



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 7, Issue No. 11

July 2008

Friday, July 25, 2008 at 6:00pm: Cary Lynne Hall presents *Scrapbooking Your Family History*

Have you ever thought of scrapbooking your family history?

Come learn the basics of scrapbooking from a fellow genealogist, plus learn some tips and tricks. Specifically, photograph organization and storage, tools for the project, archival materials, journaling, layouts, computer software, and online resources will be discussed.



A native Texan and full-time RVer, Mrs. Hall began her genealogy obsession in the early 1980's during a Hall family reunion. This obsession led her to Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. She became a full-time employee at Clayton in July 1996 and has moved up into the position of Library Assistant Supervisor. Mrs. Hall is married, with two children and 6 grandchildren. Current hobbies include genealogy, photography, scrapbooking, electronics and travel.

Don't forget to bring your scrapbooks to share and compare with others!

**Join us for a pot luck dinner and the program on
Friday, July 25 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](#))

The BAGS August 29th general meeting is the annual *Show & Tell*. Please consider sharing a short story or family item with the group. This program is fun, entertaining, and educational. Get inspired to participate in this event by viewing a wonderful

photographic collage of the 2006 *Show & Tell* event created by Leo Waltz. Access from the BAGS website main page under the meeting section or [here](#) (2.8MB PDF file).

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BAGS Cookbooks Are Here!

**Purchase a BAGS Cookbook at the
July 25th general meeting for \$15
from Paula Sinning.**

*Also, pick up the next installment
of the BAGS Quarterly.*

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Message from the President

Resa Nichols Hennings



I've been noticing all the new genealogy websites on the Internet and was curious as to what data each offered and what were the costs, if any. I found a great site called *No 1 Reviews* (www.No1Reviews.com) owned by Cyberscape Media that reviews a broad range of products and services, including 58 genealogy websites. This site provides in-depth expert reviews and user reviews. A top 10 list is created for each product group based on various criteria, including popularity, functionality, features and limitations, value for money and ease of use. For each genealogy website, a 1 to 5 star rating is given to individual categories of search effectiveness, ease of navigation, features, technical support, help files and documentation, ease in joining and registration, and value for the money. In addition, the site's features, joining fees (if any), experts narrative review, and any user reviews are included. *No1Reviews.com* will publish reviews on genealogy software. **The current top 10 genealogy websites (with costs) according to *No1Review.com* are** (access list [online](#)):

1. **Ancestry.com** (U.S. De Luxe \$155.40 and World De Luxe \$299.40 annually)
2. **Ancestry.co.uk** (United Kingdom)
3. **Ancestry.com.au** (Australia)
4. **Genealogy.com** (Basic \$69.99, Deluxe \$99.99, Gold \$199.99)
5. **GenesReunited.co.uk**
6. **RootsWeb.com** (free, but some searches will be directed to the parent site, Ancestry.com, where there will be a charge)
7. **KindredKonnections.com** (\$100/yr., \$35/qtr., \$15/mon., \$7/ten days)
8. **FamilySearch.org** (free site sponsored by LDS)
9. **OneGreatFamily.com** (\$59.95/yr. or \$19.95/qtr.)
10. **WorldVitalRecords.com** (running a special now of \$49.95, two years for the price of one, for the U.S. collection. Founded by several key members of the original *Ancestry.com* team. They seem to be giving the older sites a run for their money. Everton Publishers was the first to team up with WVR and thus, all their content, including the *Genealogical Helper*, thousands of pedigree charts and family group sheets submitted through the years, have become available online.)

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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BAGS Membership Renewal

Tammy Frey, Registrar

It's that time again! Yes, it's time to renew your BAGS membership for the next Society year. The membership application has changed, so be sure to complete the new form to submit with your dues. The new form is available in this newsletter on page 7 and on the BAGS web site (www.TxBayAreaGen.org) home page.

You will be pleased to note that dues remain the same, despite increased operating expenses. There is a change, however, that may affect a few of you. If you wish to have your Quarterlies and the Yearbook mailed to you instead of picking them up at the meetings, there will be a small charge to cover expenses. Many of you pick them up at the meeting, so this will not affect you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Chicago Research Resource

The Department of Local and Family History of Newberry Library in Chicago has provided a free online resource ChicagoAncestors.org (www.chicagoancestors.org) for researchers to find and share historical information about Chicago. Click on the tab "tools" and access old city directories (1866-1900) and address conversion tools. Mary Martin found her great-great aunt's husband's business in the 1880 Chicago City Directory. Click on the tab "browse" and then the "Collection" link to access neighborhood, school, church, and cemetery collections. Choose a category and press submit button. Expand the results and click on one of the addresses. This updates the map but also presents detailed information that can include links to digital images or citations to material in the Newberry Library (www.newberry.org).

Tell us What You Think!

If you have not yet responded to the BAGS questionnaire, please do because your input on programming and activity preferences is very important to the BAGS Board.

