



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 6, Issue No. 8

April 2007

April Meeting: General Sam Houston

Gems from Genealogists



Kathleen Shanahan Maca, a BAGS member, has an article published in the March/April 2007 issue of Family Chronicle pp.13-15 entitled "Messages from the Dead" which explains the symbolism of various gravesite adornments, providing easy family history clues. This magazine can be found at the Clayton Library.



Dug up by: Rose Mary Fritz

Inside BAGS ---

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Cemetery Transcription
- 4 BAGS News
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 6 Featured Ancestors
- 7 Committee Page
- 8 Online Extra (appears in online version only)

Speaker: James Hodges, Ph.D.



On Friday April 27, 2007, James (Jim) Hodges, PhD, professional speaker and author, will bring the ethical and universal principles of General Sam Houston to life. Jim possesses extensive knowledge of this great hero. He relates the messages of one of Texas' founders with a fundamental reverence for what General Houston was able to accomplish for his country. He is a compassionate and gifted storyteller, giving vivid accounts of Texas history, both serious and amusing, while imparting messages of hope, strength, perseverance and universal faith!

After a long and successful business career, Jim is now a full-time public speaker characterizing Sam Houston and George Washington. At the BAGS December 2006 Holiday Banquet, members and guests enjoyed Jim's resurrection of George Washington with his program "Against All Odds - Victory of Yorktown, Summer 1781".

Jim is a member of the National Speakers Association and several historical and patriotic groups. He is the recipient of the "George Washington National Honor Award" from the "Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge." For his dedicated work as a motivational speaker, Jim was made an honorary Son of the Republic of Texas.

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

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

All rights reserved.

Message from the President

Loren Martin

Being a very rabid baseball fan, this time of the year I am always excited and have high hopes and expectations for my Kansas City Royals (and adopted Houston Astros). I love baseball because of its wonderful history and the fact that records and historical events are so very important to the sport. Maybe that is why I also love genealogy.

My ancestors were a part of the history of this great country and the facts about them have shaped me. My family is like a baseball team. Every little past action, movement from one location to another, success, and hardship have formed the basis for today and the future of my children and grandchildren. The recording of all the facts about the history of baseball is what makes baseball special. Similarly, the recording of all the facts about our ancestors is what makes genealogy special.

Please consider sharing your family records and stories in the BAGS Newsletter or Quarterly. Sharing family information is like planting seeds that with care and feeding will grow with the help of others.

Springtime is a wonderful time for genealogists to “roll up our sleeves and get digging to be able to harvest” even more information. The Bettag seminar hosted in March was tremendously successful. This event has jump started this spring season for our BAGS organization. Our next wonderful spring activity, the Mt. Olivet Cemetery project, has just begun. Please consider participating. Details are provided in this issue on page 3.

Loren



Welcome New Members!

Gwen Pryor of Houston
Christina Ronshausen Terrell of Webster

Gwen was the lucky winner of a free BAGS membership at the recent Bettag seminar. She is a retired teacher. Christina is a retired nurse.

BAGS is pleased to announce that the society has entered into an agreement with Mt. Olivet Cemetery to embark upon a cemetery transcription project, effective immediately.

Mt. Olivet Cemetery is one of five cemeteries owned by the Galveston-Houston Catholic Diocese and is in its 55th year of service to the community. The cemetery is located in Dickinson, TX just ½ mile south of FM 517 on the I-45 South feeder road. Over 6000 are laid to rest in this quiet, reverent setting. Its director informs us that approximately 30% of the graves have never been memorialized, which makes this work even more urgent, to assure there is a complete listing of those interred.

As of this writing, more than 28 members representing not only BAGS but other organizations such as League City Genealogical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and United Daughters of the Confederacy have signed up to participate in this worthwhile project.

The first training session for transcribers was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 and 23 transcribers were present. We gave instructions, rules, and assignments before we “walked the cemetery” to verify rows and parameters. A second training session will be held on a weekend. Later sessions will be scheduled as the number of member participants dictates.

