



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 8, Issue No. 6

March 2009

Friday, March 27, 2009 at 7:00pm: Emily Croom presents "Not A Brick Wall Until..."

When you're stuck in your research, are you at a real dead end or are you simply frustrated and bewildered? Emily Croom will present strategies to tackle your challenge with appropriate preparation, research, documentation, and evaluation. Maybe you don't have a brick wall after all.

Besides numerous published articles and several family histories, Emily is the author of 5 well-known books on genealogy: *Unpuzzling Your Past*, *The Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook*, *The Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook*, *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists*, and *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors* co-authored with Franklin Smith. Many of the local area public libraries carry these books.



Visit her website *Unpuzzling Your Past* with Emily Anne Croom at www.unpuzzling.com to find Emily's articles, research tips, speaking schedule, and a list of her lecture topics.

Since 1999, Emily has presented classes at the annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference. This year's conference titled "Steps To Success" is scheduled for July 16-18, 2009. Emily will be presenting four classes: 1) "Crinoline and Calico: Researching Female Ancestors", 2) "Abiding and Leaving: Our Ancestors in City Directories and Obituaries", 3) "Proof and the PaperTrail: Documenting Your Genealogy", and 4) "You Be the Judge: Considering the Evidence". Details about the conference can be found online at www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Join us at 6:30pm for coffee and socializing.

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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April Program: *Demolition Day - break down your research brick wall by asking for help. Details on page 3.*

May Program: *Charlie Gardes discusses accessing and using fraternal organization records.*

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Message from the President

Resa Nichols Hennings

I am so pleased to see all the new faces at our monthly meetings. We've recently had a bumper crop of visitors, with many of you ultimately joining the Society.

That is great! "Welcome" to each of you.

It's important for our new members to know that, through Harris County Precinct 2, BAGS regularly schedules a bus for trips to Clayton Library (Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, 832-393-2600). I would suggest that new members sign up to ride the bus—especially those of you also new to genealogy. It is pure joy to sit back and let someone else negotiate the traffic! More importantly, it provides an opportunity to chat with experienced researchers for search tips and answers to the "How do I..." questions that we all have. The BAGS membership runs the gamut from certified genealogists to beginners. I assure you, somewhere in our organization is a person who will be able to answer your particular question or point you in the right direction. And that person just might be found sitting right next to you on the bus to Clayton.

The next trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2009.

Contact Mary Martin, County Coordinator, to reserve your seat on the bus. There is no charge. You may want to bring a sack lunch.

Resa

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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Welcome New Members!

We have six more new members to welcome to our Society!

Tony & Myrna Alvarez of Nassau Bay

Terry Smith Bowers of League City

Cathy, Kevin, & Bill Todd of Deer Park

DEMOLITION DAY

Breaking down those “Brick Walls”

April will once again bring an opportunity for BAGS members to inch closer to finding information on their past. At the BAGS general meeting on Friday, April 24, attendees will have two avenues to inquire about their genealogical research “problem areas”. First, a panel will address your research questions submitted prior to the meeting. Submit questions to Claudia Grafton at the March general meeting or via e-mail to her at claudiamg10@gmail.com by April 10. Second, “round table” discussions on specific themes will be available for you to sit in on and brainstorm with BAGS experts. Suggested “round table” themes to date are: military, across the pond, field research (court house, prep, etc.), cemeteries, and general questions and answers.

PLEASE REMEMBER this is a two-hour (maximum) meeting and our purpose is to GUIDE YOU to a more successful research. State your inquiries with basic information of dates, location and name (no relations). Please no personal embellishments. Save those for our “Show and Tell” August 2009 program.

Mark your calendar and come help your BAGS friends “break down” research walls. See you there.

-- Claudia Grafton, BAGS 2nd Vice President

SURNAMES OUR MEMBERS ARE RESEARCHING

Have you found any cousins among our BAGS members yet? Well, keep watching this list each month. Sometimes we genealogists have to sift through a lot of sand before we find a nugget of gold. But, when we do find a nugget, it all seems worth it!

