



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

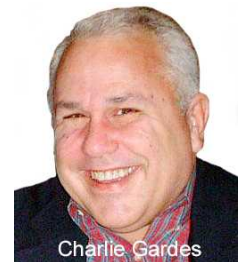
P.O. Box 891447
Houston, TX 77289-1447

Volume 8, Issue No. 8

May 2009

Friday, May 29, 2009 at 7:00pm: Charlie Gardes presents “Meet Me at the Raccoon Lodge: Researching in The International Order of Hoo-Hoo and Other Fraternal Organization Records”

Was your ancestor an Elk, Monkey, Buffalo, Sparrow, Knight, railroader, “Daughter of”, Shriner, etc.? Millions of Americans belonged to fraternal organizations since this country's inception. Your ancestor could have been a member of one or more of the approximate two thousand charitable, benevolent, or secret groups. Charlie Gardes will explain how to identify whether an ancestor belonged to one, which one, and what deep dark secrets those records may hold. Fraternal records can answer some of the questions we have, but they can also offer much more, including solving that decades old research puzzle.



Charlie Gardes

Charlie is a contributing author to [The Desperate Genealogist's Idea Book](#) edited by Jeannette Balleza. The majority of the book is available free for reading through [Google Books](#). Charlie's three-year search in finding and proving his German roots has been detailed as an immigration case study in Emily Croom's *The Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook*. Charlie has been an active member of the LDS Family History Center, [Houston Genealogical Forum](#), and [Clayton Library Friends](#). Charlie served as project manager for the recently completed renovation of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research that was awarded the *Houston Business Journal* Landmark Award 2009 for Historical Renovation ([online article](#) published April 13, 2009). He is Clayton Library Friends' 2009 Nominee for the Federation of Genealogical Societies Ruth C. Bishop Family [Living Volunteer Award](#). The winner will be announced at their convention in Little Rock, Arkansas in September.

Since 2005, Charlie 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. Charlie will be presenting two classes: 1) “Meet Me at the Raccoon Lodge” and 2) “What Did You Do in The War, Great-Grandpa? Tracing Your Civilian Ancestor in the Civil War South.” Details about the conference can be found online at www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm

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Meeting begins at 7:00pm. Public invited.

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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Message from the President

Resa Nichols Hennings



Our guest columnist this month is Alice Braud-Jones. Alice joined BAGS in December 2002 and was in charge of fund raising for a number of years. She has held the office of 1st Vice President since 2006. Busy Alice is active at all levels of the genealogical community and currently is President of Clayton Library Friends and Regent of her DAR group, the Sam Houston Chapter.

Resa

“JAM or PRESERVES”

by Alice Braud-Jones, 1st Vice President, BAGS

A society is only as successful as its contributing members.

Several years ago it was my privilege to voluntarily serve at DAR Headquarters in Washington, D.C. during Continental Congress. One of my duties was to assure that only authorized individuals entered the President General's suite. Those who have attended Continental Congress will understand what a feat attendance control can be. There are several thousand members milling about and trying to examine every nook and cranny of the various facilities. It can be an extremely daunting challenge to redirect such a group of strong-willed, determined women. At one point, my mentor described a very persistent lady as: “She's JAM”. Possessing not a clue of the meaning of that acronym, I queried her for an explanation. I was informed that it meant “just a member” (someone who wanted to avail herself of the benefits of the event but did not want to participate or assist).

How many of our BAGS members are “JAM;” those who do not participate in the operation of the society but take advantage of the benefits?

Some years back, former First Lady Hillary Clinton, coined a phrase that describes the challenges within BAGS (and many other organizations that rely on volunteerism): “It takes a village.” Well folks, at the very least, it takes a village to administer a society like BAGS. More accurately, you could say it takes an army.

In August of this year, our current board will complete its 2-year term.
(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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“JAM or PRESERVES” (continued from page 2)

Our Nominating Committee, on which 0 general members volunteered to serve, is having great difficulty filling leadership positions for the next term. Many members of the current board are literally exhausted; some having served for the last 4 years and others have continually served on the board for 6 and 8 years! All to assure that BAGS continues to have monthly meetings with outstanding programs and speakers, not to mention our excellent monthly and quarterly publications, and the various projects such as cemetery transcription, library displays, seminars, scholarship committee, etc.

To put it succinctly, we need your help! If you haven't served on the board in the past, I feel certain that you will find this service interesting and rewarding. BAGS has an outstanding group of dedicated board members remaining for yet another term. The BAGS Board meets regularly to assure that programs are well orchestrated and professionally presented, various projects are timely completed, and administration is in compliance with our 501-C (3) IRS exemption. Won't you come out and support our organization with your service? BAGS needs your assistance if we are to continue to be a viable genealogical society.