If you are interested in “walking the cemetery” with us, contact Alice Braud-Jones at: genealijonz@houston.rr.com to attend one of the training sessions and be assigned to a team. The process of “walking the cemetery” includes physically walking each row to check and transcribe all information on the headstones, determining the condition of the stone and type of material of which it is constructed, and whether it is damaged or there are other factors affecting its longevity and appearance. All transcribers must attend training prior to participation in the project. After training, transcribers will receive their badge (which must be worn at all times while working in the cemetery). Volunteers may choose their own co-worker/team member or be assigned a co-

worker by the committee.

If you would like to participate but cannot “walk the cemetery,” there are also vacancies for volunteers to create an electronic record of the transcriptions. Please contact Neil Miserendino at: psrambling@aol.com if you are interested in assisting in the electronic data entry process.

The committee expects the project to last for approximately one year so feel free to join in when you have the opportunity. Once training and badging is complete, team members may work on their own schedule, at their leisure. All who participate in the cemetery transcription project do so at their own liability and accept complete responsibility for their own safety and any injuries that may occur while participating in this project. Neither BAGS nor Mt. Olivet Cemetery assume any liability whatsoever regardless of the situation or circumstances.



NIGR Director Brings Research Tips to Texas

Claire Miré Bettag, director of NARA's National Institute of Genealogical Research (NIGR) Washington, D.C., presented a four-lecture program to over 100 members of the Texas genealogical community. Co-sponsored by Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS) and Clayton Library Friends (CLF), Ms. Bettag dined on Friday evening with board members and officers of several local genealogical societies. On Saturday, March 24, 2007, the former National Genealogical Society Quarterly co-editor and Samford IGHR Program Coordinator presented problem-solving and research techniques to interested participants who joined the group from as far away as Refugio, Victoria, Garland and Austin, TX. BAGS goal is to continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities in the future and the board welcomes ideas and participation from society members. Have you signed the BAGS "Can Do List" for 2007?



Melodey Hauch Claire Bettag Betty Ryman Betty Dunquez



Ms. Bettag challenges assumptions

BAGS Buys a Paver

BAGS is pleased to participate in the Clayton Library Friends Brick Campaign to raise \$1M by purchasing an 8" X 8" paver with inscription for \$500.00. This paver will be prominently displayed on the walkway leading up to the newly renovated Clayton House. The campaign is in support of the \$7M renovation of the Clayton House complex. Follow the restoration progress at www.claytonlibraryfriends.org.

BAGS Cookbook

by Claudia Grafton

The cookbook committee offers many thanks to all BAGS members who have donated their time and energy toward our Cookbook Project. We are off to a great start!

We are striving to make this more than just your "typical cookbook." It is our intention to incorporate family stories and photographs, along with local aspects of the Bay Area. Every member will be contacted by October for contributions. You may embellish from your past as much as you wish and feel free to go "above and beyond" the normal effort of sharing your recipes with us and tie in the memory, photo, or situation that connects you to each recipe. Anything that is entertaining, informative, and yummy is welcome. Photos, maps, etc., should be copies and we would prefer all submissions to be typed or electronically mailed as a Microsoft Word file attachment.

For some of us, this could be our only published work, so let's have fun and make this cookbook a "delicious read" in every way! We are now asking for input in the following areas: One Bite Wonders/Appetizers, Soups, Salads, Side Dishes, Southern Comfort Foods, Special Palates (diabetic, food allergy, etc.), Family Classics, Desserts, and Holiday recipes.

Send all "goodies" to Neil Miserendino psrambling@aol.com or Resa Hennings resa@resa.us.

Send ideas, comments, or questions to me claudiamg10@gmail.com or contact us at any BAGS meeting.