As we list each month some of the surnames being researched by our members, you may think of a couple more that you would like to add to your list. Feel free to send them to me at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org and those names will be included in a future newsletter.

Jim & Marie Krnavek: Pentecost, Brooks, Jones, King, Stewart

Joe & Dorsey Kastetter: Kastetter, Karstetter, Kerstetter

Lewis Jarman: Jarman, Wheat, Thomas, Dorman

Lee Jared: Merrell, Miller, Phelps, Dawes, Garland

Nancy Irlie: Maynard, Irlie, McConathy, French

John Hoover: Hoover, Peck, Hubert, Featherston, Gates

Gus & Joan Homann: Simpson, Homann, Ainsworth, Parker, Arnold, Partin, Gorham, Gibbons, Gibson

Gerry Higgs: Sherman, Beach, Bickham, Meeker

Joyce Herrmann: Huff, Oakley, Lewis, Richards, Herrmann, Bachmann, Zburea

Eric & Resa Hennings: Nichols, Owen, Mann, Weems, Orrison, Payne, Howell, Hughes, Corzine, Bruster, Morgan, Kitchen, Linder, Hanks, Pennington, Freeman, Hanes, Beard

Research Using Migration Routes

BAGS is grateful to Kathryn Black-Morrow for presenting a program at the February BAGS meeting on one day's notice. Due to a family emergency, Bruce Lockett had to cancel his presentation but has agreed to return later in the year.

Kathryn presented a wonderful program on using migration trails to locate your ancestors. Attendees were encouraged to follow established trails, waterways and railroads while checking settlements along the route for hints of ancestors. She reminded us that people traveled a little, stopped and worked, and then continued on their journey. Kathryn recommended two resources: *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815* by William Dollarhide (available at Clayton and Moore Memorial Libraries) and *The Handy Book For Genealogists United States of America* published by Everton Publishers, Inc. (available at most public libraries).

The Handy Book For Genealogists is organized by U.S. states, providing a description for each state explaining who, when, where, and how the land in that area was settled. These descriptions help you to identify record sources (e.g. French, Spanish), early settlement areas, and settlers' migration origin and ethnicity. As a simple example, Virginia claimed the area of Kentucky prior to 1792. Look at Virginia records for ancestors living in the Kentucky area prior to 1792. Kentucky settlers came from Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. Therefore, search those state records for previous generations. Migration maps can also be found in the back of this book.

Also consider looking at *How the States Got Their Shapes* by Mark Stein (2008), a fun book revealing state by state the human struggles and events that resulted in the location of their present day borders. (Available at local area public libraries).

-- Kim Zrubek

Never Know What You Will Find And Where You Will Find It... So Keep Looking!

Southern and Depression Era Materials

The Slaves' War: The Civil War in the Words of Former Slaves written by Andrew Ward, published in 2008. Andrew Ward is a former National Public Radio commentator and an essayist for Atlantic Monthly and Washington Post.

While my father was reading Ward's book, he noticed the directory of *Witness Names and Epithets* listed as an appendix. We talked about the directory's value as a genealogical resource. As a test, I searched the directory for surnames printed in the February BAGS Newsletter. I did not have much success. However, recognizing the selected narratives were a subset of a much larger resource, I began reviewing the author's sources for the book's quotations. I was fascinated by the wealth of resources Ward pulled together to create his book. Specifically, there are three resources lists I wanted to share.

