



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

Volume 9, Issue No. 5

January 2010

**Friday, January 29, 2010 at 7:00pm:**

### **Irene Walters presents "Researching using microfilm and microfiche at Clayton Library"**

#### **Got an iPhone?**

Apps for your iPhone are available to work with GEDCom files to view and update generation, family, or individual information. An article detailing the software brands and features are published on page 68 in *Family Tree Magazine*, January 2010 issue, available at Clayton & Friendswood Libraries.

Clayton Library has more than 110,000 rolls of microfilm, 203,000 pieces of microfiche and 650 microcards, ranging in time from the 1600s up through the year 2000 and including materials from the USA and around the world. This collection represents a major portion of Clayton Library's holdings most of which are not listed in the Houston Public Library Catalog.



**IRENE WALTERS**

In this program, Irene Walters will help us make sense of what is available in this genre, an important genealogical resource.

Irene Walters was born and raised in rural New York State. She has a Master of Library Science degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has been a librarian at the Houston Public

Library's Clayton Library for Genealogical Research since 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 reindexing [funeral home records](#). Her interest in genealogy extends back to her years as a teenager and encompasses much onsite research within New York State's courthouses, town clerk's offices, historical societies, churches, libraries, and archives. Her personal genealogical research is concentrated in New York State, France, and Ireland. 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 January 2009, presenting "Using Newspapers to Flesh out Your Genealogy."

#### **WHAT'S INSIDE**

- 2 President's Message, Bill Teas Memoriam
- 3 Timelines & Maps Research Strategy
- 4 Updated Census Images
- 5 Calendar for BAGS
- 6 Committee News
- 7 Local Area Events and Free Classes  
(insert) Dick Eastman Seminar in Houston

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.  
(16106 Middlebrook Drive,  
Clear Lake City - [online map](#))**

## BAGS Officers

### President

Tina Medlin-Chatham  
[president@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:president@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### First Vice President

Claudia Grafton  
[VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### Second Vice President

Susie Ganch  
[sganch@verizon.net](mailto:sganch@verizon.net)

### Recording Secretary

Mary Martin  
[lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com)

### Corresponding Secretary

Lynn Finger  
[lmcharney2@aol.com](mailto:lmcharney2@aol.com)

### Treasurer

Bill Mayo  
[bcmayo@earthlink.net](mailto:bcmayo@earthlink.net)

### Registrar

Tammy Frey  
[registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org)

## Newsletter Staff

### Editor / Compositor

Kim Zrubek  
[newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### Proofreaders

Alice Braud-Jones  
Shirley Robbins

### Photographers

Neil Miserendino

### Website

Webmaster  
Linda Carrington  
[linda@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:linda@TxBayAreaGen.org)

## Message from the President

Tina Medlin-Chatham



TINA  
MEDLIN-CHATHAM

Happy New Year!

Hope everyone had great holidays. I enjoyed spending extra time with my friends and family. I was able to get several updates to my family tree over the holidays and that was very exciting. Nothing like a family wedding during the holidays to bring people together (and give me great opportunities to corner people and discuss genealogy). So now I need to get busy updating it all.

Have a great month and see you at the next meeting!

Tina

## In Memoriam

**William Edward "Bill" Teas**, BAGS Charter Member, passed away Saturday, December 19, 2009 at his home in Pearland, Texas. Memorial Services were held in the Carriage House at Country Place, Pearland, TX on December 26. The family asked that any donations be directed to "Clayton Library Friends", the support organization to Clayton Library, or to the Salvation Army. *Houston Chronicle* published his obituary on December 24 and it is currently available [online](#).

### A joke in honor of Bill...

*Did you hear about the man who paid a genealogist \$500.00 to look up his family history?*

*He paid the genealogist another \$1,000.00 to keep quiet about it!*

*Our prayers go out to Oletia and her family.*

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](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)

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## Timelines and Maps – Research Strategy

A successful research strategy suggestion by Kathleen W. Hinckley  
(*Family Tree Magazine*, January 2010, page 21)

Try preparing a detailed chronological list or geographical map of the life events for an individual or a family. This process forces you to revisit all past research and documentation with a new perspective. These graphical illustrations help to identify gaps in your research. Timelines can help unscramble ancestor information and help focus research to specific time periods. Maps can help focus research on when, why, and how an individual or family migrated.