The "Tell Us What You Think" questionnaire was e-mailed on July 5 to all members who have Internet access. The questionnaire was also handed out to members attending the June meeting.

For anyone who has not received the questionnaire, please contact Resa Hennings to obtain a copy.

Attendance Report from Jeanine Lawrence

In April, 50 members and 2 guests attended the general meeting and 11 members attended the board meeting.

In May, 47 members and 7 guests attended the general meeting and 13 members attended the board meeting.

In June, 56 members and 6 guests attended the general meeting and 16 members attended the board meeting.

Newsletter Distribution Change Notice

Like everyone else, BAGS is dealing with rising costs. In an effort to avoid increasing dues, we are doing what we can to reduce expenses. Two of our biggest expenses are printing and postage. Beginning in September, only those few members who do not have Internet access will receive a printed newsletter by mail. All other members will be able to access the newsletter on the Internet. For those who like to have a paper copy, it is easy to print at home. Most of our members already enjoy the convenience of getting the newsletter earlier via the Internet and of being able to save it electronically. This change will substantially reduce newsletter costs, helping to keep our dues low. Thank you for your support!

You have research questions, your fellow BAGS members have answers...

Question: I am trying to get my Irish ancestors back to Ireland. I have a good handle on the Feeneys back to birth 1830 in New York, NY, and then it stops.

Answer: Alice Braud-Jones recommends John Grenham's *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* as an excellent publication for all things Irish. She also suggests attending the week-long class *Irish research* provided by David E. Rencher, AG (Ireland) of the FHL in Salt Lake, as part of Samford University's *Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research* (course description: www.samford.edu/schools/ighr/IGHR_Course10.html). Alice has attended his class and can recommend more resources. Rencher recommends researching your Irish ancestors in this order: naturalization records, land records, probate records, church records, census, tombstones, vital records, newspapers, military records, family records, and artifacts. Irish also migrated through Boston and Canada. Ann Davidson found an Irish ancestor arrived by ship through Boston. Kathleen Maca has a Feeney ancestor and found the ship's record on the Canada Genealogy Centre (part of The Government of Canada and Library and Archives Canada) website: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy

Having trouble reading the column heading on a microfilm census?

RootsWeb "Blank Charts & Forms" web page (helpdesk.rootsweb.com/get_started/chart_s_forms.html) provides easily read column headings and record information for the US census forms (1790-1930), US slave schedules (1850, 1860), 1890 US veterans schedule, UK census forms (1841-1891), and Canadian census forms (1901, 1911). These forms are also available at your local library or Family History Center.

Question: How do I search databases for a two-word surname – Vander Meulen? Using Vander gives back too many results and using Meulen doesn't find enough/correct ones.

Answer: Doug Wilson offers the following search strategies:

- Put both names in the surname block. This works for Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, and [RootsWeb Surname List \(rsl.rootsweb.ancestry.com\)](http://RootsWeb Surname List (rsl.rootsweb.ancestry.com)). Try them both with exact spelling and Soundex options.
- Take out the space to make one word and try again. Sometimes indexing is set up differently.
- Split the surname in three words: Van Der Meulen.
- Try alternate spellings. Enumerators varied widely in recording surnames, especially if subject was not literate. The 1880 U.S. Census spells it three different ways. Do not forget "mule". Some countries used Ter Muelen with a "T". Do not ignore the Meulins or Mullins just because there were a lot of them. In some countries names beginning with Van and Vander were considered elitist.
- Look in lots of places where Dutch folks went. For example, there were Vander Muelens in England, Indonesia and South Africa. The International Genealogical Index records accessible at FamilySearch.com can help.

With the threat of tropical storms and hurricanes, Dick Warren suggested reading an article "Genealogy disaster plan a precaution worth taking" by Julie Miller published July 13, 2008, accessible [online](#). This article suggests you 1) decide now what material must be preserved, 2) digitize and store irreplaceable material on e-mail servers and/or removable media (e.g. CD, DVD, flash drive), 3) send backup copies of research to relatives living in another state, and 4) identify and use disaster safe storage.

You have research questions, your fellow BAGS members have answers...

Question: Where can I get an electronic generated 5-Generation Pedigree form to fill out on my computer?

Answer: Doug Wilson suggests using forms provided on the *Family Tree Magazine* website www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html. Choose the “text” option to download the chart as a .doc file. Open the file with Microsoft Word (or other word processor that can interpret files of that format. Create text boxes to type in the ancestor names. Text boxes already exist for the birth, marriage, and death information. Lineage-linked software program like *Family Tree Maker*, *Personal Ancestral File*, and *Legacy* automatically generate the chart from your family data.

