



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

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Happy New Year

Mt. Olivet Cemetery Transcription Project

Can you believe that a year and a half has gone by since BAGS began the Mt. Olivet Cemetery Transcription Project? After receiving their initial assignments, BAGS and Ft. Virginia Point Chapter, UDC Members, Mary Brandhorst, Rose Mary Fritz, and Helene Stein, completed the mausoleum, in record time. Following Neil Miserendino's creation of a database, BAGS member and ace cemetery transcription expert, Melodey Hauch went above and beyond the call of duty in checking names and dates against the Texas Death Index. By using the index, she has been able to fill in missing data which was not visible on the inscriptions in the mausoleum.

Fast forward to Friday, November 21, 2008, when project co-chairs, Alice Braud-Jones and Neil Miserendino, along with Deborah Gammon and Melodey Hauch, returned to Mt. Olivet Cemetery to verify and update the transcriptions of the main (middle) Mausoleum building. That portion of the transcriptions will be published in the 2009 *BAGS Quarterly* issues. The Mt. Olivet Cemetery Transcription Project continues. The records from the other Mausoleum buildings will be verified, and BAGS members are concentrating on completing the rest of this important transcription project by working section-by-section in the cemetery. Following completion of the mausoleum, we will verify information on sections B North and St. Bonaventure, with hopeful publication by year-end 2009.

Come on out and join the team to assure an early completion of this first-ever total transcription of Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

**Next general meeting is
Friday, January 30, 2009**

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

**Join us at 6:30pm for coffee and socializing.
Pot luck dinners have been canceled.**

**We meet at the University Baptist Church
in the Great Room, 2nd floor.
(16106 Middlebrook Drive,
Clear Lake City- [online map](#))**

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BAGS Officers

President

Resa N. Hennings
president@TxBayAreaGen.org

First Vice President

Alice Braud-Jones
VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org

Second Vice President

Claudia Grafton
claudiamg10@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Mary Martin
lmartin497@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary

Lynn Finger
lmcharney2@aol.com

Treasurer

Tina Chatham
tina_medlin_chatham@yahoo.com

Registrar

Tammy Frey
registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

Newsletter Staff

Editor / Compositor

Kim Zrubek
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

Proofreaders

Alice Braud-Jones
Barbara Stanley
Dick Warren

Photographers

Neil Miserendino
Doug Wilson

Distribution

Shirley Robbins

Message from the President

Resa Nichols Hennings

It's been a great BAGS year! Our members planned well, worked hard, and accomplished much.

The long anticipated Cookbook finally made it to press and sales are quite good, Paula Sinning, Cookbook Chair, reports.

The Scholarship Committee got off the ground under the capable guidance of Loren Martin, but due to responsibilities of his employment, Loren had to forgo the project. Kathryn Morrow is now heading the effort and working to establish guidelines as to how the scholarship will be granted.

BAGS received "favorable determination" from the Internal Revenue Service and we are now a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) Public Charity.

Alice Braud-Jones continues to move the Mt. Olivet Cemetery transcription project forward and the first installment will be published in an upcoming *BAGS Quarterly*.

Alice also chaired the committee which organized another successful day-long seminar last spring. To the delight of the Houston genealogical community, Christine Rose, nationally acclaimed Certified Genealogist, Lecturer, and Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, was featured.

Several Board members were able to assist the Milwaukee County (Wisconsin) Medical Examiner's Office in a next of kin location. Kathleen Maca's excellent research provided the names of several family members and other assorted clues. Milwaukee County was grateful for her efforts.

A number of officers and committee chairs served the Society well and have since moved on: Ed Harris, Treasurer; Nancy Irle and Renee Ball, Recording Secretary; Lee Jared, Corresponding Secretary; Gerry Higgs, Historian; Leo Waltz, Webmaster; Susie Ganch, Quarterly Editor; Bill Teas, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Paula Sinning and Diane Kropp, Welcoming. Each was an asset to our organization and we are most grateful for their dedication and good works.

(article continued on page 3)

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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President's Message

(continued from page 2)

We're glad to welcome Tina Chatham, Treasurer; Mary Martin, Recording Secretary; Lynn Finger, Corresponding Secretary; Susie Ganch, Historian; Linda Carrington, Webmaster; Melodey Hauch, Quarterly Editor; Lewis Jarman, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Marie Krnavek, Welcoming, assisted by Regina Flynn.

Unfortunately, members and their families have experienced serious illness, accidents, and, most unfortunately, death. Our collective heart aches and we are saddened by these events. Of course, historical 2008 would not be complete without mentioning Hurricane Ike. The greater Bay Area is still toiling toward normalcy. We find courage and strength and continue to move forward.

I extend my personal "thank you" for all the hard work each member has afforded our Society... and my very best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Resa

Hurricane Ike Books

These books offer full-color photographic essay of the storm's impact on people and the area from evacuation to the recovery. The DVDs contain video, images, and interviews. Copies of these books are available at our local libraries.