Events Calendar

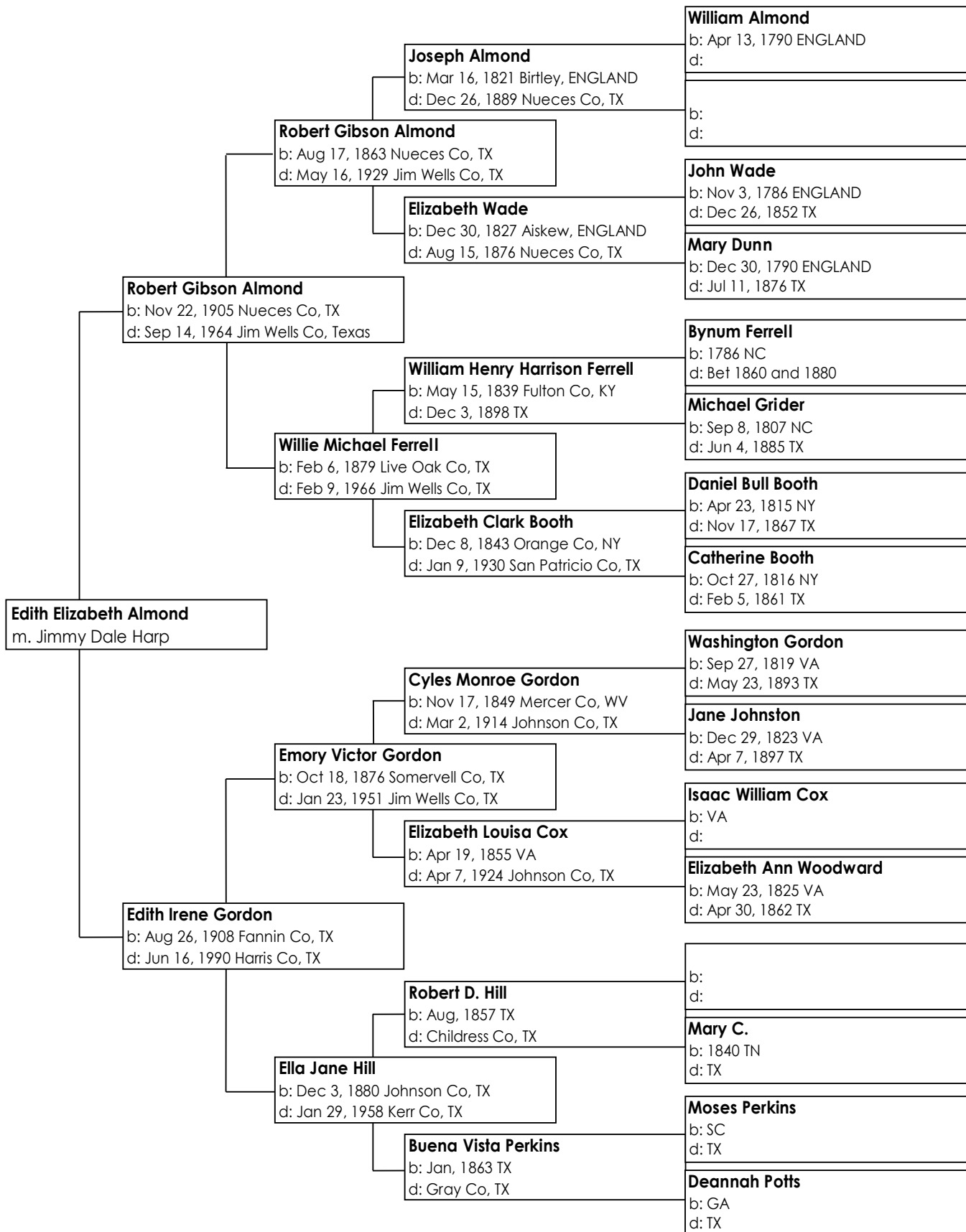
**BAGS Meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC)
Members are invited to attend all meetings**

