continued from page 3 --

Volunteer

You need to register to begin volunteering. To register, click on the "Volunteer" button found on the [Home](#) web page. Registration requires your name, E-mail address, city, state, and county. Your acceptance as an indexer volunteer will be emailed to you in two or three working days. Meanwhile, click on the "Install Now" button found on the [Home](#) web page to download and install the free indexing software. While you are waiting for approval of your registration, use the [online tutorial](#) to learn about the indexing process.

Indexing

You will be assigned a user ID and you will need to create a strong password. When that is accomplished, you can access the FSI program on your home computer.

Click the "Download From" icon and select one record batch from the project you want to work on.

You will receive from 25 to 50 records, depending on the record layout, that typically look like the screen shot below.

When you have entered the data in the chart and performed the quality control step, the record is submitted and hopefully accepted. Two volunteers independently index each record batch. Any conflicting data is resolved by a third person, the arbitrator. (You never find out who the other folks are or what resolution was made of conflicts!) After I got the swing of things, it took me about an hour to index the 50 records on a census page.

And that's about it. I feel this effort will make the accessibility of FHL much better for future generations of genealogists.

Have fun indexing!

FSI Indexing Page on Home Computer

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch Indexing software interface. At the top, a window title bar reads "FamilySearch Indexing - New York - 1900 U.S. Federal Census/4114937[B23]". Below the title bar is a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Tools, Help) and a toolbar with icons for home, search, zoom (50%), and other functions. The main area displays a scanned census form titled "TWELFTH CEN US OF THE UNITED STATES SCHEDULE No. 1.-POPULATION". The form is filled with handwritten entries: State *New York*, County *Westchester*, Township *Town of Greenburgh*, and enumerated on the *12* day of June, 1900, by *Gabriel A. Au*. Below the form is a data entry table with columns for LOCATION, NAME, RELATION, PERSONAL DESCRIPTION, and NATIVITY. The table has 11 rows, with the first row (01) containing the name *Clark George*. Below the table is a "Table Entry" window with columns for Line Number, Sheet Letter, Sheet Number, Family Number, Name Surname, and Name Given Name. The "Table Entry" window shows a list of line numbers from 01 to 11, with 01 selected. A "Field Help" window is open on the right, explaining the "Line Number" field. At the bottom of the software window, a status bar shows "Image 1 of 1 | Record 1 of 50 | * Required Field: Line Number | Completion: 0% | Download Complete".

Events Calendar

BAGS Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) Members are invited to attend all meetings	
■Saturday, February 17, 2007	9:30 am - 12 noon “Genealogy – A Basic Course in Family History”, UBC
■Monday, February 19, 2007	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Friday, February 23, 2007	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “Texas History in Slave Trade Records” Speaker: Kathryn Black Morrow
■Tuesday, March 6, 2007	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■Saturday, March 24, 2007	8:30 am Joint BAGS / CLF Seminar, UBC
■Monday, March 26, 2007	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■Friday, March 30, 2007	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC “Harris County Archives - A review of County Holdings” Speaker: Sarah Canby Jackson

Don't miss out on an opportunity to have your own **BAGS tote**. For only **\$20**, you can have this great tote with our BAGS logo for carrying your genealogical material on trips to Clayton Library and everywhere else.

This sporty tote has a roomy zippered main compartment with shoulder length handles. It features a front slip pocket, pen and business card pockets on the front, cell phone pocket and mesh water bottle holder on sides.

These totes will be on sale at the February meeting.



Yearbook

Neil Miserendino, Editor

We will be distributing the new yearbook at the February meeting. Every member is entitled to one copy of the yearbook with the restriction of one copy per family membership.