Hurricane Ike: A Photographic Account with DVD published in 2008 by the Houston Chronicle. Order by calling 713-362-7171 or online at www.chron.hurricanebook.com.

Ike: Stories of the Storm published in 2008 by The Galveston County Daily News. Order by calling 877-930-7467 or online at www.hurricaneikebook.com.

In Ike's Wake with DVD published in 2008 by the Beaumont Enterprise. Order by calling 409-833-3311 or online at <http://ike.hurricanebook.com>.

RESEARCH: CAN YOU HELP?

As we are researching our surnames, it can be helpful to find others doing similar research. Look through these surnames which some of our members listed on their renewal forms. Do any of these ring a bell?

Frank and Mary Jane Roth: **Roth, Butler, Morgan, Wright**

Martha Ann Rolingson: **Rolingson, Stull, Walter, Jackson, Sampson, Wheeler**

Bill and Bettie Robinett: **Robinett, Fallin, Larison**

Shirley Robbins: **Van Vlierden, Snyder, Wisneski, Weishaupt, Long, Petruski**

Betty Ratcliff: **Curry, Barber, McRae**

Mary Pearson: **Springer, Ivy, Stepp, Dickens, Fuller, Maxey**

Rosemary Parks: **Dreyfus, Maas, Huffer, Strange**

Mary Olsen: **Thornton, Houston, Collier, Olsen, Skinner**

Pauline Ohsie: **McKissick, Tracy, Barry**

Connie Ogden: **Albin, Bruce, Dye, Hartpence, Minor, Moyer, Myers, Parke, Pettit, Swearngen**

THANK YOU to all the chairmen!

Complete list of chairmen for BAGS standing and ad-hoc committees printed as a correction for the list printed in the BAGS Newsletter November 2008 issue, p. 6.

Chairmen, Standing Committees

County Coordinator	Mary Martin
E-mail	Neil Miserendino
Finance	Tina Chatham
Historian	Susie Ganch
Hospitality	Leslee Fehlman
Meeting Room	Jeanine Lawrence
Newsletter Editor	Kim Zrubek
Photographers	Doug Wilson, Neil Miserendino
Publicity	Chris Terrell
Quarterly Editor	Melodey Hauch
Scholarship	Kathryn Morris
Sergeant-at-arms	Lewis Jarman
Webmaster	Linda Carrington
Yearbook	Neil Miserendino

Chairmen, Ad Hoc Committees

Cemetery Transcription	Alice Braud-Jones
Cookbook	Paula Sinning
5-Generation Charts	Eleanor Caldwell
Hurricane Ike Stories	Susie Ganch
Member Services	Shirley Lindquist
Ride-Share	Jeanine Lawrence
Telephone	Connie Ogden
Welcoming	Marie Krnavek

Genealogy Software Reviews

Looking for the right genealogy software product to use? Maybe one of your New Year's resolutions is to begin using a genealogy software product to record your family history. Here are several resources offering reviews on genealogy software to help you choose a product that has the features you want.

TopTenREVIEWS, Inc. has published a tabular price and feature comparison of 10 genealogy software products available for Windows systems. All are available for Windows XP and a subset are available for Vista. The *2009 Genealogy Software Product Comparisons* is accessible online at

genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com

GenSoftReviews (www.gensoftreviews.com) offers a short summary review and rating (e.g. ease of use, ease of input and output) by users for all available genealogy software products in all categories of platforms (e.g. Windows, Mac, Unix, Handheld, Online), licenses (e.g. free, purchase, subscription), and features (e.g. full, utility). Filter the list by platform and license choices.

The *Internet Genealogy* magazine, March 2008 issue (available at the Friendswood Library), published an article "Free Genealogy Software" reviewing eight products, several are online-only configuration compatible with both Windows and Macintosh computers. For a minimum cost, several of the free software versions can be upgraded to include more features. The products reviewed are Family Tree Legends, Legacy Family Tree, Personal Ancestral File, FindMyPast.com, MyHeritage FamilyTree Builder, NokTree.com, SharedTree and WeRelate Family Tree Explorer.

For Mac OS users, *Macworld* magazine published reviews on several products in the 2007 May, June and July issues. The articles can be found on the Macworld website (www.macworld.com), entering "genealogy software reviews" in their custom search box, or click [here](#).