■ Monday, April 23, 2007	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■ Friday, April 27, 2007	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC "General Sam Houston" Speaker: James Hodges
■ Monday, May 21, 2007	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
■ Friday, May 25, 2007	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, Great Room, 2nd Floor, UBC Program and Speaker to be determined
■ Wednesday, May 30, 2007	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■ Monday, July 9, 2007	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
■ Wednesday, August 22, 2007	9:00 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library

Events in the Area

- **FREE Genealogy Workshop** sponsored by the League City LDS Family History Center on Saturday April 28, 2007, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, lunch will be provided at no cost. For details on classes and RSVP, call 281-996-9346. Seminar location is 4655 South Shore Blvd., League City. Classes include Hispanic, Italian, and German research; beginning research; using census records; using Internet and computer programs; scanning photos and preserving documents.
- **United Daughters of the Confederacy Day** at Clayton Library on Saturday April 28th, 10:00 am - 4:00pm. Oran Milo Roberts Chapter 440 UDC members will be on hand to assist prospective members.
- **Clayton Library Orientation**
1st Wednesday of each month 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
3rd Saturday of each month 11:00 am - 12:00 am
Learn about the vast resources and how to efficiently utilize genealogical research materials housed at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. Reservation required, call: 832-393-2600
- **Genealogical Research Mini-Session** at the Clayton Library 2nd Thursday of each month. 2:00 PM - 3:00 pm. Different research source topic is discussed each month. To find out details and make a reservation, call: 832-393-2600.
- **The Master Genealogist (TMG) Software Training Class.** 3rd Saturday of each month at Nassau Bay City Hall, 1800 NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay, TX. Enter the back of the building. Classes are for the beginner to the advanced genealogist, everyone is welcome, no charge. For more information call 409-744-4359 or 713-946-7555 or email Betty Dunquez (Galveston County TXGenWeb coordinator) at Bdunquez@aol.com

Ancestors of Edith Elizabeth Almond



Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Come join us on a trip to the Clayton Library. We have three trips scheduled for this summer on **Wednesday, May 30; Monday, July 9; and Wednesday, August 22.**

We 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 go with us on any of these 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.

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 spot becomes available, and it will be listed on the website as soon as it is scheduled. We have a good time on the bus and at the library chatting with each other and sharing information. Bring a sack lunch and join us to see what you can discover about your ancestors! There is a delicatessen on Caroline about two blocks from the library if you would like to take a walk and get a sandwich instead of bringing a sack lunch.

BAGS Officers for 2007-2009

The Nominating Committee is in the process of considering nominees for positions on the Board of Directors. We'd appreciate your help. Please contact Shirley Lindquist at 281-286-4125 with suggested names to serve on the board.

BAG\$ Report

Resa Hennings, Treasurer

Balance brought forward	\$9,028.59
Income	\$1,870.65
Expenses	-\$1,493.26
Balance on hand 3/31/2007	\$9,405.98

Membership

Rose Mary Fritz, Registrar

We received word that Pat Bates, a charter member, has moved to Georgetown.

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.

Wanted: 5 Generation Charts

Publish your new or updated generation chart in the BAGS Newsletter. Provide Carole with your family information and she will create the newsletter chart. You will have the opportunity for final approval before publication. Send to Carole Varnado, 3711 Canary Grass Lane, Houston, TX 77059 or email to varnado@houston.rr.com.

Wanted – Newsletter Composer

If you have one week available every other month, please consider serving as our newsletter composer. Design and lay out the newsletter from articles and events gathered by the editor. Two composers will share the job, responsible for publishing alternating months. The job requires Internet access and publishing software. Training and software suggestions will be provided. Contact Kim Zrubek, editor newsletter@txbayareagen.org.



City of Houston



Houston County

TEXAS HONORS SAM HOUSTON'S NAME



Senator Sam Houston

BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



REMINDER

General Meeting
Friday, April 27, 6:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
May Issue is
May 9, 2007