



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 10, Issue No. 3

November 2010



**Members and their guests are invited to**

***BAGS Annual Holiday Party***

**Saturday, November 20**

**from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the**

**Hope Village Tea Room**

**(located at 4541 FM 2351, Friendswood, TX [online map](#))**

**Entrance to the Tea Room is located on  
the south side of FM 2351 between Hope Village Road  
and the Lord of Life Lutheran Church.**



***Enjoy the holiday spirit and a pleasant lunch  
with friends among the designer Christmas trees,  
wreaths and holiday decor.***

**Lunch is dutch.** Meals cost \$6-\$15.  
Choose from a variety of soups, salads,  
sandwiches, and desserts.

***Benefits The Hope Foundation  
for Retarded Children***



## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

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Google Translator, Baltic Resources
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  - 8 (online version only) October Meeting  
Pictures
- (Insert) Map to the Party

**The regular  
general meetings  
resume in  
January 2011.**

## 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)

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### Treasurer

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## Message from the President

Tina Medlin-Chatham



TINA  
MEDLIN-CHATHAM

I hope everyone is able to join us for the Holiday Party on November 20th. It was great fun last year and I'm sure it will be even more fun this year.

As the holiday season approaches, it is time to be with family and friends. I like to take advantage of my family holiday gatherings to show off any new research I've completed and to get updates on changes in my family. It's also a great time to record family holiday traditions and question family members about those traditions. I love discovering why my family has always done certain things at holidays so I can include that in my family history. I hope that many generations after me will continue those traditions and hope my writings will help them understand the history behind them.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Tina



## Welcome New Members

**Jodi Wright-Gidley** of the Galveston  
County Historical Commission  
**Anna Marie Weller** of Houston

*Be sure to extend a warm welcome  
to our newest BAGS members!*

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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## BAGS IS A WINNER !

At the annual conference, the Texas State Genealogy Society announced BAGS was the winner of several writing awards.



- ★ **BAGS Quarterly** received 2<sup>nd</sup> place and \$50.00
- ★ **BAGS Newsletter** received 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$100.00
- ★ **BAGS' member Melodey Hauch** received 1<sup>st</sup> place for her article on the **Campbell's Bayou Cemetery, Texas City, TX.** Her article will be published in a future issue of the **BAGS Quarterly.** ★

**Congratulations on a job well done to the Quarterly and Newsletter staffs!** ★

Come to the Holiday Party to see the awards. ★

### Mount Olivet Cemetery Project Update

The Mount Olivet Cemetery Project is now working on the electronic transcription of the St. Dominic section. Thank you to Garry Garrett and Shirley Robbins for their transcriptions.

Interested in participating in this project? Help is still needed. Contact Neil Miserendino or Alice Braud-Jones.

## Have you considered using Facebook as a genealogy collaborative tool?

The "group" option in Facebook allows you to define a group of people that can privately or publicly share images, videos, links and start discussion boards using your Facebook page. Group membership can be defined as invitation-only or by request. A quick tutorial on creating a family group on Facebook was published in the *Family Tree Magazine*, November 2010 issue, page 69. If you want an invitation-only group created go directly to [www.facebook.com/family/create\\_group.php](http://www.facebook.com/family/create_group.php)

## Roots in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania?

The article "Back to Baltics" by Lida A. Alzo published in *Family Tree Magazine*, November issue, pages 48-54 discusses eight steps to follow in researching ancestry information in the area of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The article provides a list of books, geography helps, and online archives for your research. This list is also published online at [www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Back-to-Baltics-Resources](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Back-to-Baltics-Resources).

Use [Google Translate](#), a free online tool, to translate basic text, documents, and web pages from Estonian, Latvian, or Lithuanian to English.

### Google Translate (<http://translate.google.com>)

Copy and paste word(s), paragraph(s), or the URL of a webpage written in one language and Google will translate to another language. For websites, click on the "translated" URL to access the webpage in its translated version.



From: Norwegian - detected To: English Translate

Hurtigsøk vil søka i fleire felt samstundes. Skriv du ole olsen 1850 bergen vil systemet leita etter ein person med førenamn ole, etternamn olsen fødd i Bergen i 1850. Skriv du ole o. 1850-9 berg. vil personar med etternamn som börjar på o, fødestad som börjar på berg og fødselsår mellom 1850 og 1859 verta godtatt. Elles kan du bruka vanlege klammer osv. Skriv du ole o. 1850-9 \*Berg. vil fødestad kunna innehalda berg. Du kan også skriva td ole, ole olsen, ole olsen bergen, men og . olsen bergen. Den siste vil finna alle olsen med fødestad Bergen.

