



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

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June 2009

Friday, June 26, 2009 at 7:00pm: Cary Lynne Hall presents "Using City Directories in Genealogy"

Have you ever wondered why people use city directories in genealogy?

Come learn how they can be useful in your research, how to use them effectively and where they may be found today.

A native Texan, 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 six grandchildren (four of which live with her). Current hobbies include genealogy, photography, scrapbooking, electronics and travel.



Meeting begins at 7:00pm. Public invited.

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](#))**

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! See some of the family memorabilia shared at past meetings and library exhibits shown on the BAGS website by accessing www.TxBayAreaGen.org, click on the link "Info for Members" at the top middle of the main page, and then scroll down to find the "Photo Pages" section.

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July Program: *The eclectic history of Telephone Road in Houston presented by author Burton Chapman.*

August Program: *Annual Show & Tell. Share a short story or family item with the group.*

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

Distribution

Shirley Robbins

Message from the President

Resa Nichols Hennings



Charter Member, Mary Martin is guest columnist this month. She wears two hats for BAGS as County Coordinator and Recording Secretary. Mary arranges our bus trips to Clayton Library and takes the minutes at Board meetings and general meetings. She has been BAGS Recording Secretary for many years and we are most grateful for this service. She is secretary extraordinaire, having mastered all the skills involved to produce good minutes.

Resa

Mary Leonard Martin, BAGS County Coordinator and Recording Secretary



Loren and I have been coming to BAGS since the second meeting in 2001. We became interested in BAGS when Loren talked to a friend at work about this new genealogical group forming. We had just moved to League City in April 2001 from the west side of Houston where we lived for 23 years. I was getting a little bored with unpacking boxes and putting a new house in order. I wanted to get back to my genealogy. BAGS has been a great way to get to know new people in another area of the metropolis that we have called home for 31 years. In February 2003, BAGS Founder, Carolyn Hellen asked me to be the County Coordinator for our bus trips. I have enjoyed this job, serving on the BAGS Board and working with a great group of people. We probably wouldn't have taken a trip to Salt Lake City if I hadn't listened to the other board members talk about what a great opportunity this was to go. BAGS has been a great way to get to know more people that I now call my friends. Planning the trips to the Clayton Library and other libraries is fun because I like going to the genealogical libraries and I like being with people who enjoy genealogy as much as I do.

Genealogy is satisfying putting the family in order by entering the data in the computer. I like solving the mysteries about who our ancestors were. I learn new things talking to and sharing ideas with the people who go with us on the bus to the library. I enjoy the happy sounds on the bus as we are riding to the library together. (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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Welcome New Members!

This month brought us three new BAGS members. Be sure to give them a warm welcome!

Sue Yerby of Pearland

Patricia "Trish" Taylor of Pearland

Carol "Connie" McDonald of Houston

Message from Mary Martin

(continued from page 2)

I feel like I have accomplished something when I can help people get to the library who are new in the community and can't get to the library easily any other way. My other position of Recording Secretary is a challenge putting our discussions on paper in a form that helps us know where we are on the projects that we are trying to accomplish, recording what we need to do next, and also recording our history as a board.

Since I have been in BAGS, I think that I may have doubled the size of my family tree or maybe, even tripled it. Going on the bus to the library nearly every month encourages me do my homework: "Who am I going to look for today, and where am I going to look for their family? Which family tree puzzle will I try to solve today by seeing how the facts that I have discovered go together?" Sometimes, I put things off too long, and this helps me keep working on my family tree. I have shared it with many of my family members. I like hearing that they are interested in what I have found about our family and where they originated from. A cousin who was living in Massachusetts copied the book that I had made for his father (my uncle). He was surprised to know that so many of our ancestors had lived in Massachusetts before moving to the Midwest a couple of centuries ago and he had actually been to these places. He began to plan trips with his family to these places. I think that I have received back as much as I have put into my volunteer jobs when I see how my family tree has grown. Being County Coordinator and Recording Secretary has improved my computer skills and genealogy skills in many ways because I have learned so many things from other people.

SURNAMES OUR MEMBERS ARE RESEARCHING

Enjoy browsing through this latest list of member surnames! I am always amazed at all the names I have never before seen. The origins of some of the names seem pretty straightforward. About others I can't even guess, but the Internet can provide some clues. A quick Google search indicates possible origins for some of these surnames: Italy, Germany, Bavaria/Austria, England, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Hungary, and Ireland. Where are *your* ancestors from?

