



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 7, Issue No. 10

June 2008

Friday, June 27, 2008 at 6:00pm: Casey Edward Greene presents *Trimming the Family Tree: Genealogical Sources in the Rosenberg Library*

Mr. Greene will speak on the holdings and services of importance to genealogists available at the Rosenberg Library's Galveston and Texas History Center (www.gthcenter.org) located at 2310 Sealy Ave. in Galveston, Texas ([online map](#)). He will review a variety of materials available at the center, including Galveston city directories, ship passenger manifests, tax records, property records, vital records (particularly mortuary and interment records), church and cemetery records, and newspapers. His presentation will include examples of these kinds of materials, as well as offer insights and tips regarding the best way to utilize them for genealogy research. Casey will discuss newspaper indexes (e.g. Newspaper Archive) which offer direct access to information, including obituaries printed in 1 million plus pages of the Galveston County Daily News.



Mr. Greene serves as Head of Special Collections at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, Texas. He has been employed at the library since 1984, serving as Assistant Archivist (1984-1994) and then as Head of Special Collections (1994-current). He is a charter member of the Academy of

Certified Archivists, recertifying by petition in 2007. He is active in the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and served as chair of SAA's Archives Management Roundtable, 2001-2007.

**Join us for pot luck dinner and the program on
Friday, June 27 at 6:00 pm.
We meet at the University Baptist Church
in the Great Room, 2nd floor.
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Clear Lake City- [online map](#))**

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BAGS - July 25 general meeting

Bring your scrapbooks to share. Cary Lynne Hall from the Clayton Library will discuss the basics, tips, and tricks for scrapbooking your family history.

BAGS - August 29 general meeting

Start thinking about what you want to share at the annual show & tell program!

BAGS Officers

President

Resa N. Hennings
president@TxBayAreaGen.org

First Vice President

Alice Braud-Jones
VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org

Second Vice President

Claudia Grafton
claudiamg10@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Renee Ball
houstonrb@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary

Lee M. Jared
leejay4339@aol.com

Treasurer

Ed Harris Jr.
erh.jr@earthlink.net

Registrar

Tammy Frey
registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

Newsletter Staff

Editor / Compositor

Kim Zrubek
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

Proofreaders

Alice Braud-Jones
Barbara Stanley
Carole Varnado
Dick Warren

Photographers

Neil Miserendino
Leo Waltz
Doug Wilson

Distribution

Shirley Robbins

Message from the President

Resa Nichols Hennings



The current BAGS year will be ending August 31. It is a logical time to reflect on several vitally important issues.

One item recently discussed by the BAGS Board is our meeting place--University Baptist Church (UBC). We continue to have a good relationship with the church and are pleased to consider it home since our founding in 2001. As is obvious, UBC has a very large and active congregation. Consequently, on a couple of occasions, we have had to work very tediously with church officials in order to keep our confirmed meeting dates and times on their calendar. UBC allows outside groups such as BAGS to use the building for a nominal fee. The church leadership is currently revamping the system by which they schedule meetings of church and non-church groups alike. In the interim, our Board has been looking at other locations, in case a change becomes necessary. Only after the church announces its new policy and we have reviewed it, will the decision be made to stay or relocate. IF the decision were made to relocate, that would be the perfect time to reconsider if our meeting day and time are still convenient for the majority of BAGS members.

Second, it is important that BAGS provide speakers at general meetings who address topics that are of interest to the membership. Your input is extremely valuable in this regard and your preferences are requested.

Last, but most certainly not least...member participation. As I have indicated several times throughout the year in this column and at general meetings, we need more of you to help. Most officers, committee chairmen, and volunteers are the same people who have been doing most all the work for seven years. They are tired. They are frustrated that more members do not volunteer to serve a stint. The torch must be passed. If no one is there to accept it, the torch will burn out and that will be the demise of BAGS. I am sorry to say, but that is the unvarnished hard truth. As examples: no one has volunteered to serve on the Freeman Library Display committee. Therefore, it appears BAGS will not have a presence at the library this year. Thus far, only two people have signed up for the Christmas dinner committee. (continued on page 3)

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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Christina Terrell has agreed to serve as
Publicity Chairman.
Kathryn Morrow has agreed to serve as
Scholarship Chairman

Thank You

Welcome To Our New Member!

We are pleased to welcome new member
Kay Warren Kopycinski of Houston to BAGS.

Be sure to greet her at the next meeting!

President's Message (continued from page 2)

That is too big a job for only two people, so if more of you do not offer to help, there will be no holiday event this year. It is just that simple.