### Timelines

Look to see if your genealogy software program will generate a timeline based on your existing records. Free timeline generators are available on the web to enter events and either keep results private or share publicly. The product names include [Timeglider](#), [Lifeblob](#), [Dipity](#), [xTimeline](#), and [Our Timelines](#). Each product shows examples of completed timelines. Timeglider, Dipity and xTimeline allow you to create long timelines where events include textual and image annotations. Make a timeline of photographs using Lifeblob. Comparison of these products is printed in *Family Tree Magazine* January 2010 issue, page 66.

### Online Original Map Resources

Based on article “Historic maps :The World at Your Fingertips” by Michael L. Strauss, AG published in *Family Tree Magazine* July/August 2004 pages. 35-41

### North American Populated Areas Focus:

Fire insurance maps may provide interesting information for your research if your ancestor lived or worked in “densely” populated commercial, industrial, or



residential area of United States, Canada, or Mexico during 1867 and 1961. Sanborn Map Company documented more than 12,000 communities to assist insurance underwriters in determining the risk involved in insuring individual properties. These maps document the layout of towns and cities block by block, include property boundaries, building placement and footprints along with building descriptions and construction materials. Maps also include streets, sidewalks, gas and water pipe locations, fire hydrants, fire safety information, out buildings, wells, cisterns, corrals, and even in some cases latrines and dumps. Sometimes ethnicity was noted.

In the past, genealogists could only access digitalized Sanborn maps through an institution that purchased an access license. However, recently completed digitizing projects are offering free online access to an individual state's Sanborn map collection. Use Google to find these freely accessible resources by entering search terms **Sanborn Maps state or city** or **insurance maps state or city**.

Example search terms:

insurance maps cincinnati  
sanborn maps kentucky

(continued on page 4)

A catalog of Clayton Library microfilm and microfiche records is available online at

<http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/cgi-bin/clayton/microprint.pl>

This catalog allows you to determine rolls of interest to view when visiting the library. Search roll records by country, state, county, city, record type, title, author, LDS/NARA ID and surname. This resource includes city directories, maps, naturalization, passenger, tax, and probate records, as well as the military, census, and vital records.



## Online Map Resources (continued from page 3)

A wonderful article "About Sanborn Maps" by Bret Heinemann provides a concise list of nationwide sources for accessing Sanborn fire insurance maps. Article was published in *Bottles and Extras* March-April 2007 and can be accessed online at [www.fohbc.com/PDF\\_Files/SanbornMaps\\_BretH.pdf](http://www.fohbc.com/PDF_Files/SanbornMaps_BretH.pdf)

The Library of Congress "Geography & Map Reading Room" offers an interpretation of the keys, colors, symbols, abbreviations, numbering systems, etc. for the Sanborn fire insurance maps online at

### Foreign Country Focus:

Try the *FamilySearch* "Research Wiki", a large, on-line community-based library with thousands of articles and how-to instructions about doing family history. Access online for free at [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main\\_Page](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page) Under section "Or Find Articles by Country", click on "See All", click on one of the countries covered, and then select "maps" in the topic list on the left side on that country's page.



The Library of Congress Geography and Map Division has custody of the largest and most comprehensive cartographic collection in the world with collections numbering over 5.5 million maps, 80,000 atlases, 6,000 reference works, over 500 globes and globe gores, 3,000 raised relief models, and a large number of cartographic materials in other formats, including over 19,000 CDs/DVDs.

The division's online digital [Map Collections](#) resource represents only a small fraction of these items. These images were created from maps and atlases and, in general, are restricted to items that are not covered by copyright.

### Texas Focus:

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection at the University of Texas Libraries contains over 250,000 maps focusing on Texas but also includes other areas of the U.S. and the world. Over 5,000 map images are available online at [www.lib.utexas.edu/maps](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps)



### Map Directories:

*The Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection* website also provides an extensive listing of links to other online image collections of early original maps worldwide. Access the webpage titled "Historical Map Web Sites" at [www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map\\_sites/hist\\_sites.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map_sites/hist_sites.html)

*Map History / History of Cartography* website provides an extensive listing, updated monthly, of freely accessible online image collections of early original maps for **every** continent. Access the webpage titled "Images of early maps" at [www.maphistory.info/webimages.html](http://www.maphistory.info/webimages.html)



***Snoopers  
welcome! Feel  
free to provide  
comments and  
relatives!***

### Had problems reading the U.S. Census Images?

As of December 2009, *Ancestry.com* has enhanced their images of the U.S. Census 1790-1900 by reducing fading, lightening where needed, removing blurring or tape marks, and providing a higher resolution image so you can zoom in closer to see more detail. Alternate name spellings were added to the search index for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1900 census record entries where information was unclear. You should revisit the U.S. Census records in *Ancestry.com* either from home or from inside a Harris County or Houston Public Library. Your searches could return more matches than before.

