



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 8, Issue No. 4

January 2009

January Meeting: Using Newspapers to Flesh Out Your Genealogy

Speaker: Irene B. Walters, MLS
Houston Public Library
[Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research](#)



So you've got your relative's skeleton consisting of dates and places. What's next? In this talk, Irene discusses how to go beyond obituaries and marriage notices to create a newspaper-clipping file on a relative to put flesh on that skeleton. Explore newspapers in their original paper form, on microfilm and electronic versions.

Irene B. Walters is Clayton's "Yankee Librarian". She is originally from New York State and has her Master's of Library Science degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Irene came to Clayton in September 1997. At Clayton, she has been the volunteer coordinator, periodicals librarian, CD-Rom librarian, computer goddess, coordinator for the county relabeling project, and in charge of re-indexing [funeral home records](#). Currently, Irene is the liaison between Clayton Library

and the cataloging department of Houston Public Library and is working with the LDS volunteers to make Clayton's oldest books available digitally through the "Family History Archives" website (see BAGS Newsletter December 2008 issue, page 7). Irene has given many talks to local groups on "Computer Genealogy." Other talks she has given have been on "New York State Genealogy", "Irish Research", "French Research", and on "Genealogical Needlework." Irene last spoke to BAGS in September 2006 on the use of WorldCat as a research resource. Irene started her own genealogy research as a teenager and has taken her lines back into France and Ireland. Her German lines and those dropped off by a passing alien ship are being more difficult.

**Next general meeting is
Friday, January 30, 2009**
Meeting begins at 7:00pm
Join us at 6:30pm for coffee and socializing.
**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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Message from the President

Resa Nichols Hennings

I have invited our officers to write a message in lieu of the usual President's message. The first "guest columnist" is our Registrar, Tammy Frey. Tammy is a Charter Member of BAGS and has done many jobs throughout the years, one being editor of the newsletter early on. She is always there when we need "another pair of hands" to help on BAGS projects.

Resa

I love Mondays! It's not that I dislike the other days or that I particularly enjoyed getting up early to go to work. Rather, I like what Mondays represent: a fresh start, a clean slate – a chance to begin again. Knowing that, you can imagine how I feel about a new year! Just think of the potential of a whole year of possibilities!

Hopefully everyone had a nice holiday and is now ready to return to a more normal routine. It's time to dust off those genealogy projects that were temporarily laid aside and get back into the game! Let the excitement of a new year and a fresh start energize you! What can you do differently to improve your research? What do you want to learn more about? Plan ahead and schedule classes, seminars, and research trips. Don't let the time just slip past, wasted and unproductive. Use the time well so that you can look back on this year with satisfaction!

And, perhaps most importantly, consider what you can do for others. Generously sharing information and knowledge has long been a hallmark of genealogy. We have a wealth of resources right within our Society. Many have kindly offered their assistance, and their names are listed in this newsletter. Some of us are newer and less knowledgeable, but even so, we can share what we do know and encourage others on their genealogical quest. One important thing that anyone can do is to volunteer to help with a committee or project within our Society. What will *you* do to help someone this year?

Tammy Frey, Registrar

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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FEBRUARY: AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Clayton Town Crier January 2009 issue ([access online](#)) published by the Clayton Library provides an annotated list of book and microfilm resources available at the library for African American research.

During the month of February, view a display at the Clayton Library provided by the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., Willie Lee Gay, H-Town Chapter, in honor of Black History Month.

Voyages: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database

www.slavevoyages.org

Article "Slave trade database unveiled" published in *Houston Chronicle*, Saturday, December 6, 2008, p. A16 announced this new free online resource that provides context for personal African American genealogy research. Look at specific voyages and examine lists of Africans aboard those ships. This online resource provides three databases to search. First, the **voyages** database identifies over 34,000 voyages from 1514 to 1866 and their ships involving ports in Europe, Africa, Brazil, Caribbean, and North America. Look at details about a specific ship or details about individual voyages. Take some time to read the information "Understanding the Database" found under the **Voyages Database** menu to interpret the data presented and effectively use the search interface. Second, **African names** database identifies over 67,000 Africans aboard these ships, using name, age, gender, origin, and place of embarkation. Personal research will be difficult because the database includes the original African names which were later westernized. Third, **slave trade estimates** database provides tables, timelines, and maps of the slave trade routes from 1501 to 1866. Images of manuscripts and maps are available under the **Resources** menu.