In the next couple of weeks, all members should expect to receive a "Tell Us What You Think" questionnaire by e-mail. For those of you who do not have e-mail, or for those who wish to respond anonymously, the questionnaire will be handed out at the June 27 general meeting. It will also be placed on our website. The questionnaire will ask your opinions on the above and other items. I ask that each of you take a bit of time and provide a thoughtful response. The Board can only satisfy member requests if we know precisely what they are. I thank you for your input and I know that, together, we will all make BAGS better than ever!

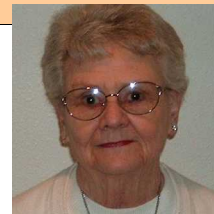
Resa

Traveling to Missouri this summer?

Consider visiting the new Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri, located at 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road. This is a new updated facility for the Genealogy and Local History Branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library system. Dedicated on June 21, 2008, this library has a uniquely expansive circulating collection and almost completely open stacks. New technology available includes microfilm reader-printers, two self-digitization stations, and significant database access. Library's phone, website and hours are 816-252-7228, www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/mgc.htm, Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday 9am-6pm, and Saturday 9am-5pm.

Kudos to Mary Brandhorst!

BAGS member Mary Brandhorst was named by the National Society, U. S. Daughters of 1812 as the Outstanding State Registrar at their National Associate Council meeting held in Washington, D.C. this spring.



Mary was born in Mobile, Alabama to Thomas Huggins Drummond and Mary Agnes Brunson. While Mary was still young the family moved to Beaumont, Texas. There Mary met and married Wilson Crews "Pete" Brandhorst. After Pete's service in the Korean War, the family settled in Texas City where Pete was employed by Carbide Company. Mary worked as an analyst in the laboratories of Monsanto and Gulf Chemical Company until her retirement. Mary and Pete (now deceased) raised a family of three children, Crews, Terry and Julie, now Mrs. C. Barnes. Four grandchildren, Crews and Erin Brandhorst and Mary and Christopher Barnes, complete the family.

As outgoing registrar of the Francis Fleshhart Chapter, Mary is an accomplished genealogist who has served as an officer in Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, Daughters of American Colonists, Daughters of the American Revolution, Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars, and United Daughters of the Confederacy. She is also a member of the Jamestown Society. Her exceptional research skills have assisted many in their effort to attain membership in various organizations.

Thanks Mary for all that you do!

Texas Deaths, 1890-1976

Abstracted information and original images of Texas death certificates from 1890 to 1976 are accessible for **free** on the Internet provided by LDS FamilySearch indexing projects at <http://search.labs.familysearch.org>. Notice there are other wonderful free indexes available on this website that may be helpful to your research. To access the Texas death certificate index, scroll down on that page and select "Texas Deaths, 1890-1976". You can search by year, place, and/or names of ancestor, spouse, and parents. This page also provides detailed information on the content and coverage of the records in this collection. Death certificates are a wonderful resource to access birth and death dates and places, residence, occupation, cemetery, spouse's name, parents' name, and informant's name. Clayton Library has the Texas death certificates covering 1903 to 1976 on microfilm. You will need the year, month, and county the person died in and the certificate number.

Answering Your Research Question: Melodey Hauch provides a wonderful example of recursively using several Internet resources to find family information.

Question: My husband's grandfather's death certificate is said to exist in a particular record book. However, the death certificate record is not for Frank Abner Herrington, but is for the death for Mrs. Frank Abner Herrington. Where do I go for his death certificate?

Melodey's answer:

1. I looked up Frank Herrington on www.Ancestry.com (accessible for free inside any Houston public library or Harris County public library) and checked the Texas Death Index. I saw that Mrs. Frank A. Herrington, the one you referred to in your question, died in 1950 in Anderson County, TX. There were five Frank Herringtons on the index, none for Anderson County.

2. www.Ancestry.com provided the World War I Registration Card for Frank Abner Herrington. The card showed his date of birth was November 15, 1887, and he was living in Frankston, Texas in Anderson County in 1918.

3. I again searched for Frank on www.Ancestry.com using 1887 as a birth year and found an entry for his family. According to the researcher, Frank A. Herrington died in 1975, and he and his wife Lucia Belle Beard were buried in Frankston City Cemetery. I found them listed on

www.FindAGrave.com. Frank's name is spelled with an a instead of an e, but it verified that he died in 1975. There is only one Frank Herrington spelled either way on the Texas Death Index who died in 1975. His death occurred in Cherokee County, near Anderson County.