## 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 welcome to all events.  
Public invited to visit general meetings.**

Wednesday, January 20, 2010	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, January 25, 2010	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, January 29, 2010	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Speaker: Irene Walters, from Houston's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, presents "Researching using microfilm and microfiche at Clayton Library" Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.
Monday, February 22, 2010	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Wednesday, February 24, 2010	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Friday, February 26, 2010	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Speaker: Bruce Lockett discusses his current marine salvage projects. Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	9:00 am BAGS bus trip to Clayton Library
Monday, March 22, 2010	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, March 26, 2010	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Speaker: Dave Eastman, founder of <i>Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter</i> ( <a href="http://www.eogn.com">www.eogn.com</a> ), presents "Putting the Genes in Genealogy". Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.
Monday, April 26, 2010	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, April 30, 2010	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Annual BAGS Demolition Day: Breaking down your research "brick walls". Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.
Monday, May 24, 2010	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, May 28, 2010	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.

## Committee News

### Bus Trips To Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

I hope that everyone is ready to start a new decade looking for some new ancestors. I spent a little bit of time on New Year's Day working on my ancestral lines. It really felt wonderful after not having worked on them for several months. I find that my energy is renewed working on new people in my ancestral lines and finding new information on the ones that I have already found.



Plan ahead to catch one of the bus trips scheduled next year:

Wednesday, January 20, 2010;

Wednesday, February 24, 2010; and

Wednesday, March 10, 2010.

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**. You may wish to bring a sack lunch. The library has drink and snack machines in the snack room.

If you haven't been to the Clayton Library, consider going with our group. We have several experienced people doing genealogy who go on the bus who may be able to share some helpful ideas with you, and the librarians are always available to help you get started finding your ancestors. There is also a packet of information that the library gives to first time visitors that is very helpful.

If you have any questions or want to reserve seating, please call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435 or e-mail Mary at [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). The BAGS website [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org) and the current newsletter always has a current listing of library trips.

### BAGS Publicity

Resa Hennings

It's important that we keep the greater Bay Area informed of when and where BAGS meetings are held and who the monthly speakers will be. Please let me know if your local neighborhood, subdivision, or area newspaper does not have such a listing. If you will call me (281-326-4936) or send me an e-mail ([resa@resa.us](mailto:resa@resa.us)) containing the name of the publication and its telephone number or e-mail address, I will make arrangements for BAGS to be included.

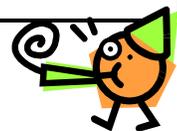


### Membership

Tammy Frey, Registrar

Happy New Year! Are you excited about the new year? I am! This is a great time to get energized about your genealogy and a good way to begin is to come to our January meeting. Our speaker, Irene Walters, is a BAGS favorite who always has a great program. Bring a friend and come prepared for an inspiring evening! Come early for coffee and social time. We currently have 160 members, so we should have a fun time visiting and catching up after the holidays. See you there!

It is important to keep our records updated, so if you have any changes in or corrections to your contact information, please notify us at [Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org).



### BAG\$ Report for December

Bill Mayo, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,816.13
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	-\$60.53
Balance on hand 12/31/2009	\$3,755.60
CD Balance	\$5,226.98



## **"From Piles of Junk to Polished Prose: Writing Your Family's History"**

**Friday, February 5, 2010  
10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

Presented by Kathryn Black Morrow, local working historian and researcher and BAGS charter member, at Freeman Branch Library.

This program is sponsored by the UHCL Clear Lake Association of Senior Programs (CLASP).

Reservations are requested by either calling 281-283-2021 or email [clasp@uhcl.edu](mailto:clasp@uhcl.edu). Freeman Branch Library is located at 16616 Diana Lane ([online map](#)).

## **Tour of Texas History No. 4: "REMEMBER GOLIAD"**

**Saturday & Sunday, February 6-7, 2010  
in GOLIAD, TEXAS**

Saturday, 1:00 pm: Meet at Antler's Inn located at 1013 US Hwy 59 S. Double rooms are \$58. Drive to town square for a walking tour of the historic square.

Saturday, 3:00 pm: Meet at Presidio for a special talk by the director about the 1813 Magee-Gutierrez Expedition called the bloodiest day in Texas history, the bloody arm flag and Capt. Dimmit's Declaration of Independence in 1835, and the massacre of over 400 Texas soldiers under command of Col. Fannin in 1836. The Presidio director does not usually give lectures to the public.