First, a free online resource *Documenting the American South* (DocSouth) published by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University Library provides full-text keyword search and browse access to primary source books, diaries, posters, artifacts, letters, oral interviews, religious pamphlets, maps, songs, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture. For this resource, American South is defined as all states that, at some point, have been considered within the geographic boundaries of the South. Access DocSouth online at www.docsouth.unc.edu. Use the search box in the upper right corner to perform a full-text keyword search across all the DocSouth digitized material. Try spelling variants. You can use quotes for literal searches and the Boolean search operators AND and OR. (continued on page 7)

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 invited to all events.
Public invited to visit general meetings.**

Friday, March 27, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Emily Croom presents "Not a Brick Wall Until...", discussing extreme research techniques. In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 8, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, April 20, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, April 24, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Demolition Day In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 20, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Tuesday, May 26, 2009 ***	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, May 29, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Charlie Gardes presents "Meet Me At The Raccoon Lodge: Researching in The International Order of Hoo-Hoo and Other Fraternal Organization Records" In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 3, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, June 22, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, June 26, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: speaker Cary Hall presents "Using City Directories in Genealogy" In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, July 8, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, July 27, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, July 31, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Burton Chapman, author of the book <i>Telephone Road, Texas</i>, discusses the eclectic history of Telephone Road in Houston.
Wednesday, August 19, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library

Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Our scheduled bus trip dates to the Clayton Library are:

**Wednesday, April 8; Wednesday, May 20;
Wednesday, June 3; Wednesday, July 8;
Wednesday, August 19; and Tuesday,
September 29, 2009**

We meet in front of the **Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane** ([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.

If you would like to join us for a trip to the library, bring a sack lunch. The library has drink and snack machines in the snack room. Think about joining us for a trip to the library. We always have a good time with each other looking for ancestors and trading information.

LDS Seminar, "The Portal"

BAGS thanks the Clear Lake LDS Church for hosting and co-sponsoring the exciting "Portal" seminar with BAGS! Fifty-two participants attended on March 7, 2009 to learn about the new programs, offering original documents, available only at the Family History Centers of the LDS churches.

For those who would like to explore the programs at the Clear Lake Family History Center at 1802 Gunwale Road, the hours are:

1st. & 2nd Tues. 11:00AM – 8:00PM
Wed. 6:00PM – 8:00PM
Thurs. 11:00AM – 8:00PM
Sat. 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Call 281-488-4406 to confirm opening hours.

-- Shirley Lindquist , Member Services

Membership

Tammy Frey, Registrar

Can you believe how quickly the year is moving? Don't let the weeks get away from you – mark the BAGS meetings and all your genealogy events on your calendars so that you won't accidentally miss something enjoyable. It is almost time for another interesting meeting. Be sure to bring a friend and join us! Last month, we had a number of visitors and added six new members. It was a great time of fellowship and learning more about ways to explore our family histories through migration routes. I can't speak for everyone, but after listening to Kathryn Morrow's presentation, I was inspired to go to the library and have been fascinated by what I have learned even in this short time! Don't miss out!

As always, it is important to keep our information up to date. If you have any changes in or corrections to your contact information during the year, please notify us at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Attendance Report

Jeanine Lawrence

For February, 52 members and 10 visitors attended the general meeting and 13 members attended the board meeting.

BAG\$ Report for February

Tina Chatham, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,314.97
Income	\$336.84
Expenses	-\$663.35
Balance on hand 2/28/2009	\$2,988.46
CD Balance	\$5,160.40

Stated income includes a deposit of 244.34 that was made in October but left off the Treasurer's report.

The search results are a list of documents. Within a document, the matches are not highlighted. Use your Internet browser search function to find the location of your keywords within the text. Browse the material by collection, author, title, or subject indexes using the navigation bar links located at the top of the page.

Second, the Federal Writers' Project material spans the years 1889-1942 and covers a wide range of topics including first-person narratives (called life histories) describing the feelings of men and women coping with life during the Depression, studies of social customs of various ethnic groups, and authentic narratives of ex-slaves about life during the period of slavery. Many of the quotes (and photographs) in Ward's book came from a series of interviews with former slaves conducted by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the 1920's and 1930's. In 1941, the Library of Congress (LOC) organized the approximately 2,000 narratives by state and informant name into 17 bound volumes titled *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves*. This material has been digitized and added to the LOC *American Memory African American History* collection and is called *Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938*. Free full-text keyword search and browse access is available. To search the contents, access the collection online at memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html, click on "Search by Keywords", and enter one or more words representing names, places, or events into the box titled "Search Full Text".