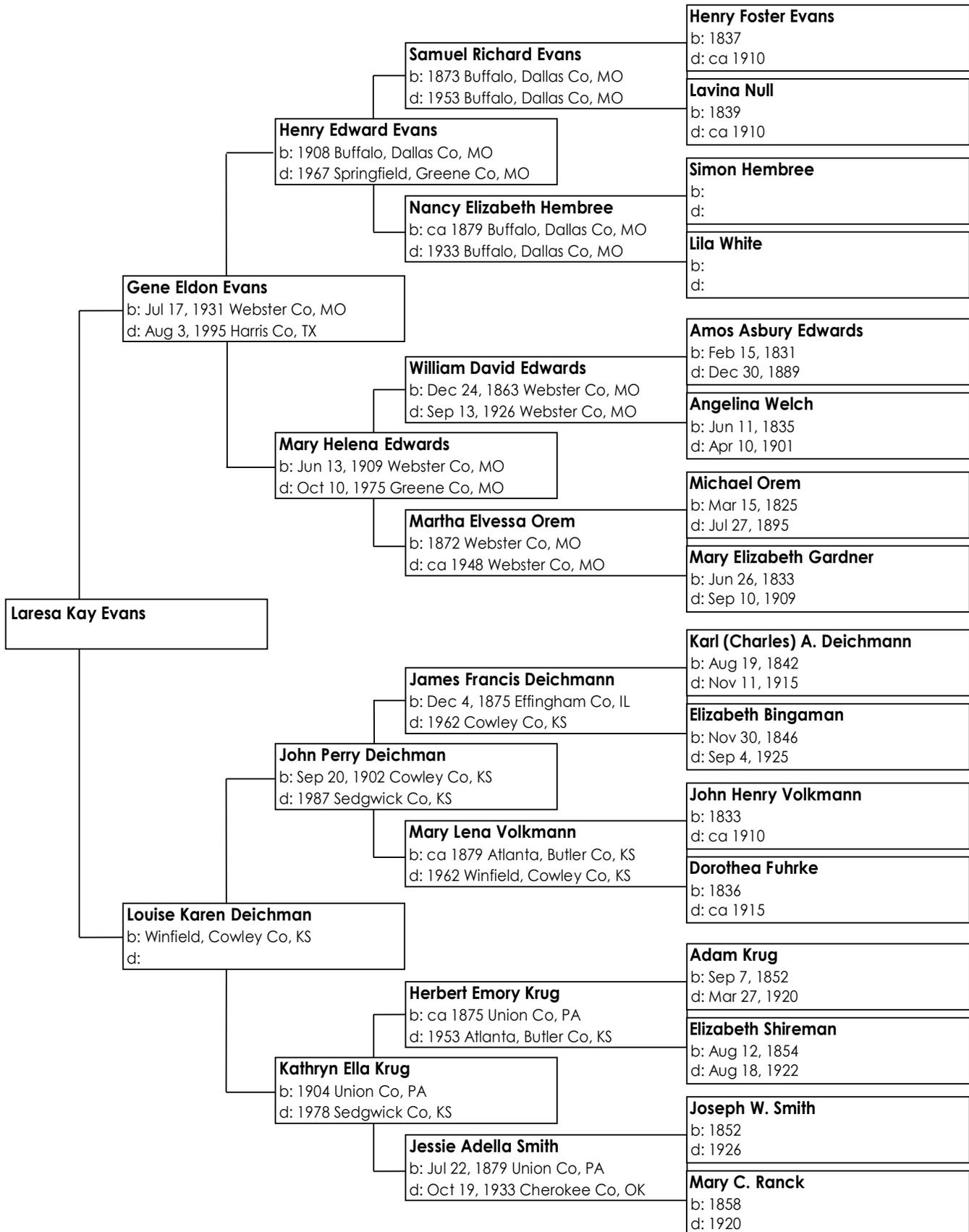
Kudos

Kudos to Alice Braud-Jones! On February 12th Alice provided a presentation to the League City Genealogical Society explaining how to prepare, plan, and conduct genealogical research at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C.

Kudos

Kudos to Leo Waltz! Leo provided a multimedia presentation introducing BAGS to the 50+ seniors group at the Clear Lake City-County Freeman Library on February 9th. The presentation and color brochures covered the BAGS mission, programs, bus trips, workshops, library exhibits, and website.

