



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

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May 2008

Friday, May 30, 2008 at 6:00pm: Bruce Lockett presents "Civil War Shipwrecks in East Texas Rivers"

Bruce Lockett is director of the Texas Archaeology Study Association (TASA) and president of the Vidor Historical Society. TASA was formed in 1988 by several people interested in saving the treasures of Texas and documenting sites of historical value. Specifically, the group focuses on locating and investigating shipwrecks, Civil War and early plantation sites, and Atakapa Indians coastal villages and camp sites. Their work involves underwater marine archeology, forensic archeology and anthropology, and paleontology.

TASA located the *Dan*, a Confederate gunboat, and the *Ida Reese*, a Union merchant vessel, sunk in the Sabine River. The group has identified over 90 wreck sites on the Sabine River, 22 wreck sites on the Neches River, and 24 wreck sites on the Trinity River.

TASA has found over 7 village sites and over 200 camp sites of Atakapa Indians where hundreds of artifacts and arrowheads have been documented. The group has documented Civil War and early plantation sites along the Sabine River on both the Louisiana and Texas sides and identified over 40 military installations along the Sabine River.

TASA is currently working on preserving two cannons at the original Fort Sabine, excavating the steamboat *Josiah Bell* for identification as an 1863 Civil War vessel, and producing a book on the historical culture of the Atakapa Indians as the last of the mound builders in the United States.

**Come discover some of the shipwrecks
in Trinity River and Galveston Bay
on Friday, May 30 at 6:00 pm.
We meet at the University Baptist Church
in the Great Room, 2nd floor.
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Clear Lake City- [online map](#))**

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 President's Message
- 3 New Members, Demolition Day Q&A
- 4 May Seminar, Q&A
- 5 Calendar of BAGS Events
- 6 Demolition Day Q&A, Announcements
- 7 Committee Page
- 8 Online Extra (appears in online version only)

Break down your brick wall by asking for help. Post your questions to our BAGS message board.

**Access on the BAGS website
(www.TxBayAreaGen.org) and select the
"Queries" link.**

Anyone with a registered ID on Rootsweb or Ancestry.com can post or reply. You can search content across message boards.

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Message from the President

Resa Nichols Hennings

At our April 25 general meeting the program was Demolition Day. There was a good turnout and by most accounts it went well and was enjoyed by those attending. It was an excellent first attempt, and I congratulate all of you who helped make the event a success!



For those of you who missed the meeting, 2nd Vice President, Claudia Grafton, selected a panel of six BAGS members to answer member questions submitted at the March meeting. Those on the panel were Doug Wilson, Melodey Hauch, Dick Warren, Neil Miserendino, Mary Martin, Loren Martin, and Alice Braud-Jones as moderator. In addition to the panel, answers were contributed at the meeting by BAGS members: Billy Mayo, Kathleen Maca, Darwin Gilmore, Ann Davidson, Diane Kropp, Renee Ball, and Rose Mary Fritz.

Twenty-six questions were submitted. The questions ranged from simple ("How do I post a query on the chat net sites?") to more complex ("Could you outline a process for researching ancestors in the 1800s at a county courthouse--what information should you have when you walk in and ask for property deeds/claims, birth and death records, veterans' records?"). The answers to these questions will be published in the BAGS Newsletter starting with this issue.

The goal of Demolition Day was to provide information to help tear down those brick walls hindering, circumventing or derailing our research paths. We have so many experienced, knowledgeable members, it was felt that we were missing a tremendous asset right in our own midst! Since we also have a lot of members just beginning their research, it was quite obvious that these complementary groups needed a forum.

Since this first attempt at a member participation workshop was so successful, it will most likely be repeated. A questionnaire was distributed at the meeting for members to give their suggestions as to how helpful the session was, what improvements could be made, and other specific points.

I'm hopeful members will really get behind Demolition Day and help to make it even better next time out.

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 To Our New Members!

We are pleased to welcome new member Rosalva Aulenbacher of League City and returning member Jean Lund Luke of Dickinson to BAGS.

