

Bay Area Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
27 January 2017

University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Rd, Houston

CALL TO ORDER: Kim Zrubek 2nd Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE: Pledges to the American and Texas flags were led by Mike McCown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign-in sheets: Be sure members and visitors have signed in. Visitors please include your address so we can send a thank you note.

Members remember to renew your annual membership for this Society year (Sept 2016-Aug2017).

New! - DNA help Desk available at Members Helping Members session in February 19, and March 12.

Thank you to members Glen Cress, Gale French and Mike McCown!

Bags will sponsor an exhibit during the month of March at the Freeman Library in Clear Lake City entitled Our Grandparent's Stories. Members are encouraged to share a story and/or memorabilia. Polly Swerdlin (pmswerdlin@gmail.com) is coordinating the set up. Bring your items to the February 24 meeting. Setup will be March 1 at 9 am. We have four large display cabinets to fill for the library.

BAGS Journal: Members are asked to submit an article (one or more pages) on one of their favorite ancestors. Send Journal editor Melodey Hauch (rmhauch@comcast.net) your text, pictures, and source information. Start with the story you shared for the library exhibit! Melodey will source and footnote articles for member.

BAGS promotional items and demonstration of Laptop Brief Bag by Registrar

Laptop Brief Bags (\$25), 4 GB USB Flash drives (\$10), and Cookbooks (\$10) donation's for each item.

Announcements from the floor: Oletia Teas had her son do a DNA test and found a relative that she had worked with on her grandfather's family tree in the 1960's.

We have 1 visitor who joined.

Program "Drilling Deeper with GPS by Nick Cimino, Professional Genealogist and BAGS 1st VP;
Introduced by Kim Zrubek 2nd VP.

Genealogical Proof Stand – GPS is the basic standard genealogist use for their work to be creditable.

Nick gave an introduction and review of three cases he has worked on to explain how this GPS assists in your searches. Five elements to GPS are: Reasonably exhaustive research conducted, Each statement of fact has source citation(s), Evidence is reliable and skillfully correlated and interpreted, Contradictory evidence has been resolved, and Conclusion soundly reasoned and coherently written. Any proof statement is subject to re-evaluation when new evidence arises. Five Questions re – GPS are: Who?, Board for Certification of Genealogists & Christine Rose 2005, What?, Method for Solving Gen. Problems, When?, Prior to Publishing, Where?, Gen. Journals, Books and Online, Why?, a) Accepted Standard to Build Solid Case, b) Indirect Evidence Method, c) Tool to Resolve Conflicts. A list of Texas Online records was proved for our use. A list of Texas Archives was given for our use. Building a solid case with GPS. The Process by Christine Rose: Conduct a reasonably exhaustive search among a variety of records. Is the class of information Direct or indirect Evidence, Original or Derivative Source, Primary or Secondary information, Weigh each piece of data keeping in mind WHO furnished info and WHY.

Evidence must all point in same direction, If not that evidence must be negated or refuted. If evidence points in same direction and no other conclusion can be reached then case has passed GPS and is solid. Write up the conclusion, include and explanation of any opposing evidence and how it was resolved include citations.

Evidence Process Map – Mills: always look for original.

A metaphor for Genealogical Proof: The Jigsaw Puzzle – T. Jones, 2010. Do the puzzle pieces belong to your ancestor puzzle? Do you have the puzzle pieces in the right place and in the right direction? With a sufficient number of pieces, a clear picture or reliable answer may emerge even when pieces are missing. Just as a picture emerges from assembled puzzle pieces, genealogical proof rests on the sum of evidence.

Summary Advice by Cimino: Question every date, place and name on any publication or original record. Look for the original source of all data. Look for every possible record source in online sites, microfilm, books, and archival repositories. Transcribe, analyze and compare every source record for every detail it contains. Write and re-write the story based on available evidence at every phase. Followed by question and answer session: Is DNA creditable evidence, Portal for URL Archives, Harris County business records, Family Search WIKI and many more on the topics of GPS Standards.

Future Events:

Recap Session for this general meeting on Saturday, February 4, from 11 am to noon in the Friendswood Library.

Clayton Library Bus Trip on Thursday, February 16, Met at the Clear Lake Recreation Center.

Members helping Members, Sunday February 19, at Helen Hall Library from 2 pm until 4 pm.

Next Membership Meeting on Friday, February 24. Potluck dinner begins at 6:30 pm. To listen to Former Astronaut Retired USAF Colonel Jerry L. Ross discusses his experience with transcribing, researching, and organizing Harriet Dillabaugh's fourteen diaries to create his recently published family history book The Diaries of Harriet "Hattie" Dillabaugh 1889-1940.

Do not forget to return your name badges.

Adjourned: Kim Zrubek 2nd VP, adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.
respectively submitted, Kathie Chaffee, Recording Secretary