Ancestors of Laresa Kay Evans



Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, Coordinator



To attend one of our Clayton Library trips, please arrive before 9:00 am. at the parking lot of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street, Houston, TX. The county bus departs promptly 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 go with us on any of these trips, please contact Mary Martin at 281-332-2435, or email Mary at [lmartin497 <at>aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings. We have an interesting time searching for ancestors, and we enjoy each other's company riding on the bus.

The Society's website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, always has a current listing of library trips. Bring a sack lunch and join us to see what you can find.

Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

Give a big welcome to our new members Dianna Wisdom Miller of League City, Vernon Gillette of Houston, Eleanor Caldwell of Houston, and Melody M. Hauch of League City. We thank Ms. Miller for her generosity in supporting the Society at the Patron Level.

Membership applications for new or reinstating members can be found on the BAGS website. You may take 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.

Newsletter Part-time Composer Wanted

Kim Zrubek, Newsletter Editor

Lay out and design the monthly BAGS Newsletter from articles and events gathered by the editor.

Part time; share alternate months with one other composer. Requires high-speed Internet access. Training and software suggestions provided. Contact Kim Zrubek, editor at newsletter@txbayareagen.org.

Library Committee

Shirley Lindquist, Chairman

Shirley Lindquist and Carole Varnado installed an exhibit publicizing the BAGS organization and the love for genealogy at the Friendswood Public Library. The exhibit was on display for the entire month of January 2007. The committee is looking forward to providing exhibits at both the Freeman Public Library in September 2007 and Friendswood Public Library in October 2007

BAG\$ Report

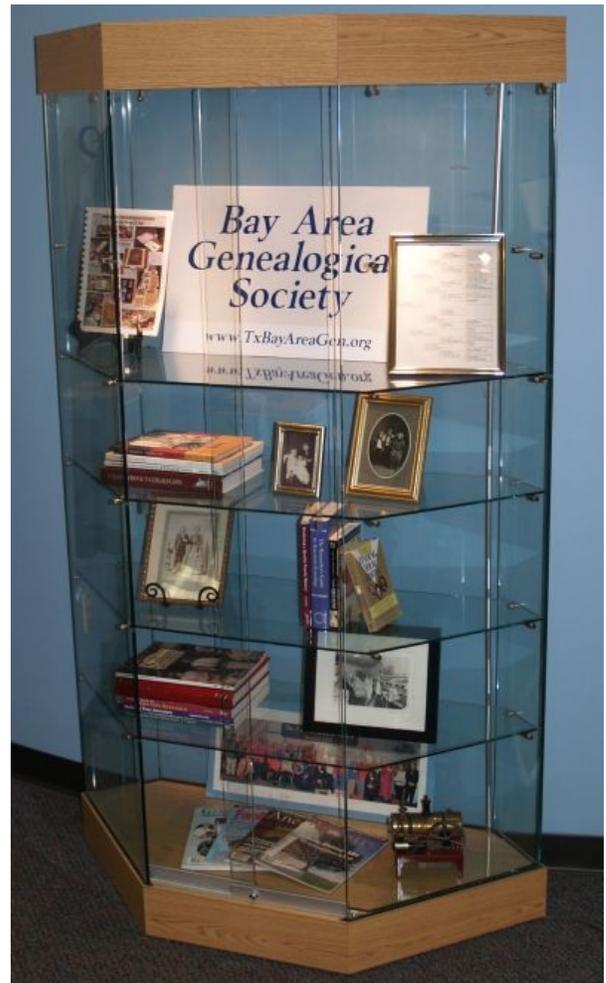
Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$7,221.47
Income	+\$758.75
Expenses	-\$592.65
Balance on hand 01/31	\$7,357.57





BAGS Exhibit at Friendswood
Public Library January 2007



BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



REMINDER

General Meeting
Friday, February 23, 6:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
March Issue is
March 10, 2007

[REGISTER NOW TO RECEIVE BETTER PRICE!](#)

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, D.C.-based Director, National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) National Institute of Genealogical Research, is a contributing author to *Professional Genealogy* and 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)

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)

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

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