**Don't settle with being “JAM”
be “PRESERVES”**

**Positive, Responsive, Essential,
Serviceable, Energetic, Resourceful,
Vibrant, Engaged, Successful!**

IN MEMORIAM

Kathryn Rosanne Allen Frazier, portrait artist and fellow BAGS Member, passed away Tuesday, April 21, 2009. *Houston Chronicle* published her obituary on April 24 and it is currently available [online](#).

Our prayers go out to Kathryn's family.

SURNAMES OUR MEMBERS ARE RESEARCHING

Do you have in your ancestral line one of those surnames that seemingly no one has heard of? Well, share it with us, and then *lots* of people will have heard of it! Maybe someone who is not even in our society will see that surname in our newsletter on the Internet, and you will discover a new connection! That has actually happened to members of BAGS.

Meanwhile, here are the surnames some of our members are researching. As you can see, some of the surnames are unusual, while others are of the more common variety. Some of these members have a lot of information and research they could share. All of them would be pleased to receive any additional information that you might have.

Garry Garrett: Garrett

Susie Ganch: Ward, Watson, Atkinson, Ganch, Saccone, Habersham

Deborah Gammon: Coggins, Barkley, Culpepper, Manning, Gammon, Burgess, Fountain

Rose Mary Fritz: McDaniel, Andrus, Robertson, Lyons

Tammy Frey: Bullin, Tiffin, Montgomery, Bruce, Gwartney, Mangrum, White, Ogden, Dill, Moore, de Montmollin, Clark, Russell

Bill Frazier: Frazier, Allen, Brown, Williams, Butler, Davis

Royce Forman: Forman, Dever

Ernestina Forman: Farias, Casas

Ann Fogelman: Fogelman, Swartley

Regina Flynn: Skeffington, Dailey, Marron

Lynn Finger: Finger, Sennhenn, Vander Meulen, Fennema

Leslie Fehlman: Yves

If you have other surnames you would like to add to your list, send them to Tammy at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org and those names will be included in a future newsletter.

If you did not attend the April program Demolition Day: Breaking Down Those “Brick Walls”, you missed a fun informal question and answer session. The group sat in a circle discussed possible solutions to an eclectic set of research issues asked by individuals present. Several of those questions and responses are presented here to share.

Please direct any questions, comments, or additional suggestions on the following responses to the newsletter editor.

Interested in Swedish Research?

Clayton Library provides an electronic database *GenLine* accessible only within the library. The database consists of 16th to 20th century church records written in Swedish and organized by town.

A BAGS member is researching Russian ancestors and looking for someone that can read 1800 Russian Census content on microfilm.

Several suggestions offered included: 1) access student or faculty resources at one of the local universities or colleges, 2) contact the Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society or the German-Texas Genealogy and History Society and 3) submit a request on the *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* (RAOGK) website (www.raogk.org) for assistance. This resource is a web-based genealogical research co-op that functions solely by the services of volunteers. Several of the BAGS members serve as volunteers for Galveston and Harris counties. **Note:** Use Google to access a state specific ROAGK website. For example, search terms “Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness Texas” provided the Texas ROAGK www.raogk.org/texas.htm.

Ancestor was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. What war did the ancestor serve?

Several suggestions offered included: 1) records of those that left the country were kept at the

county courthouses and 2) local VFW post of the National VFW may have a record. The National VFW website (www.vfw.org) has a form to locate the nearest VFW post based on a ZIP code (emem.vfw.org/findpost.aspx). National VFW contact information: e-mail: info@vfw.org; phone: (816) 756-3390.

Note: Founded in 1899, the VFW is the nation's oldest and largest war veterans organization with over 1.6 million members.

Follow-up: Based on a phone call to the National VFW, they do not maintain records of deceased VFW members. They mainly determine eligibility based on the soldier's service record. So the researcher may need to follow regular military research methods of locating the ancestor's service record or looking for a pension or bounty land warrant record as explained by the National Archives military record section online at

www.archives.gov/genealogy/military.

Otherwise, call [Clayton Library](http://www.claytonlibrary.org) (832-393-2600) and speak with a reference librarian for assistance.

Looking for online map resource to show rivers and streams nationwide.

