

Bay Area Genealogical Society General Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2014

President Shirley Lindquist called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The pledges were led by Lewis Jarman. Lewis then presented and promoted the padfolio and BAGS cookbook that is for sale. Lewis also promoted the Clayton Library Bus trips. Lewis announced that he is moving to Wichita, Kansas.

Shirley announced that the last Quarterly is available to members at the back of the room and the new Journal will begin with September 2014. She said that BAGS is now publishing a Journal instead of Quarterly because of lack of articles by our members and the Journal will be published only when there is material to publish.

Bill Mayo announced the August Potluck show and tell for August 29th. BAGS will provide the meat and everyone is asked to bring a potluck side dish along with their show and tell items.

Nick Cimino spoke briefly about the new mentoring program that will begin at our September meeting on September 26th. The mentors are Nick and Kim Zrubek. They will be helping individuals for 15 minutes only and showing each one "how to build a family tree at Family Search". They can provide computer help as well. Sign up sheet is on the back table.

Next BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library is September 23, 2014 and the sign up sheet is at the back of the room or you can email Mary Martin.

Eleanor Caldwell will provide Pedigree charts and worksheets if they are needed by members. She is available to answer questions.

Announcements from the floor:

Bill Mayo announced that the August meeting will begin at 6 p.m. downstairs in the chapel. And he said that parking at chapel door is available.

Polly Swerdlin, the new webmaster gave an update on the website for BAGS.

She announced that she recently experienced a huge learning curve, redesigning our web page TxBayAreaGen.org and uploaded it. She said that there are more pictures, a unifying color, and shorter pages to scroll through. And that each page will have the same header and menu on top. She eliminated the menu at the bottom to make it easier to edit. She said you will have to use “Ctrl Home” to find the menu again. Not all of the changes are done yet. She asked for us to be patient.

She plans to continue pulling the lengthy pages apart, like this year’s newsletters on the first page and links to previous years. The Articles page is a LOT of information. There is now a page called About Us. She needs somebody to finish writing BAGS’ history. That was something the review last year found missing. She asked for volunteers? She is having problems making the emails into links you can just click to send, something in the original coding is preventing her to make changes. She knows some html, but apparently not this, yet. And again she asked if anyone would like to collaborate with her. Her goal is to create a folder with a How-To, some account printouts, and backups every 3 or 6 months for “just in case” scenarios. She said that this project will require many eyes looking it over for mistakes, or ideas. Please feel free to send critiques, suggestions, and contributions. The site is hosted for free by rootsweb.

Bob Wegner, the registrar asked for renewals and thanked those that have already renewed. He also promoted the FGS conference. Someone in the room stated that the one day registration fee has been reduced. Sign up sheet is at back if someone needs a ride.

Our visitor for the evening was introduced. She is Terry Myers.

Mike McCown announced that he is available to explain DNA if someone needs help.

Tammy Frey, president of Clayton Library Friends encouraged BAGS members to join Clayton Library Friends organization. Membership forms are at back of room. She announced that Clayton Library Friends is trying to bring the popular TV show, Genealogy Roadshow to Houston and more information is on the handout for the evening.

The next Library Friends meeting will be about DNA.

Tammy introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Melissa A. Hayes. Ms. Hayes is the Assistant Branch Manager at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Services. Her area of expertise covers Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland and colonial era history with 30 plus years of personal genealogical experiences. Her goal is to open up the world of genealogy (family history) to adults and children alike. Melissa has worked in both academic and public libraries developing and implementing numerous story time programs and activities, adult programs and Summer Reading events. Melissa has B.S. in History Education from Frostburg State College (now Frostburg State University), Maryland and was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services Scholarship to complete her Master's in Library Science with Youth Services Certification from Texas University. She is a member of the DAR.

Melissa's presentation was a power point on "Second Wives Club" and How to find resources that will confirm a second marriage. On the 1910 Census she suggested using the column that says how long the couple have been married and check that with marriage license information. The 1940 census even has a question that states "Has this woman been married more than once?" So census records are good indications of second marriages.