Be sure to greet them at the next meeting!

Demolition Day: Breaking Down Those Brick Walls Questions & Answers

Question: I need someone who reads Latin to read baptismal certificates; it would also help if they could read Polish.

As a general answer to anyone needing help translating records from a foreign language?

Suggest using an **online resource** *Translation Guide* (www.translation-guide.com). Select the language to translate from and to, enter a word or phrase, and receive a translation.

Another resource is the **genealogical key word** lists published by the LDS Family History Library for different languages. Find these word lists at you local Family History Center or on the Family Search website (www.familysearch.org). On the website, select "Search" tab, select "Research Helps" link, select "Sorted by Subject" link, and then select the alphabet letter "L" for languages. Scroll down the list to the "Language and languages" section. There are genealogical word lists for both Latin and Polish languages. These lists can help you translate enough of the documents so that you can extract the important genealogical information.

Look for a translator in **classified ads** printed in genealogical magazines (e.g. *Family Tree* or *Family Chronicle*) or online at the Association of Professional Genealogists (www.apgen.org).

"Research Tips" on the website

Unpuzzling Your Past with Emily Anne Croom (www.unpuzzling.com/tips.php)

includes a research tip on how to deal with research "brick walls".

Question: What U. S. records are available for pre-1700?

Answer: Since the United States did not exist prior to 1700, any records produced would be local records. Records exist in the British Archives (a.k.a. Public Records Office www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). Some of these PRO records are available on film at Clayton Library for each of the British colonies.

The DAR Library in Washington D.C. is an outstanding resource for publications (www.dar.org/library).

Other recommended resources: (Clayton Library call number provided in parenthesis)

The Genealogical Encyclopedia of the Colonial Americas by Christina K. Schaefer (929.107207 S294) is a "complete digest for the records of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere"

Adventurers of Purse and Person by John Frederick Dorman (A244 VA) is the Bible of Virginia research, as is the series ***Cavaliers and Pioneers*** published by the Virginia Genealogical Society (N967 VA). (continued on page 4)



Panel answering your questions

(L-R) Doug Wilson, Melodey Hauch, Dick Warren, Alice Braud-Jones, Mary and Loren Martin (not shown: Neil Miserendino)

Christine Rose seminar was a wonderful success!

BAGS welcomed over 75 participants for "A Day with Christine Rose" on Saturday, 03 May 2008. Attendees from as far away as Lafayette, LA learned how to research at the court house, scour probate records, locate ancestors with military service, and solve their research problems on-site in 25 hours or less! Ms. Rose, a gifted genealogist and instructor, painstakingly walked attendees through the intricate steps of family history research. Door Prizes abounded from generous donors, including Ancestry.com, Everton's Genealogical Helper, LoneStar Genealogy, Reunion's Magazine, S.P.A.C.E. Center Chiropractic, The Generations Network, and more. Information-sated genealogists left with finely honed research tools and a revived interest in locating elusive ancestors. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make another successful BAGS event!



(continued from page 3) Question: What U. S. records are available for pre-1700?

The Complete Book of Emigrants series by Peter Wilson Coldham (325.242 C688 USA) is also considered by experts to be exceptional reference material

Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers by Martha W. McCartney (M123 VA) is a biographical dictionary of immigrants to the U.S. and their locations between 1607 and 1635.

Virginia's Colonial Soldiers (975.5 B665 VA) and ***Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants*** (973.3 B665 USA) are also excellent published resources.

Virginia Genealogical Society's Barbara Vines Little presents a week-long class at Samford University's Institute for Genealogical and Historical Research (www.samford.edu/schools/ighr).

The **Jamestowne and Mayflower Societies** are also excellent resources for pre-1700 records. Their databases include history on early pioneers of the area and their descendants. Dependent upon the location of the individual you are researching, records are found at various sources.

Spanish records for the area affected by the Louisiana Purchase are found in the collection known as "**The Cuban Papers**". They are written in Spanish and the Clayton Library has the largest collection outside of Madrid, Spain.