4. The Texas death certificate abstracted information accessible for free by the LDS FamilySearch Indexing website <http://search.labs.familysearch.org> provided Frank Abner Herrington died on May 26, 1975 at Jacksonville, Texas in Cherokee County at the age of 87. His parents were William B. Herrington and Elizabeth Rhodes. The actual death certificate should also provide his cause of death and the date and place of his burial.

5. You can make a copy of the death certificate at Clayton Library. Use the Texas Death Index on microfilm to locate the death certificate number. Find the roll that covers Herringtons in 1975. Then look on that microfilm for the Texas Death Certificates microfilm roll that covers May 1975 in Cherokee County with his certificate number.

6. Looking back at the www.Ancestry.com entry for his family, he taught at Magnolia, Shaid's Chapel and Sand Flat, Texas.

BAGS Events Calendar

BAGS meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) located at 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059 (Clear Lake City) – [online map](#).

Members are invited to attend all meetings.

Monday, June 23, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, June 27, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, Great Room, 2 nd Floor, UBC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Program: Casey Edward Greene, Head of Special Collections, Rosenberg Library on <i>Trimming the Family Tree: Genealogical Sources in the Rosenberg Library</i>.
Wednesday, July 16, 2008	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, July 21, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, July 25, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, Great Room, 2 nd Floor, UBC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Program Speaker: Carey Lynne Hall, Clayton Library on <i>Scrapbooking Your Family History</i>
Wednesday, August 6, 2008	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, August 25, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, August 29, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, <i>Chapel, 1st Floor, UBC</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Show and Tell – Please consider bringing something to share with the group.
Tuesday, September 16, 2008	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library

Clayton Library Programs

Newspaper Resources – Put meat on the bones

Thursday, July 10 at 2:00 pm

So you have a relative's skeleton consisting of dates and places. Learn how to put flesh on that skeleton by creating a newspaper clippings file on the relative. Explore newspapers in their original paper form, on microfilm and electronic versions.

Free but reservation is required; call 832-393-2600. For adults and teens.

RootsMagic Users Group Demonstration

Saturday, July 12 at 12:00 pm

RootsMagic Users Group invites interested individuals to a presentation, discussion, and help session using this family tree software. You do not need to be using this software to attend. **Free but reservation is required; call 832-393-2600. For adults.**

German Research

Saturday, July 19 at 10:30 am

Free program presented by Gustav Hinds at the Friendswood Public Library (416. S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, [online map](#)). Discover printed and free online resources available for German genealogy research. Discuss migration patterns and how to read the Gothic script.

Cemetery Symposium

Saturday, August 23, 2008

Sponsored by The Harris County Historical Commission, topics covered include how to apply for a 501(c)(3), cemetery laws, recording cemeteries, the THC's Historical Texas Cemetery program, and the RIP Guardian Program. Trevia Wooster Beverly, Secretary of Harris County Historical Commission, is conducting an interest survey. If you are interested in attending, send her an e-mail treviauwbeverly@comcast.net.

Answers to Your Research Questions

(Continuation of questions addressed by the April BAGS "Demolition Day" program.)

Question: The person I am researching is listed in land documents as a grantee and/or grantor (depending on the document) but dates are after his death; how is this possible?

Answer: When land transfers hands, there is always a record. It is possible that land owned by a deceased person was transferred after his death, but not purchased. The land may have been divided up between his family members or other people according to his will after his death. Possibly, the deceased had not made plans for the disposal of his land before death. If there is a purchase in the name of a person who is deceased, it could be by the executor of the estate, one of his/her descendants, or another person with the same name. There are two dates on the land transactions, the date of the instrument (DOI) and the date of filing (DOF). Mary Martin has found as many as 11 years between these two dates on a land transaction. Most of these dates are within a couple of days of each other or within a month. This could make the date of a land transaction many years after the grantor has passed away.

Question: I was told that my husband's great-grandfather had a grocery store near a ferry business in Arkansas. How do I get more information?

Answer: Bradley, Dooleys, Elkins, Greers, Jenkins, Chalk Bluff and Threlkeld Ferries were all active during the Civil War in Arkansas. Use Internet search engine www.google.com to get a description of each of these. Enter the search terms: **Civil War Arkansas Ferries** and see the numerous entries and histories of these landmarks. Tracking your ancestor to the regions around these ferry landings may provide useful clues.

Break down your brick wall by asking for help. Ask your questions at the BAGS general meetings or post them to BAGS message board accessible on the [BAGS website](#) by selecting the "Queries" link.

Question: Looking for material for ancestors living in Georgia?