U.S. Geological Survey provides an online resource *Geographic Names Information System* (geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic) to locate features in the United States and its territories. There are over 2 million features recorded including items such as airports, cemeteries, schools, streams and trails. To locate a specific river, enter the river's name as the “Feature Name”, select the “State”, choose the “Feature Class” **Stream**, and click on “Send Query” button. The results list the locations where river appears across counties within the chosen state. Click on the feature name for the specific location of interest. On the right side of the detailed report is a list of “mapping services”. Click on the *HomeTownLocator*[®] link to view a map of the area with a pinpoint to the stream using *Google™ Maps*. Zoom the map in or out. Click on the “Satellite” button in the upper right area to switch to a satellite image of the same mapped area. **(continued 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.

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. In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 19, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, August 24, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, August 28, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS Annual Show & Tell In the Chapel on 1 st Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Monday, September 21, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, September 25, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Tuesday, September 29, 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, 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. We always have a good time chatting with each other and sharing information on our newest information on our ancestors. Some of us actually have ancestors who have lived in the same locations, and some of our members actually share ancestors. If you are new at genealogy or haven't been to the Clayton Library, it would be a good time to go. We have several experienced people doing genealogy who go on the bus, and the librarians are always available to help you find your ancestors. There is also a packet that the library gives to first time visitors that is very helpful. If you haven't been before, think about going with us; and leave the driving to the county bus driver.

BAG\$ Report for April

Tina Chatham, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$2,712.25
Income	\$14.75
Expenses	<u>-\$79.01</u>
Balance on hand 4/30/2009	\$2,647.99
CD Balance	\$5,178.71

Membership

Tammy Frey, Registrar

Genealogy is one of those hobbies on which you can spend as much or as little as you want. In these times of economic concerns, we are all trying to be careful where we spend our money. Being a member of BAGS is an excellent investment for those interested in genealogy. We currently have 187 members whose benefits include knowledgeable speakers on a variety of genealogical topics and top-quality publications of the Newsletter and Quarterly.

Volunteers coordinate all aspects of the various society functions from arranging our meeting room and speakers to scheduling free county bus trips. Being involved in the workings of your society is the very best way to really feel like you are a part of it. It is a great way to build relationships and get to know people. As with most things, you get a lot more out of something when you have invested yourself in it. Please consider what you can do to be more involved. You are important, and you are needed! Don't be shy – we would love to hear from you!

It is important to keep our member contact information up to date. We wouldn't want you to miss out on anything! 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 April, 42 members and 2 visitors attended the general meeting and 12 members attended the board meeting.

When you attend the general meeting, look for the minutes from the previous Society meeting printed on the back of the agenda.

Demolition Day Gems (continued from page 4)

How to determine the Texas cemetery where an ancestor is buried in 1920?

First, locate the person's death certificate. The certificate often provides the place, cemetery, or county where the person died or was buried. LDS FamilySearch provides a free online resource (pilot.familysearch.org that requires Adobe Flash Player) to locate birth, marriage, or death information worldwide. The records may include a scanned image of the original record. For Texas, LDS has a collection of death certificates from 1890 to 1976. To search the index, enter the surname, select the "Life Event" **Death/Burial**, enter the "Place" **Texas, United States**, and then click the "Search" button. **Notes:** Though Texas law required statewide registration of all deaths starting in 1903, records were not consistently kept until 1930s.

A list of cemeteries for a specific U.S. county can be located through Clayton Library resources, the LDS Family Search catalog, and the free online resource *USGenWeb* maintained by volunteers (www.USGenWeb.org). Access the specific U.S. state and then the specific county, then look for a link for cemeteries (the content for each county varies). Otherwise, visit with the volunteer responsible with that specific county.

Another free online resource *Cemeteries of Texas* (www.cemeteries-of-tx.com) provides inscription records, histories, photos, and directions for cemeteries in Texas and some in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and New Mexico. Browse the specific Texas counties on the main webpage. Or use the "Search" [link](#) at the bottom of the page to locate surname cemetery inscriptions.

For example, I found a Buffalo Soldier Private James Karrick, Company M, originally buried at Fort McKavett, Texas December 16, 1869 and re-interred at the San Antonio National Cemetery.

Cookbook Correction

On Page 20 of the *BAGS Cookbook* under "Three Bean Salad" it should read: **1/2 cup vegetable oil or 1/2 cup salad oil instead of 1/2 cup salad dressing.** It is one of mine, and I think that I may have entered this one into the computer wrong. It won't taste the same if salad dressing is used. My cousin caught this as she was looking at the cookbook while visiting me recently - sharp eye.