These are the records of the Spanish government during its inhabitation of the area and include land, government, civil and other transactions. They are named "The Cuban Papers" because when the Louisiana Purchase was transacted, the documentation of the Spanish government was sent to Cuba for protection and historical purposes.

Question: I can't find documentation on the Internet on county genealogical groups to document oral family history for ancestors who lived in Georgia (ca. 1800).

Answer: Georgia records are unlike most other states and are kept regionally rather than at one state archive. These resources may be of some assistance:

National Archives Southeast Region
(archives.gov/southeast),

Georgia Department of Archives and History
(www.georgiaarchives.org),

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Genealogy and Georgia History Department
(afplweb.com),

Middle Georgia Regional Library Genealogy & Historical Room
(www.co.bibb.ga.us/library/GH.htm),

Thomaston-Upson Archives
(home.alltel.net/tuarch), and

University of Georgia provides an online research guide for Georgia genealogy research www.libs.uga.edu/researchcentral/subjectguides/genealogy.html

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 are invited to attend all meetings.

Tuesday, May 20, 2008	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Tuesday, May 27, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC ** Date change due to Memorial Day
Friday, May 30, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, Great Room, 2 nd Floor, UBC <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Program: Bruce Lockett on Civil War Shipwrecks in East Texas Rivers.
Tuesday, June 17, 2008	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, June 23, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, June 27, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, Great Room, 2 nd Floor, UBC. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Program: Casey Edward Greene, Head of Special Collections, Rosenberg Library on “Trimming the Family Tree: Genealogical Sources in the Rosenberg Library.”
Wednesday, July 16, 2008	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, July 21, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, July 25, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, Great Room, 2 nd Floor, UBC. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Program Speaker: Carey Hall
Wednesday, August 6, 2008	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, August 25, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, August 29, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting, <i>Chapel, 1st Floor</i> , UBC. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Annual Show and Tell – Please consider bringing something to share with the group.

BAGS - June 27th Program

Casey Edward Greene, Head of Special Collections at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, will present and review original sources including Galveston mortuary and interment records, cemetery records, and church records of note to genealogists. He will also review finding aids for locating pertinent information, including indexes to the local Galveston newspapers.

“The Threads of Families”

The Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research partnered with Houston area embroiderers, quilters and fiber artists to present this fiber work exhibit consisting of eleven contemporary stitched pieces including a mother’s tree, a birth sampler, pictures transferred to fabric, and a quilt of Texas and family history. Exhibit open during regular library hours May 1-31, 2008.

Demolition Day: Breaking Down Those Brick Walls

Questions & Answers (continued)

Question: How does one investigate records in Europe, primarily in Poland, Austria, Germany and Wales?

As a general answer to anyone researching ancestors in another country:

The online resource *Cyndi's List* (www.cyndislist.com) provides a wealth of information for countries on resources and records available for genealogical research.

The **LDS Family History Library** provides **resource guides** to jump start your research for specific countries. Access these guides at your local Family History Center or online at the Family Search website (www.familysearch.org). On the website, select "Search" tab, select "Research Helps" link, then select the alphabet letter representing your country of interest. Scroll down the list looking for the research outline for your country.

Search the online **LDS library catalog** by "place" to discover the records the library holds for your place of interest, things such as church records and indexes, vital records and many more. The more you know about your ancestor and his place of origin the more successful you will be in extending your lines. Access the online LDS catalog (www.familysearch.org), select "Library" tab, select "Family History Library Catalog" link, and then select "Place Search" button. For example of a place search, enter place Preussen, enter part of Germany, receive a list of topics and descriptions of records (e.g. *civil registration of births from 1875 to present, church records of christenings from 1875 to present, or marriage records 1500-present*)

When searching an ancestor name on the Family Search website, the results may include records from the **International Genealogical Index (IGI)**. This index contains millions of records of births and marriages, but no deaths. Many of the records in this database were extracted from church or civil registers. In that case the name of the church or repository is usually given. With this information you can order the film copy at your local Family History

Center. You may find other members of the family from a careful search of the film.