Trish Taylor: Kurtz, Gr(e)aney, Court, Porjet

Shirley Lindquist: Hoppe, Sepull, Scholbe, Spagnuolo, Malita, diGerman

Connie McDonald: Bowers, Bingle, Burge, Cooper, Enke, Nelson, Scivally, Sewell

Laura Epps: Roberts, Emmerling, Fildes

Glenn & Colleen Ecord: Sorrell, McGowan, Ecord, Bruce

Jane Ebrom: Busbee, Baldwin, Vaught, Williams

Gloria Dupuy: Smith, Roddy, Dupuy, Henderson, Wood

Carolyn DuBois: Taylor, Jones, DuBois

Ann Davidson: Whitty, Davidson, Chaney, Starkey, Lewis

Wally & Norma Davenport: Davenport, Bobo, Hubble, Simpson, Anderson

Eileen Darbonne: Deviller, Wilkins, Fuselier, Wyble, Patin, Ellender, Ryan, Grandigo

Ruth Czigan: Lewton, Czigan, Stechmann

Dotty Crabb: Flory, Weybright, Kreider, Wolf

Lynda Cox: Henry, Beard, Clegg, McNabb, Riley, Chapman, Barclay, Shivers, Farr, Lewis, Cox, Davis, Damron

If you have other surnames you would like to add to your list, send them to Tammy at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org and those names will be included in a future newsletter.

Announcing BAGS Research Award

Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS) is sponsoring an annual award of \$250 to encourage new research in Texas history and Texas family history.

**Submissions are accepted from
September 1, 2009 to December 1, 2009.**

**The award will be presented at the
March 2010 general meeting.**

**Papers submitted must be new,
previously unpublished Texas
history research or Texas family
history, completed no more than
two years prior to deadline.**

Applicants must be Texas residents.

Seated officers, Award Selection Committee members, and their spouses and children are not eligible for the award until their term of service to BAGS is over.

Each entry will be blind reviewed by the Award Selection Committee, which will be made up of members of the BAGS Board of Directors and Committees.

**The entry form, complete submission
guidelines and instructions are available
on the BAGS website
www.TxBayAreaGen.org.**

Free Genealogy Conference

Discovery: A Family Search Conference

**Saturday, July 25, 2009
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
at 3311 Southfork Drive,
Pearland, TX**

**Pre-Registration is required.
Deadline July 10.
Limited to 250 people.**

The following classes are offered:

Beginners Class
5 Tips the Pros Use
Internet Research
Census Research
Migration Research
Civil War Research
Revolutionary War Research
African American Research
Hispanic Research
German Research
LDS Library Resources

The presenters include:

Louis T. Hellewell
Gus Hinds
Dee Dee King, CG
Kathryn Morrow
Fidel G. Ramirez
Lynna Kay Shuffield
Kelly H. Thomas
Sue (La Beff) Yerby

**Class descriptions, registration forms, map,
and list of presenters is available online at
www.discoveryafamilysearch.com
or call 832-851-7421.**

Sponsored by the Friendswood Texas
Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter Day Saints

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, June 22, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, June 26, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: speaker Cary Hall presents "Using City Directories in Genealogy" In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, July 8, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, July 27, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, July 31, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting: Burton Chapman, author of the book <i>Telephone Road, Texas</i>, discusses the eclectic history of Telephone Road in Houston. In the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 19, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, August 24, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, August 28, 2009	7:00 pm BAGS Annual Show & Tell In the Chapel on 1 st Floor at UBC Social time 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Monday, September 21, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, September 25, 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
Tuesday, September 29, 2009	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, October 26, 2009	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting, Room LC-210, UBC
Friday, October 30, 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 scheduled bus trip dates to the Clayton Library are: **Wednesday, July 8;**
Wednesday, August 19; and **Tuesday, September 29, 2009**

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

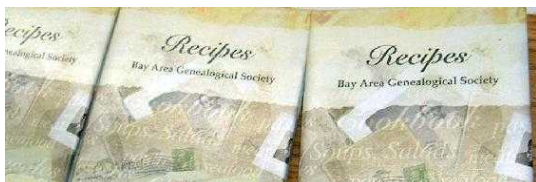
The county bus departs at 9:00 am and leaves the Clayton Library at 3:00 pm to arrive back at the parking lot before 4:00 pm.

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.

BAGS Website

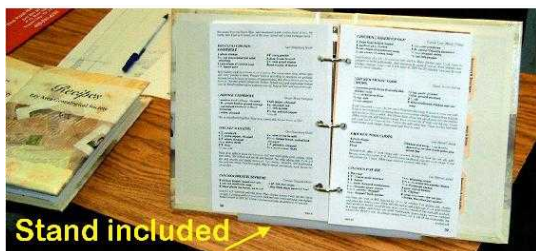
Checkout the ***Favorite Links*** page on the BAGS website. This page is a compilation of online genealogical resources suggested by our membership. To access, click on "**Links**" at the top of the main page.