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 invited to all events.
Public invited to all general meetings.**

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 **9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library**

Monday, January 26, 2009 **6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC**

Friday, January 30, 2009 **7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Irene Walters discusses *Using Newspapers To Flesh Out Your Genealogy*.**
In Great Room on 2nd Floor at UBC
No pot luck supper. Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 4, 2009 **9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library**

Monday, February 23, 2009 **6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC**

Thursday, February 26, 2009 **9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library**

Friday, February 27, 2009 **7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Bruce Lockett discusses *Civil War History In East Texas*, providing an update on steamboat salvage and archaeological finds.**
In Great Room on 2nd Floor at UBC
No pot luck supper. Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 12, 2009 **9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library**

Monday, March 23, 2009 **6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC**

Friday, March 27, 2009 **7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Emily Croom presents "Not a Brick Wall until...", discussing extreme research techniques.**
In Great Room on 2nd Floor at UBC
No pot luck supper. Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Monday, April 20, 2009 **6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC**

Friday, April 24, 2009 **7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Demolition Day.**
In Great Room on 2nd Floor at UBC
No pot luck supper. Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Committee News

Trips to Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Our new bus trip dates to the Clayton Library are: **Wednesday, January 14, 2009; Wednesday, February 4, 2009; Thursday, February 26, 2009; and Thursday, March 12, 2009.**

We meet in front of the **Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Street ([online map](#))**. 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.

I hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and that you are ready to look for some ancestors on Wednesday, January 14.

BAG\$ Report for December

Tina Chatham, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$2,876.99
Income	\$730.00
Expenses	<u>-\$453.08</u>
Balance on hand 10/31/2008	\$3,153.91
CD balance	\$5,115.09

Attendance Report

Jeanine Lawrence

For November, 35 members and 2 visitors attended the Happy Holidays Party. Thirteen people attended the board meeting.

Board and general meetings were not held in December.

BAGS Quarterly

Melodey Hauch, Quarterly Editor

Melodey Hauch, the new BAGS Quarterly Editor, needs your input for upcoming issues. Remember that we want to publish genealogical information about our area as well as articles concerning your own family research anywhere in the world. We also need five-generation charts and Bible records for future issues. The deadline for the next issue is the end of February.

Membership

Tammy Frey, Registrar

As of December, our membership total is 174. Remember that it is important to keep our information up to date. If you have any changes in or corrections to your contact information during the year, please notify us at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Member Services

A class will be scheduled in the Spring of 2009. It has not been determined which class that will be.

A survey will be distributed at the January general meeting to determine which class has the most interest of the members. If anyone has a request for a specific class to be listed on the survey, please contact Shirley Lindquist: shirleylindquist@sbcglobal.net

BAGS Yearbook

Neil Miserendino, Yearbook

Due to the Hurricane, we lost some time on completing this project. We have completed the rough draft and will be formatting the file and getting the Yearbook to the printer. The Yearbook will be ready at the January meeting.

Clayton Joins FamilySearch in Digitization Effort

A joint project between FamilySearch and Houston Public Library (specifically Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research) has begun and will be complete in five years to “digitally preserve and publish the library’s vast collection of county and local histories, registers of individuals, directories of Texas Rangers, church histories, and biographical dictionaries” published between 1795 to 1923. High quality images, “every word” search capability, and page-by-page browsing will be available for each publication for free.

Find the current group of Clayton library’s digitized publications by using the Family History Archives advanced search interface (<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/search.php>) and enter the following text in the entry field labeled **exact phrase**:

Compiled local and family histories from Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

and check the box labeled **Search all collections**.

Access and search all the publications digitized by FamilySearch online for free by accessing www.familysearch.org, choose the menu **Search Records** and then choose **Historical Books** menu item. Use this basic keyword search, browse, or scroll down and click on the advanced search link.

The Clayton Library is also a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, providing patrons access to millions of microfilms from FamilySearch’s vast genealogical collection in Salt Lake City, Utah. Patrons can order research material from FamilySearch through the library.

Article summarized from:

“Gulf Coast family histories on way to Web” by FamilySearch, published November 24, 2008 in the *Mormon Times*. Access article online at www.mormontimes.com/mormon_living/family_history/?id=5148

Classes at [Clayton Library](#) (5300 Caroline, Houston, [online map](#))

Roots Magic

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 6:30 PM
RootsMagic Users Group invites interested individuals to a presentation, discussion and help session using this family tree software. You do not need to be using this software to attend. Reservations are required; call the library at 832-393-2600. Program is free and for adults and teens.

DAR Lineage Day

**Saturday, January 17, 2009
from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**
Visit with Daughters of the American Revolution representatives and get help with your genealogy. No reservations needed. Program is free and for adults and teens.

Clayton / FamilySearch partnership – digital books for you!

Thursday, February 12 at 2:00pm
Learn more about the digitization project and accessing those publications. Reservations are required; call the library at 832-393-2600. Program is free and for adults and teens.

Census 2010 – Now Hiring

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun hiring and training people nationwide in preparation to conduct the 2010 census. There will be local temporary offices in Harris County.

For more information call 1-800-861-2010 or access www.census.gov/rodal/www/2010Jobs.html.

Application qualifications include 18 years or older, valid driver’s license, pass a written basic skills test and background check, and commit to 3.5 days of paid training.

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BAGS

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REMINDER

Next General Meeting
Friday, January 30, 2009 at 7:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC
Socializing at 6:30 pm