Specific answer to the question:

Since the borders of Germany, Poland, and Austria have been redrawn several times in the past two hundred years, the same city may have several names. Geographical aids and research books are available at the Clayton Library for each of these countries. During the early 1800's Napoleon Bonaparte ordered all births, deaths and marriages be recorded by civil (government) authorities. Before that time, it was common for the churches to keep that information. This order spread throughout Europe. Many of those records have been photographed and placed on microfilm copies at the Family History Library. Those microfilm records can be checked out a month at a time to the local Family History Center. These civil records are available for Wales back to 1837. Before that time, the records are still available at the Family History Library but they are church parish records.

Use virtual walls to break down your brick wall.

Checkout the free online virtual surname wall provided by the Southern California Genealogical Society (www.scsgenealogy.com/SurnameWall.htm).

Connect with people researching the same surname. Postings provide surname, geographic area(s) in which they lived, or their migration path(s), and associated time period.

An announcement indicated Personal Ancestry File (PAF) genealogical software support may end but users will have several migration options available. Once the New FamilySearch (NFS) free software is fully available, PAF users can transfer their data to NFS. Or PAF users can purchase a commercial genealogy program, many of which are currently developing support for NFS. From *The Ancestry Insider* blog [entry dated March 12, 2008](#).

Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

There are five more trips to the Clayton Library scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20; Tuesday, June 17; Wednesday, July 16; Wednesday, August 6, and Tuesday, September 16**. Join us for a trip to the library, and don't forget to bring a sack lunch. There are drink and snack machines, but no sandwiches, etc. in the snack room.

We have had interest expressed in going to one of the other libraries in our area. The libraries suggested so far are: Tyrrell Historical Library in Beaumont, TX; Rosenberg Library in Galveston, TX; Stephen F. Austin State University Ralph W. Steen Library in Nacogdoches, TX; Sam Houston Regional Library & Research Library Center in Liberty, TX; and George Memorial Library in Richmond, TX. If you would like to go to one of these libraries on one of our trips instead of the Clayton Library, please let me know which one you would enjoy visiting. If I have nine people sign up for a trip to another library, I will change it to that location instead of the Clayton Library. So far, I have four people who are interested in going to the Tyrrell Historical Library. I have two who are interested in the Stephen F. Austin Library. I have one person who is interested in the Rosenberg Library.

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

The BAGS website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, always has a current listing of library trips.

Membership Report

Tammy Frey, Registrar

This has been an exciting month for BAGS! We added two more members, bringing the total membership to 179.

Our first annual "Demolition Day" was a huge success, and the Christine Rose Seminar was superb. If you missed either event, now is the time to resolve to avoid such mistakes in the future! Bring your friends and join us for our upcoming events. You never know when you will learn some useful information that will help you with the demolition of your own brick walls. Don't miss out!

Members, please help us keep our information up to date. If you have any changes in or corrections to your information, such as address, e-mail, phone number, or other, notify us at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Five-Generation Charts

Have you turned in your five-generation chart to BAGS? Don't worry about any gaps you may have, just fill in what you know and submit it. If you prefer that your chart not be published, you may certainly make a note of that. However, publication does have its benefits! Recently, BAGS has received three queries regarding five-generation charts of our members that have been published. Getting your information out there may provide a connection that will help you to fill in those frustrating gaps in your genealogy! What are you waiting for?

BAG\$ Report

Ed Harris, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$6,784.16
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	-\$283.97
Balance on hand 04/30/2008	\$6,500.19



Christine Rose answering our questions



Tammy Frey shows the door prize ticket to Lewis Jarman during registration.



Neil Miserendino answering a question during Demolition Day



Alice Braud-Jones introducing Christine Rose



Doug Wilson answering a question during Demolition Day



A few Demolition Day attendees

BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



REMINDER

Next General Meeting
Friday, May 30, 6:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
June Issue is
Saturday, June 7, 2008