HeritageQuest™ Online now offers a portion of the United States Congressional Serial Set accessible through your local Texas public library. You can perform a full-text keyword (e.g. person or place name) search on Private Relief Actions, Memorials, and Petitions. For example you may find an ancestor 1) in 1841 petitioning for a land grant in St. Louis Missouri to build a railroad, 2) at Camp Floyd in the Utah Territory as a miner petitioning refusal to become a State in 1872, 3) acting President for the District of Columbia Board of Commissioners recommending reimbursement to congressional committee, or 4) suspended as a West Point cadet for flogging a teamster in 1819. A full-text searchable database is available for the complete Serial Set from 15th Congress through 48th Congress (1817 – 1885) at the Alfred R. Neumann Library at University of Houston at Clear Lake (see the database listing [online](#))

Question: How do I research someone from Mexico when I don't know Spanish? How do I research African American genealogy? And someone from Africa when I don't speak African?

Answer: The question is a good one in that it can apply to any one of several ethnic groups including African American, Asian, Native Americans and more. Doug Wilson suggests accessing the “Localities” and “Ethnic Groups & People” topic categories on *Cyndi's List* website to locate available resources. These topic categories provide directory access to specific resources for a specific ethnic group such as genealogical word lists, libraries, archives, record sources, societies, and message boards. There is a directory for Hispanic, Central South America, & West Indies including Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean (www.CyndisList.com/hispanic.htm). There are directories for Africa (www.CyndisList.com/africa.htm) and African-American resources (www.CyndisList.com/african.htm). For African research, Doug suggests viewing the PBS series *Finding Oprah's Roots: Finding Your Own* by Henry Louis Gates Jr. that is available in DVD format at the Harris County Freeman, Texas City Moore Memorial, and Galveston Rosenberg Libraries. Gates did an excellent detective search. Also consider viewing BBC *Motherland – A Genetic Journey* for an excellent reference and data source. A description and ordering information is available online at www.rootsforreal.com/motherland_en.php.

BAG\$ Treasurer Report

Thank you Ed Harris for serving as the BAGS Treasurer! The August newsletter will contain both the July and August Treasurer reports.

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.

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 Lynne Hall, Clayton Library on <i>Scrapbooking Your Family History</i> ● Purchase a <i>BAGS Cookbook</i> ● Pick up the latest issue of <i>BAGS Quarterly</i>
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 sharing a short story or family item with the group.
Tuesday, September 16, 2008	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, September 22, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting
Friday, September 26, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner
Monday, October 20, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting
Friday, October 24, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner
Monday, November 17, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS Board Meeting
Friday, November 21, 2008	6:00 pm BAGS General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner
December, 2008	Annual Holiday Party (details to be announced)

Using Passenger Immigration Lists

Thursday, August 14 at 2:00 pm

Free program at the [Clayton Library](#) (5300 Caroline, Houston, [online map](#))

Learn how to use passenger and immigration lists to discover when and at what port your ancestor arrived in this country and on which ship. **Reservation is required; call the library at 832-393-2600. Program is for adults and teens.**

“It doesn’t have to say genealogy to be useful”

Monday, August 18 at 7:00 pm

Free program at the Friendswood Public Library (416. S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, [online map](#)). Gay Carter, Neumann Government Documents Librarian, will introduce federal and state depository resources available for genealogical research at the University of Houston Clear Lake Alfred R. Neumann Library. No registration needed.

Bay Area Genealogical Society

Registrar

P.O. Box 891447

Houston, TX 77289-1447

<http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org> ... registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

Membership Application

Please bring to meeting or mail to above address with payment.

Membership: New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Full Name _____

Maiden Name _____ Preferred Name for Name Tag _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP Code _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____

If this is a family membership, list the other family members' full names:

Occupation or, if retired, previous occupation of primary member _____

Occupation or, if retired, previous occupation of other member(s) _____

May we print your address, e-mail address and phone number in the Society's yearbook? Yes ___ No ___

Research interests, surnames _____

I need help with _____

I can help with (e.g., German translation, NY research...) _____

The Society needs your participation. Check the committee(s) on which you are willing to serve:

<input type="checkbox"/> Auditing	<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly
<input type="checkbox"/> County Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone
<input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Member Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Web Master
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook
<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		

Payment – To calculate your payment, please choose one from each category:

Single membership \$20
 Family membership ... \$25 \$ _____

Quarterly included at no additional charge if picked up
by end of Society year

Quarterly & Yearbook by mail ... \$5 \$ _____
(Quarterlies mailed all together at year end)

Make checks out to "BAGS" Cash ___ Check # _____ TOTAL \$

Please consider a higher level of support for the Society:

Contributor - \$40-\$59, **Patron** - \$60-\$599, **Lifetime** membership - \$600 or higher.

Pics for the BAGS Scrapbook.

Top L-R: The May 2008 program, Bruce Lockett and images of an uncovered steamboat wrecked in East Texas. Middle: Susie Ganch and Casey Greene at the June 2008 program. Bottom L-R: Casey Greene and Hubert Brasseaux and members enjoying the pot luck dinner at the June 2008 program.



BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



REMINDER

Next General Meeting
Friday, July 25, 6:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC

Deadline for
August Issue is
Saturday, August 2, 2008