Norwegian to English translation

Quick want to search in several fields at once. Enter your ole olsen 1850 Bergen, the system looked for a person with a first name ole, surname Olsen was born in Bergen in 1850. Enter your ole o. 1850-9 rock. To people with surnames that börja 'o, place of birth as börja' on rock and year of birth between 1850 and 1859 become accepted. Otherwise you can use regular staples, etc. If you type ole o. 1850-9 \* Berg. place of birth will be able to contain rocks. You can also write td ole, ole olsen, olsen ole Bergen, but the . olsen Bergen. The latter will find all the olsen birthplace of Bergen.

## Norwegian Research Resources

At last month's program, Blaine Hedberg introduced us to several nuances in searching for information on Norwegian ancestors. First, he explained that there are specific naming patterns that can help provide clues as to the person's family relationship or place of residence. For example, a man's last name would be the name of the farm where he worked. Therefore, the last name could change several times during his life. The online article "Naming Patterns" found under **Helpful Resources** section on the The Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library [website](#) provides details on the naming customs. Blaine pointed out that a Norwegian emigrant's police passport record includes the American destination/sponsor. This information can link immigrants to church records in or around the American destination location. Blaine recommended locating and reading the bygdebøker (a local farm and family history) for your ancestor's area and requesting an inter-library loan for the book *Norwegian Local History* by Dennis Auburn Hill. Organized by parish, this book provides a bibliography aid for locating your bygdebøker. Also, consider joining a bygdelag, an organization of people whose ancestors came from a particular area of Norway!

Blaine recommended the free online resource **Digitalarkivet** (<http://digitalarkivet.no>), sponsored by National Archives of Norway, which provides digitized census, parish registers, vitals, tax, vaccination, and some regiment records. Click on "English" link on the left side and then click on "Database Selector" along the top to search across all the databases. Entering a search term starting with a capital letter (e.g. Aker) will retrieve records with words/names that begin with Aker. Enter the same search term in lower case (e.g. aker) and the search will retrieve records with words/names that contain aker. If the page shows text in Norwegian,

copy and paste the text into [Google Translate](#) to decipher into English.

On the "Database Selector" page, browse and search the 1850, 1860, 1870, and mostly 1880 U.S. Census lists of Norwegians living in various states by choosing **Censuses** for the "Source category" and also choosing **Norwegians in the US** for the "Sub-category."

Blaine also recommended **Norway-Heritage: Hands Across The Sea** ([www.norwayheritage.com](http://www.norwayheritage.com)) a free site that provides physical descriptions, schedules and pictures of ships that carried emigrants. There are several good "how to" research articles published on this website. Specifically [Hunting Passenger Lists](#) by Børge Solem, etc. (1999) explains how and where to look for passenger information about Norwegian emigrants.

If you have Norwegian ancestors, seriously consider gathering your family research and traveling north. There is a wealth of Norwegian and Norwegian-American family records available:

### In Madison, Wisconsin:

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library ([www.nagcni.org](http://www.nagcni.org))

Wisconsin Historical Society ([www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org))

University of Wisconsin-Memorial Library (<http://madcat.library.wisc.edu>)

### In Northfield, Minnesota:

Norwegian-American Historical Association ([www.naha.stolaf.edu/genealogy](http://www.naha.stolaf.edu/genealogy))

St. Olaf College ([online](#) guide to print resources)

### In Chicago, Illinois:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Archives (<http://archive.elca.org/archives>)

Database selector

Select database

County: All areas

Source category: Censuses

Sub-category: Norwegians in US

Period: All periods

Or search for the database

Search criteria: [input field]

Search

The system is case sensitive  
"Aker" will select Aker, but not Ullensaker,  
"aker" will select both.

16 databases has been found.

Selected databases

Censuses, norwegians in us

Abroad

- Norwegians in Dakota in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in Illinois in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in Iowa in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in Kansas in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in Michigan in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in Minnesota in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in Nebraska in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in Texas in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in Nevada in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in New Hampshire in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in New Jersey in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in New Mexico in the United States 1880 Census
- Norwegians in the United States 1850 Census
- Norwegians in Texas in the United States 1870 Census
- Norwegians in the United States 1860 census
- Norwegians in Wisconsin in the United States 1880 Census

## 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.**

- Monday, November 15, 2010      6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Wednesday, November 17, 2010      9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
- Saturday, November 20, 2010      11:00 am – 1:00 pm Annual Holiday Party in Hope Village Tea Room. Entrance to the tea room is located on the south side of FM 2351 between Hope Village Road and the Lord of Life Lutheran Church. ([online map](#))  
**Members and guests are invited.**



**No general meetings in  
November and December**

- Monday, January 24, 2011      6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Wednesday, January 26, 2011      9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
- Friday, January 28, 2011      7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting  
Speaker: James Bevill, author of *The Paper Republic*