WE CAN HELP!

Here are areas in which some of our BAGS members have graciously offered to help those who may need a hand. If you have an area in which you can help and would like for us to list it, please contact Tammy Frey at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Rosalva Aulenbacher: Spanish record translation

Renee Ball: NY, MD research

Mary Louise Bishop: Mayflower descendants, DAR

Annette Bowen: Swedish & Norwegian research, most Southern states

Lowell Brigham: some areas of NY and MA

Doreen Brubaker: Ohio research, research in VA Shenandoah Valley

Eleanor Caldwell: Family History Center research

Bonnie Conrad: Morgan Co., MO

Linda Cooper: TX research, DRT & DAR applications

Ann Davidson: Louisiana research

Regina Flynn: English birth/death records

Claudia Grafton: Native American research

Neil Miserendino: Italian

Jessica Morgan: N. Louisiana searches, software use

Mary Olsen: surnames Houston, Olsen, Skinner

Rosemary Parks: surnames Huffer, Strange

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE RESEARCHING

Many of our members indicated on their membership applications the surnames in which they have an interest. Here are some of the names they listed. If you are also researching any of these, you may want to contact the member and compare notes. If you find a connection, we would love to hear about it!

Marvin Nottbohm: **Hammond**

Jessica Morgan: **Lockey, Ratcliff, Allen, Morgan, Kaylor, Basinger, Peyton**

Neil Miserendino: **Bellini, Copensky, Colvin, Giaconia**

Tina Medlin-Chatham: **Mueller, Lenaburg**

Jim McLane: **McLane, Lathan, Boland, Dean**

Randy McDaniel: **McDaniel, Eckart, Harrison, Nichols, Edwards**

Mike & Sue Ann McCown: **McCown, Magee, Winkelmann**

Bill Mayo: **Mayo, Bolton, Brewer, Tompkins, Rhodes**

Glenn & Peggy Mathis: **Mathis, Naspinski**

Russell & Jinny Mason: **Mason, Buck, Marshall, Jones, Kimbell, Trimlett, Gallagher**

Need Help Documenting Sources?

Emily Anne Croom has published an eBook *Genealogists' Guide to Documentation and Citing Sources*. Viewing, downloading, and printing is free for now. To access the book, go to her website *Unpuzzling Your Past* (www.unpuzzling.com) and click on the **Books** tab. The book is under copyright and is intended for personal use only. It may not be posted on any other website or distributed in any form.

BAGS & LDS Church FREE Seminar

March 7, 2009 10:00am – 2:00pm at LDS Church in Clear Lake City.

Original documents housed at the National Archives will be available online through “The Portal” in the future. This program is currently available only in LDS Family History Centers. Kelly Thomas, Director of the Clear Lake Family History Center, and Kathryn Morrow Black, local historian, will present the potential of this resource for online research and provide an opportunity to access this resource. Get more details at the BAGS general meeting. Space will be limited. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Shirley Lindquist at shirleylindquist@sbcglobal.net.

DISCOVERING CONTEXT

View your ancestors as people and not just a group of vital records by learning the details of historical facts impacting your ancestors. A free online resource *Eyewitness to History* (www.EyeWitnessToHistory.com) by Ibis Communications, Inc. provides accounts of historical events from people present during those events. The written excerpts cover events that occurred from ancient world to present and include primary source references for further reading. An index shows the subject content across the different time periods. In the spirit of this month's historical inauguration, read a firsthand account of the President George Washington's inauguration in April 1789. Discover the pageantry and ceremonial details of Washington entering the city and taking the oath. The site provides images, audio clips (requiring RealPlayer®) and short video clips of 20th century events. Actually, you can find longer audio/video clips covering the same topics within YouTube™ (www.YouTube.com). However, neither resource provides video primary source references. Both resources require Adobe® Flash® Player browser plug-in and broadband network connection to view the video clips.

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 visit general meetings.**

Monday, January 26, 1009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, January 30, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Irene Walters discusses <i>Using Newspapers To Flesh Out Your Genealogy</i> . Pick up your BAGS Yearbook and Quarterly In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC 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 <i>Civil War History In East Texas</i> , providing an update on steamboat salvage and archaeological finds. In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC 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 the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC 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 the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Tuesday, May 26, 2009 ***	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, May 29, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC 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, 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 Lane ([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.