Want to share an online resource? Send information to the BAGS webmaster.



BAGS Cookbooks available.

Purchase at the next meeting for \$15.00 each.



Membership

Tammy Frey, Registrar

This past month we added three new members to our Society. Our current membership total is an exciting 190 genealogists! Just imagine how many total years of genealogy research our society represents. Think of the wide knowledge base we have in such a large membership! Our members are indeed a wonderful resource, and we appreciate their willingness to help one another. The many generous, helpful, friendly people one meets through genealogy research make it one of the most enjoyable activities available! It is important to keep our member contact 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.

Reminder About Visitors

We love to have people visit our meetings! However, please remember that visitors may come to only two meetings during the year without joining. If they wish to attend further meetings, they need to join the Society. It is unfair to the paying members to allow others to continue past the visitor limit without paying. If the visitor is a member of your family, you can add them to your membership for just an additional five dollars. If the visitor is your guest, please politely explain this to them and encourage them to join. Thank you for helping us with this matter!

BAG\$ Report for May

Tina Chatham, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$2,647.99
Income	\$76.00
Expenses	-\$346.64
Balance on hand 5/31/2009	\$2,377.35
CD Balance	\$5,178.71

President Resa Hennings recently had an e-mail from a member inquiring as to why we discontinued Pot Luck dinners, if the reason was to cut expenses, when we have over \$7,000 in our bank accounts. Here is an excerpt of her response. –Editor

At first blush, it does look like we have lots of money to spend each month, but the main reason we discontinued pot luck dinners was that the majority of the membership did not want it. In June, 2008, we put out the "Tell Us What You Think" questionnaire to the membership. Of the responses to the question "Is it important to you that we have a Pot Luck Dinner at every meeting?" 60% of those answering said "no."

That preference was coupled with the, then, new monthly charges being levied by the church. When BAGS first started in 2001 **everything** at the church was free (except for beverage service). We've had anywhere from 170-210 members through the years and dues were \$20/person. **Dues are still \$20 a person eight years later.**

Slowly, the church began to charge us for things. We had been paying the church \$30/meeting to setup the room and beverages can be up to \$12. Forty-two bucks a meeting--not bad! Then the church upped everything. The \$30 became \$55 in one fell swoop, and if we served food there would be a \$45 clean-up fee. So the \$42 became \$112. Given that 60% of the membership didn't feel dinners were necessary anyhow, it was a relatively simple decision for the board to make to cut them.

We were also going to be charged for the audio/visual equipment, which had always been totally free. There is now a \$75-\$85 fee staring us in the face *every month*, depending on if we use certain equipment that belongs to the church. The Board had been thinking that we should buy our own projection and sound equipment, which could run as high as \$2,000. Half of the money for this purchase is budgeted. But as long as we have speakers who bring their own projector or use the

church's (free) overhead projector, the society can avoid making that big A/V purchase. Some day we will probably have to bite the bullet and buy the equipment.

Some of our annual expenses: \$1,875 to print and mail the *Quarterly* and *Yearbook*; \$835 to the church for the above costs; \$730 for speakers and hand-outs; BAGS' membership dues to Texas State Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and Clayton Library Friends total a bit over \$200 (which includes our an annual gift of \$100 to CLF).

The Board discussed raising dues. We really hate to do that as many of our members are on fixed incomes and we want to make BAGS affordable to as many people as we can. Our corporate purpose is to educate in the area of genealogy, and since we are a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity, we must keep that purpose in mind as we plan our activities. If we hold a class, for example, and not enough people sign up to cover our basic expenses, then we have to dip into the checking account to cover the loss. If our membership should decline, then revenues are down and that means more dipping.

Even with the best budgeting we can do, there are unknowns. We must, therefore, have a good financial cushion, hence, the CDs and seemingly comfortable checkbook balance. I will also tell you that our Board of Directors are rather financially conservative. Each member is well aware that it is *other people's money*, we are spending, and that is taken very seriously.

Of course we could begin pot luck dinners again. There would probably have to be a nominal charge levied to cover the church fees, but something could sure be worked out if that is what the members want. We know that fellowship is one thing people really enjoy--that is why we began to advertise "socializing at 6:30; meeting at 7" in all our publications when the pot luck was dropped.

BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



REMINDER

Next General Meeting
Friday, June 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC
Socializing at 6:30 pm

Deadline for
July Issue is
Monday, July 6, 2009