

**Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS) - General Membership Meeting**  
**Friday, October 23, 2020**  
**Webinar hosted by Texas State Genealogical Society**

**Call To Order** - Lisa Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Welcome to Visitors and New Members** – Lisa welcomed members and visitors to the general meeting held via a webinar hosted by the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS).

**Announcements**

- **Please contribute content to the BAGS Journal** – Lisa encouraged members to contribute to the BAGS Journal. Lisa thanked Melodey Hauch for serving as the Journal editor for twelve years and announced that Lisa Franklin has assumed the role of Journal editor. Printed copies of the Journals and the Yearbook will be mailed next week to those members who requested copies be mailed; an online version of the Yearbook is available from the website.
- **Member Survey** – Lisa asked all members to complete the member survey by clicking on the link on our website's home page. This survey will help BAGS determine the best methods to provide value to our members.
- **Announcements from the floor** – Lisa informed the audience that if they had an announcement to use the chat message function.
- **Membership Report** – Lisa announced the number of current members is 191 and that 83 members have not paid their 2020-2021 membership fee. Visitors may attend two general meetings without joining BAGS.
- **Registration for BAGS Membership Year 2020-2021** – Lisa encouraged members to renew their membership for the new membership year (Sep 1, 2020 to Aug 31, 2021). Membership renewal is due by 31 October 2020. There are two options to renew membership.
  - Option 1 – For online submission and payment via PayPal use the online option available from the website.
  - Option 2 – For submission via the postal service an application form is available from the website. The completed application form and the associated membership fee can be mailed to the BAGS post office box listed on the website.

**Future Events** – Lisa announced the following events and informed members that additional details are available on the website or the BAGS Facebook page.

**Members Helping Members (MHM):** Sessions are designed to allow members to share and demonstrate recent research discoveries or accomplishments and/or ask for assistance with roadblocks.

- **Online via Zoom #1 – Mondays at 10:00 AM:** Moderators are Renee Ball and George Porterfield. See website for details.
- **Online via Zoom #2 – Mondays at 7:30 PM:** Moderator is Kim Zrubek. See website for details.
- **In-person at the Friendswood Family History Center:** Open only to BAGS members for MHM research. Bring your own laptop and use their WiFi connection to access locked records or use one of their six available computers.
  - **Wednesday, November 4 at 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM**
  - **Wednesday, December 2 at 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM**
  - **Wednesday, January 6 at 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM**
- **German Special Interest Group (SIG):** George Porterfield, SIG moderator, announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11 at 2:00 pm via Zoom. See the website for additional details.

**Closed Until Further Notice:** Bus trips to Clayton Library.

**Texas State Geological Society Family History Conference** – Lisa encouraged members to register for the TxSGS upcoming conference scheduled for November 13 – 14; registration information is available on their website ([www.txsgs.org](http://www.txsgs.org)).

**Next General Meeting, Friday, November 20, 2020** – Janine Cloud presents “Birds of a Feather - Y-DNA Research and Group Projects” (a pre-recorded session). This meeting will be held one week earlier than normal due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Tonight's Program** – Susie Ganch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, introduced Sharon Batiste Gillins who presented “Navigating the Freedmen’s Bureau Records”. Ms. Gillins is a native of Galveston, Texas, with paternal ancestral roots in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, and maternal roots in Fort Bend County, Texas. A life-long interest in her family’s history led to an active involvement in genealogical research for more than 25 years. Her research and teaching emphasize strategies and underutilized record sources that can be used to discover details of Southern life and ancestry during the 19th Century including that of planter slave owners, enslaved people, and free people of color. At present, Ms. Gillins is a Research Associate at the Mary Moody Northern Endowment in Galveston, Texas, where she is responsible for the Moody Archive consisting of family and business manuscripts and photographs that date to the early 1800s.

**Adjournment** – Lisa adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.