Mary Martin

Member Services Survey Results

Forty-four members completed a class topic survey. The survey showed eleven or more members indicated possible interest in the topics listed below. Kathryn Morrow Black presented a program on immigration and migration at the February BAGS general meeting. "How to Write Your Family History" class will be scheduled in the Fall, if a minimum of 10 people pre-register for the class. We are continuing our search for instructors for the classes of interest.

16 are interested in the topics: *Using the Internet for Research, Immigration and Migration Routes, and British Isles Research*

14 are interested in the topics: *How to Write Your Family History*, and *How to Prepare for a Research Trip*

12 are interested in the topics: *German Research* and *Military Research*

11 are interested in *Records and Repositories*

Shirley Lindquist, Member Services Chairman

BAGS Quarterly

Remember to pick up the March issue of the *BAGS Quarterly* at the May meeting and to start working on future articles. Several people at the April meeting mentioned that they are planning to transcribe some of their family journals or provide information on a family cemetery restoration. They will be welcome additions. If possible, email them to me at rmhauch@comcast.net or give me a DVD. Photos of the family members or cemeteries just make the article better, so share those with us.

Melodey Hauch, *BAGS Quarterly* Editor

Query Form For The United States And Its Territories

Feature Name: Feature ID:

Exact Match Exclude Variants

State:

County:

Feature Class: [Press Ctrl to select more than one.](#) [Definitions](#)

Elevation:

Feet Meters

Example of locating a creek (Salt Lick Creek in Kentucky) using the U.S. Geological Survey's free online *Geographic Names Information System* as described on page 4.

Send Query

Feature Name	Feature ID	Class	County	Latitude	Longitude	State	Source
Spruce Pine Fork	504179	Stream	Magoffin	373938N	0830758W	KY	Seitz
Clark Fork	511375	Stream	Bath	380151N	0833801W	KY	Olympia
Licking River	513416	Stream	Kenton	390530N	0843013W	KY	Covington
Salt Lick Creek	515191	Stream	Bath	380727N	0833623W	KY	Salt Lick
Salt Lick Creek	1269923	Stream	Macon	363947N	0855552W	TN	Fountain Run

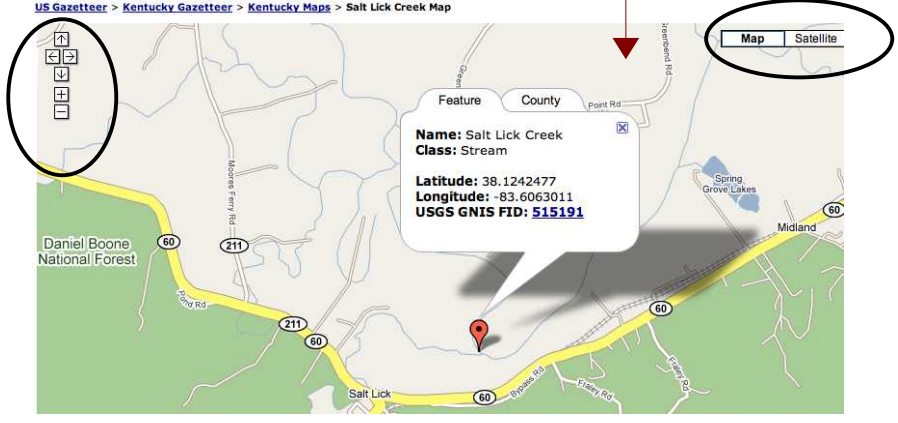
Feature Detail Report for: Salt Lick Creek

FeatureID: 515191
 Name: Salt Lick Creek
 Class: Stream ([Definitions](#))
 Citation: Collected during Phase I data compilation (1976-1981), primarily from U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000-scale topographic maps (or 1:25K, Puerto Rico 1:20K), various edition dates, and from U.S. Board on Geographic Names files.
 Entry_Date: 20-Sep-1979
 *Elevation: 650/198

Mapping Services

- [Click the link to display the feature in U.S. mapping services.](#)
- [GNIS in Google map](#)
- [HomeTownLocator](#)
- [ACME Mapper 2.0](#)
- [USGS The National Map](#)
- [Microsoft Virtual Earth](#)
- [TerraFly.com](#)
- [TerraServer D.O.D](#)
- [US Gazetteer](#)

*Elevations in feet/meters from the [National Elevation Dataset](#)



BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



REMINDER
 Next General Meeting
 Friday, May 29, 2009 at 7:00 pm
 Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC
 Socializing at 6:30 pm

Deadline for
 June Issue is
 Saturday, June 6, 2009