The BAGS' website, www.TxBayAreaGen.org and the current newsletter always have a current listing of library trips. If you would like to join us for a trip to the library, bring a sack lunch. The library has drink and snack machines in the snack room if you have never been to the library.

If you have never been to the library, you might consider going with us for your first time. We have several members who can give you some help along with help from the library staff to get you going on your search for your ancestors. We do have a good time on the bus sharing information and chatting with each other.

Share-A-Ride

Jeanine Lawrence, Ride-Share Committee

If you need a ride to the BAGS general meeting, call Jeanine Lawrence at 281-334-6100. She will arrange transportation with someone living in your area.

Alternatively, if you are willing to provide a ride to a meeting, please give Jeanine your contact information.

BAGS Publicity

Chris Terrell, Publicity Committee

If the newsletter for your subdivision or community does not include a monthly notice of our BAGS meetings, please contact **Chris** at bbtcar1993@hotmail.com. Please provide the name, mailing address, and/or e-mail address of the newsletter/newspaper.

**Pick up your
BAGS Yearbook
and Quarterly at the
January general meeting!**

BAG\$ Report for December

Tina Chatham, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,138.91
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	-\$0.00
Balance on hand 12/31/2008	\$3,138.91
CD balance	\$5,149.60

Charitable Contribution

Resa Nichols Hennings, President

If you itemize deductions on your personal income return, you may list the annual BAGS dues you paid as a charitable contribution for 2008, since we are now a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Please contact the Registrar, Tammy Frey, to receive a letter/receipt, which you may provide to IRS as proof of your donation.

Bus Trip to San Jacinto Monument

Saturday, January 24th, 2009

Sam Houston Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution invites members from BAGS, UDC, 1812, and DAR societies. If you haven't seen the monument since renovation, this is a great opportunity. It is beautiful! Bring friends and family!

Meet in front of the Clear Lake City-County Freeman Branch Library at 16616 Diana Lane ([online map](#)). The Harris County bus departs at 9:00 am and will arrive back by 3:00 pm. The transportation is free. Museum entry fee and lunch must be paid by attendee. Either bring a sack lunch or the bus will take group to a local restaurant (i.e. Monument Inn). Trip **Reservations required**. Send e-mail to nhansen@comcast.net for reservations or questions.

Genealogy Seminar on Military Research

Saturday, February 28, 2009

8:30 am to 3:00 pm in The Galloway School at 3200 W. Bay Area Blvd., Friendswood ([online map](#)).

Come listen to Lynna Kay Shuffield speak on researching records from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Lynna is an engaging speaker and maintains a wealth of knowledge in this research area. This seminar is hosted by Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Bluebonnet Branch Chapter in Friendswood as a fund raiser to create a Texas traveling trunk for 3rd grade presentations on Texas History. Registration deadline is Saturday, February 14. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch. Please make check payable to Bluebonnet Branch Chapter DRT. Send registration (name, address, phone, e-mail, phone, and payment) to: DRT Seminar Registrar, 15010 Vistamont Dr, Houston, TX 77546. For more information contact Judy Henderson at judy38@hal-pc.org

“The Irish are Coming” Ulster Historical Foundation Seminar (www.ancestryireland.com)

presented by Clayton Library Friends at the Clayton Carriage House

Saturday, March 14, 2009
9:30am – 4:00pm

Registration limited to first 90 people.

Details and registration form available online at www.claytonlibraryfriends.org

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

PROQUEST Database Training **Wednesday, February 4, 2009 10:00-11:30am** **in the new Clayton Library Carriage House Meeting Facility**

Representatives of ProQuest, vendors of HeritageQuest and Ancestry Library Edition, will hold a training class in the use of their database and its capabilities. Program is free and registration required. They will also be at Houston Public Central Library on Tuesday, February 3 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM.

Newspaper Database for the *Chicago Defender*

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 6:30 pm

“The *Chicago Defender* has been a leading voice of the black community well beyond the Windy City, with more than two-thirds of its readership outside Chicago. The newspaper was a proponent of “The Great Migration” of over 1.5 million African-Americans from the segregated south to the industrial North from 1915 to 1925. This ProQuest online database covers over six decades of historic coverage and is very useful to researchers, even those without northern family.” (From Clayton library calendar) Receive insights and search tips in the use of this database. Reservations are required; call the library at 832-393-2600. Program is free and for adults and teens.

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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

Deadline for
February Issue is
Saturday, February 7, 2008