LOC also digitized the vivid life histories collected by the Federal Writers' Project during the Great Depression, providing free access to full-text keyword search and browse by state. The histories captured the person's family education, income, occupation, political views, religion, medical

needs, diet and miscellaneous observations. Read about "meeting Billy the Kid, surviving the 1871 Chicago fire, pioneer journeys West, of grueling factory work, and the immigrant experience." The digital collection is called *American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940*. To search the contents, access the collection online at memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html click on "Search by Keywords", and enter one or more words representing names, places, or events into the box titled "Search Full Text". Since the material is limited to 24 U.S. States, I suggest browsing by state (click on "Select a State" link, click on specific state, and then click on the "List All" titles link to view narratives available. -- Kim Zrubek

Announcing!

The seven year labor of love to renovate the Clayton House, Carriage House and Guest House is finally complete!

The entire complex has been renovated, freshly painted and landscaped, and the newly designed Carriage House meeting room is now open and ready for use. BAGS members can take special pride in this grand project, because our own Dick Warren was the President of the Clayton Library Friends (CLF) when the program began. Following Dick, BAGS 1st VP Alice Braud-Jones has served on the board for 5 years and currently serves as CLF President. Alice will guide the project through its final stages including the move into the various offices and other meeting facilities, now scheduled for late April. BAGS 2nd VP Claudia Grafton designed the CLF brochure for the patrons' viewing and assisted in organizing the grand opening ceremonies held on March 1 and March 2 with Mayor White. Her additional effort in initiating the new CLF Docent Program has made it possible to provide historical tours of the Clayton property for years to come.

Bravo to everyone who helped restore this wonderful historic landmark!

THE CRANBERRY IRON MINE

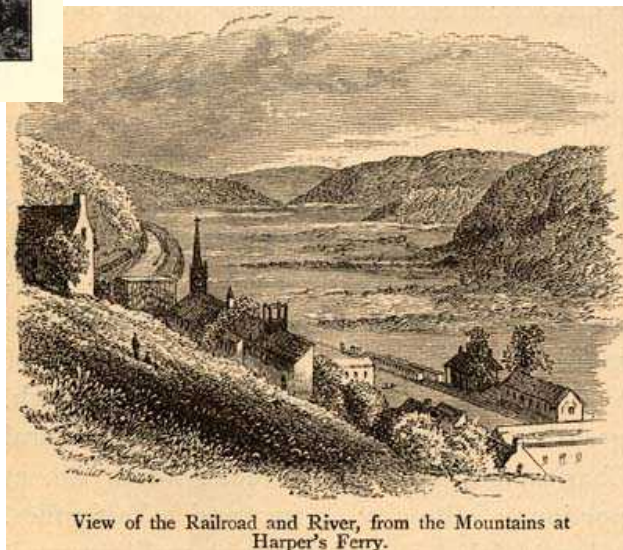


THE CRANBERRY IRON MINE.

Image 96 from *Documenting the American South* "North Caroline Experience Collection"
docsouth.unc.edu/nc/state/ill12.html, originally printed in *North Carolina and Its Resources* by North Carolina Board of Agriculture, published by Winston: M.I. & J.C. Stewart, Public Printers and Binders in 1896.

View of the Railroad and River from the Mountains at Harper's Ferry

Image 764 from *Documenting the American South* "North Caroline Experience Collection"
docsouth.unc.edu/nc/king/ill524.html, originally printed in *The Great South; A Record of Journeys in Louisiana, Texas, the Indian Territory, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland* by Edward King and illustrated by James Wells Champney, published by American Publishing Co., Hartford, Conn. in 1875.



View of the Railroad and River, from the Mountains at Harper's Ferry.

BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



REMINDER

Next General Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2009 at 7:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC
Socializing at 6:30 pm

Deadline for
April Issue is
Saturday, April 4, 2009