Answer: Susie Ganch suggests accessing the online catalog www.georgiahistory.com provided by The Georgia Historical Society, the state's oldest historical organization, founded in 1839. The collection contains millions of pages and thousands of photos, architectural drawings and maps. Because it is so extensive, it could not all be digitized at once. About 1/3 of the manuscripts are now listed. To dig deeper into the materials, you'll still need to visit.

What Our Members Are Researching

Take a look at the names a couple of our members are researching and see if you have any in common.

Doug Wilson is looking for:

Wilson – NY, NJ, PA (Scotland), before 1910

Giddings – NY, Great Britain, before 1900

Smith – NJ, NY, before 1900

Steinman – NY, PA, before 1880

Stoothoff – NY, (NJ?), before 1860

Costello – NJ, (NY?), County Galway, Ireland

Spangler – NY, PA

Wager – NY, Germany

Pettit (La Petite?) – NY, France?

Renee Ball: is looking for:

Dudley, Richard – Talbot Co., Maryland, 1669-1702 (Where was he from? How did he get to Maryland?)

Dudley (Fleming), Catherine – Kings Co., NY or Washington, D.C., b.1882 (Looking for a death record.)

Taylor (Chattaway), Sarah – Kings Co., NY, 1868-1899 (Looking for an obituary, marriage info, birth info.)

Taylor, Edward B. – Kings Co., NY, 1868-1940 (Record of marriage to Sarah Chattaway, obituary or death certificate.)

Do you want to share your surnames? If so, or if you wish to contact either of these members, email Tammy Frey at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

We have three more trips to the Clayton Library on **Wednesday, July 16; Wednesday, August 6; and Tuesday, September 16**. We had fourteen people join us at the Clayton Library on Tuesday, May 20. We had some new members go with us this time and we all had a good time. If anyone is interested in going to one of the other area libraries with a genealogical section, please contact me. We could also eat lunch in the area of one of the other libraries; however the entire group needs to do the same thing.

We meet in front of the **Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street** ([online map](#)).

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 e-mail 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. If you would like to join us for a trip to the library, bring a sack lunch. The library also has drink and snack machines in the snack room.

Tell us What You Think

A BAGS questionnaire will be available for pick-up at the June general meeting and on the website. Please respond and give us your opinions.

Thank you for your input.

Membership Report

Tammy Frey, Registrar

With the addition of our latest member, our membership now totals 180 fellow genealogists! Despite the summer "slow season," we had an excellent turn-out for Bruce Lockett's fascinating presentation on Civil War shipwrecks in Texas. Be sure to mark your calendars so that you can take advantage of the opportunity to learn from the other outstanding programs planned for this summer!

As always, please help us keep our information up to date. If you have any changes in or corrections to your information, such as address, e-mail, phone number, or other, notify us at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Your Help Is Needed

We are looking for members interested in:

- Collecting and installing a BAGS genealogical exhibit at the Freeman Library, scheduled for October 2008.
- Planning and organizing the Annual BAGS Holiday Banquet, scheduled for December 2008.

BAG\$ Report

Ed Harris, Treasurer

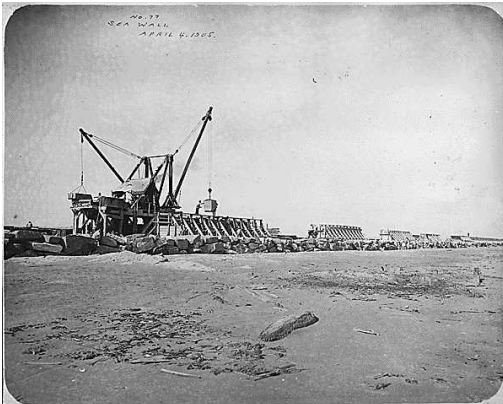
Balance Brought Forward	\$6,500.19
Income (includes seminar)	\$3,423.85
Expenses	<u>-\$3,048.27</u>
Balance on hand 05/30/2008	\$6,875.77



Contestants Bathing Girl Revue, Galveston, Tex., May 13, 1923, [Digital ID pan 6a24584](#), Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA



Ft. Crockett, Galveston, Tex., 1918, [Digital ID: pan 6a3061](#), Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA



[Galveston, TX] Sea Wall, No. 77, 04/04/1905, [ARC Identifier: 278141](#), Record Group 77: Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, 1789 – 1988 (National Archives)

BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



Checkout the
Galveston and Texas
History Center
Rosenberg Library
[online photograph holdings](#)

REMINDER

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

Deadline for
July Issue is
Saturday, July 5, 2008