Saturday, 6:00 pm: Meet at the Hanging Tree Restaurant located at 144 North Courthouse Square for a dinner and a talk about the "Cart War" and violence in Goliad from 1850-1870 by a local author and historian.

Sunday, 9:00 am: Breakfast somewhere then meet for a lecture and tour of the Spanish Mission. Mass after for those who want to go.

**For reservations and further information please contact Hewitt Clarke, Texas Heritage Society First Vice President, at 281-367-2709.**

## **Free Classes for Adults & Teens at Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research**

Reservations required for all classes.  
Call the library 832-393-2600.

Library is located at 5300 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77004 ([online map](#)).

### **Gathered All My Research and Organized All My Stuff, Now What? Creating and Preserving the Family Narrative**

**Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 3:00 pm**

Genealogy research is a fascinating pastime, but what do you do with all the research that is accumulated? Learn how to evaluate documents and gather facts about ancestors in order to create a family narrative. A discussion of the importance of citation and citation styles will be included. A variety of different web and media outlets for the creation and preservation of family history narratives will also be discussed.

### **Family History Writer's Workshop**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 2:00 pm**

Do you want to interpret genealogy facts in writing, but don't know where to start? Do you want to create a source based narrative, but don't know what citation style to use? Join others in a group discussion led by Clayton Library staff members to learn technical writing aspects of creating family histories. Source documentation, citation styles, and publication outlets will also be discussed.

### **Historic Texas Cemetery Designation Workshop**

**Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 9:30am-4:00pm**

Learn how to prepare a successful application for a Historic Texas Cemetery Designation following the Texas Historical Commission procedures. Workshop will include: examples of applications, photograph techniques, mapping requirements and Internet resources to help with gathering the necessary documentation. Sponsored by the Oran M. Roberts Chapter 440, United Daughters of the Confederacy®. Working lunch included - \$10 donation requested.

### **Black History Month - February, 2010**

Clayton Library has a number of programs discussing African American family history research resources. View class schedule through a new online interface. Access the HPL "Programs and Events Search" page <http://catalog.houstonlibrary.org/programs> and under "Browse for Programs by" section select "Location" and then select Clayton Library.

Bay Area Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 891447  
Houston, TX 77289-1447

# BAGS

*Bay Area Genealogical Society*



## REMINDER

Next General Meeting  
Friday, January 29 at 7:00 pm  
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC  
Socializing at 6:30 pm

Deadline for  
February Issue is  
Saturday, February 6, 2010



Clayton Library Friends Presents  
 Mr. Dick Eastman, EOGN Author and Publisher  
 Technology and Techniques in the New Decade  
 "What's Hot and What's Not!"

Saturday, March 27, 2010  
**St. Luke's United Methodist Church**  
**3471 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX**

**\$30.00 - CLF Members until March 17, 2010**  
 \$35.00 for members after March 17, 2010 (No lunch available)  
**\$35.00 Non-Members until March 17, 2010**  
 \$40.00 Non-Members after March 17 (No lunch available)  
**\$45.00 at the door (no lunch available)**

**\$10.00 for Optional Box Lunch from "Picnic Box"**  
**Includes sandwich or salad box lunch with sides and drink**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration, coffee, etc.**  
**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Program (Various topics including techniques, resources and industry advances in DNA studies and latest technological tools for researchers)**  
**3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Questions and Answers**

-----CUT HERE AND KEEP TOP PORTION-----

**Clayton Library Friends**  
**Dick Eastman Seminar**

Enclosed is my check # \_\_\_\_\_ which includes: \$30.00 CLF Member Registration  
\$35.00 Member Late Regt. (3-18)  
\$40.00 Non-CLF Member Registration  
\$45.00 Non-Member Late Regt. (3-18)  
\$20.00 Membership Fee  
\$ .00 Other Donation Amount  
\$10.00 for **Optional box lunch**

A variety of sandwich and salad box lunches ordered from the "Picnic Box" will be available for those who elect box lunch option. I prefer a        **Sandwich Box Lunch**        **Salad Box Lunch**

**Total of check made payable to Clayton Library Friends and included herewith : \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City :** \_\_\_\_\_ **St.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Member of CLF: Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If you checked and paid membership fee, please obtain a membership form from website [www.claytonlibraryfriends.org](http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org) and include it with this registration and payment*

**Mail to:** CLF - Dick Eastman Seminar,  
 P. O. Box 271078,  
 Houston, TX 77277-1078