- Wednesday, February 16, 2011      9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library
- Monday, February 21, 2011      6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, February 25, 2011      7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting  
Speaker: Cary Hall presents “Wanted Dead or Alive, the parents of Eli Hugh Davis”

- Monday, March 21, 2011      6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, March 25, 2011      7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting  
Speaker: Lynn Brooke presents *Lineage Societies*

## Committee News

### Bus Trips To Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Catch the bus to Clayton Library on one of the following dates:



**Wednesday, November 17,  
Wednesday, January 26, 2011 and  
Wednesday, February 16, 2011.**

We meet in front of the **Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane (online map)**. The county bus departs at **9:15 am** and leaves the Clayton Library at **3:00 pm** to arrive back at the parking lot before **4:00 pm**. For lunch, bring a sack lunch, use the library's drink and snack machines, walk to the first floor deli at Park Plaza Medical building, or ride the bus to a nearby restaurant.

**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).** Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings. The BAGS website [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org) and the current newsletter always have a current listing of library trips.

If you have not been to the Clayton Library, consider going with our group this fall and see what you can discover about your ancestors. We have several experienced genealogists who go on the bus and may be able to share some helpful ideas with you. The librarians are always available to help you get started finding your ancestors. There is also a packet of information the library provides to first time visitors which is very helpful.

**THANK YOU Mary Brandhorst,  
Eleanor Caldwell, Leona Cook,  
Linda Goerland, Betty Lava,  
and Mary Pearson for calling members  
last month.**

### Membership

Tammy Frey, Registrar

Well, holiday time is upon us! We've started the new Society year with some great speakers, and it's almost time for a party! Last month we were extremely fortunate to have Blaine Hedberg share his time with us. Even if you didn't have Norwegian ancestry, it was quite impressive and inspiring to hear of his work and the wealth of material that is available for Norwegian researchers. I hope to see you all at our Holiday Party on November 20!

Thanks to all who have gotten their renewals in! As always, 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](mailto:Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org).



### Attendance Report

Jeanine Lawrence

For October, 57 members and 7 guests attended the general meeting and 10 members attended the board meeting.

***Interested in servicing as the  
Telephone Committee Chairperson?  
Contact Tina Medlin-Chatham***

### BAG\$ Report for October

Bill Mayo, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,940.96
Income	\$882.81
Expenses	-\$1,298.31
Balance on hand 10/31/2010	\$3,525.46
CD Balance	\$6,277.93

## Free Genealogy Programs

The following classes are offered at the [Clayton Library](#). Reservations required. Call the library 832-393-2600. The library is located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas 77004 ([online map](#)).

### ***Genealogy Basics Boot Camp*** **Saturday, November 20 at 1:00pm-2:30pm**

Interested in your family history, but not quite sure where to start? Found some information, but need to know what else is available? Join the Bootcamp for an exercise in genealogy research resources! This session focuses on starting genealogical research by examining basic tools, such as the pedigree chart, and basic research strategies. Learn about the different genealogical materials available to researchers and how they lead to other sources.

### ***Understanding the Census: Tips & Tricks to Locate Hard to Find Ancestors*** **Saturday, November 20 at 3:00pm – 4:30pm**

The census is one of the most basic genealogical records used to trace ancestors, however, many inaccuracies and problems with the creation of the census make it difficult to identify ancestors during research. Learn how to identify these issues along with alternative search methods to assist in understanding the informational value of the census as a genealogical tool.



**Clayton House needs  
volunteers.**

**Training will be provided.**

**Call the Clayton Library  
at 832-393-2600.**



## Republic of Texas Genealogy

**A free event sponsored by the  
Houston Genealogical Forum**

**Saturday, December 4**

**10:00am – 1:30pm**

**in Bayland Community Center at  
6400 Bissonnet, Houston, TX ([online map](#))**

**featuring**

**Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck on  
genealogy of the Republic of Texas**

**Robert Ewing de Berardinis on  
*Microfilmed and Online Records  
Concerning the Republic of Texas***

A catered box lunch from **PICNIC** may be ordered ahead. The lunch order form is available [online](#). More information is available on the HGF website [www.hgftx.org](http://www.hgftx.org)



Alice Braud-Jones, Blaine Hedberg,  
David Wright, and Susie Ganch

October 2010 Norwegian research resources program presented by Blaine Hedberg and David Wright visiting from the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison, WI.



# BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



**REMINDER**  
Holiday Party  
Saturday, November 20  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
at Hope Village Tea Room

Deadline for  
December Issue is  
Saturday, December 4, 2010





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**(address and maps on the back)**



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**Located at 4541 FM 2351,**  
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