



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

Volume 10, Issue No. 8

April 2011

### Friday, April 29, 2011: Gay Carter presents “Who Knows...What Answers...Lurk on the Internet? An Adventure with 20th-Century Research”

*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](#))**



Gay E. Carter

Gay E. Carter will present a case study showing Internet resources used in conjunction with traditional sources to reconstruct an individual's story. Following case studies is a great way to learn how to use well-known resources to solve specific research problems. These documented research approaches can provide new perspectives and strategies for you to use in your own research.

Ms. Carter is the Reference/Documents Librarian at the Alfred R. Neumann Library, University of Houston–Clear Lake (UHCL). The library has been an official [Federal Depository Library](#) for selected U.S. government publications since 1980 and a [Texas Depository Library](#) for Texas state publications since 1988. She supervises the depository collections and is active in the Government Documents Round Table of the Texas Library Association. Ms. Carter holds a Master of Library Science degree from Texas Woman's University. She has been with UHCL since it “opened its doors” in 1974 and became a government documents librarian in 1980. Engaged in genealogical research for almost 30 years, she is a member of several genealogical organizations that include BAGS and is an alumna of the Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR).

You can access the UHCL Government Documents Collection listing [online](#) and the UHCL Archives & JSC History Collection Archives Catalog [online](#).

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**Join Resa Hennings and Claudia Grafton on the  
Nominating Committee (page 2).**

**Mt. Olivet Cemetery Transcription and Library  
Display projects are gearing up (pages 3 & 6).**

## BAGS Officers

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## Message from the President

Tina Medlin-Chatham



TINA  
MEDLIN-CHATHAM

Hope everyone is having a great spring!

It's a busy time for BAGS as we get ready to select a slate of candidates to serve as officers. We still need volunteers from the general membership to serve on the nominating committee. We have several Board members serving who will lead and guide the committee. Please contact me if you are willing to help on this committee.

And if you are interested in serving as an officer, please let me know and I will notify the committee.

And, we still need volunteers for the telephone committee. We especially need someone to lead that committee. Please consider helping in that area.

The Mt. Olivet Cemetery project team had a work day on April 5th so look for updates on that project coming soon.

Tina



## Welcome New Members

**Nick and Robin Cimino of League City**

*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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# Casting your net over free online resources using *Mocavo.com*

Available to the public for free, [Mocavo.com](http://Mocavo.com) launched on March 16, 2011 with the goal to provide access to all of the world's free genealogy information with one search interface. The website is designed to "discover" new sites every day. Simply type in the names of interest and click on Search. All related results from "industry sources such as genealogy message boards, family trees, state and local historical societies, the Library of Congress, National Archives, Ellis Island, Find A Grave, the Internet Archive, various U.S. state archives, and many tens of thousands of genealogy sites built by individuals will be displayed." [from the *Mocavo.com* "About" page]



For example, a search on the surname Schondelmaier generated results matching on the names of people submitting or providing the data (i.e. a link to possible living cousins) as well as record content. The matches included cemetery transcriptions from *FindAGrave.com*, lineage information from a personal website hosted on *InterCom.net*, message board postings on *Ancestor.com* and *Genealogy.com*, newspaper obituary index on *RootsWeb* the free portion of *Ancestry.com*, county WWII enlistment entries on *USGenWeb.org* archives, a city directory transcription from Trenton Historical Society, and a passenger list on *EllisIsland.org*.

The current search interface does not provide options to limit the results. So consider adding additional search terms describing locations, occupations, organizations or record types such as: cemetery, marriage, passenger, "city directory", lineage, or "military records." Using double quotes around names will engage searching for first name then last name, last name then first name, and compensate for possibility of middle names or initials listed in the records. Other tips for using the *Mocavo.com* search engine are posted on their blog entry [Some Quick Tips on Using](#)

[Mocavo](#), published March 17, 2011. Read the review written by Dick Eastman in his blog entry [Mocavo.com – a Genealogy Search Engine](#), published March 15, 2011.

## Links to State Archives

Thanks to Mary Martin, BAGS Recording Secretary, for providing a list of U.S. state archives with direct links originally published in *Ancestry Daily News*. This list is accessible online in the *Ancestry.com* archives titled [Reference Corner: Links to State Archives](#), published September 9, 2002. Often a state archive website will provide special sections for genealogists and free online record databases.

## Preparing for BAGS Display at the Library

by Polly Swerdlin, Display Committee Chair

Let's plan for October's display in the lobby of Freeman Library. The previous themes have been *Genealogy is...*, *Military Service of our Ancestors*, *Our Women Ancestors*, and *Show and Tell*.

I'd like some ideas for this year. Should it even have a theme, or just be an "advertisement" for our meetings?

Perhaps we could display listings and photographs of activities and events – Clayton trips, cemetery documenting, trips to Salt Lake City, seminars and speakers, etc.

Today I stopped off to see this month's display and was impressed of how simple and attractive children's art work can be.



There are 16 shelves available, each 3' x 18" x 18".

Please call or [email](#) me with ideas, I would love to make it happen once more.





## The job of preservationist extends beyond records, stories, and buildings...

During the Clayton library reconstruction, BAGS First Vice President Claudia Grafton, who is also the current President of Clayton Library Friends (CLF), made it her mission to save the beautiful iris and lily flower bulbs that have been a part of the library's landscaping for decades. Claudia enlisted the help of Chris Wiesinger, known as the "bulb hunter," who owns Southern Bulb Company near Tyler, Texas and specializes in heritage bulbs. With less than 24 hours notice, Claudia, her husband James, and Chris collected about 400 iris bulbs and about 400 lily bulbs. Chris nurtured the bulbs until the construction project was complete. Now many of the bulbs have been replanted and are being cared for by Harris County Master Gardeners (HCMG), some who live as far away as Katy and Clear Lake. The plants are thriving and are expected to bloom in April. Stop by the library to see them and appreciate the labor of love provided by the Graftons, Chris Wiesinger, and HCMG. Bulbs that were not replanted may be used as a fundraiser for CLF for the benefit of the Clayton Library.



Preserving heritage flowers during library reconstruction

## Roots in Italy?

Last month, Nick Cimino provided an entertaining and informative program on resource information needed for people to begin researching ancestors in Italy. Nick recommended two books: *Italian Genealogical Records: How to Use Italian Civil, Ecclesiastical & Other Records in Family History Research* by Trafford R. Cole published in 1995 and *Our Italian Surnames* by Joseph G. Fucilla published in 1987. Both are available at the Clayton Library, Amazon.com, and through inter-library loan. Nick volunteers research assistance at the Clayton House on Friday afternoons from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. He will be providing the same program at the Italian

Cultural and Community Center on April 14 at 7:00pm. The center is located at 1101 Milford, Houston, TX ([online map](#)). For more information contact the center at 713-524-4222.

**In commemoration of the Civil War, *Ancestry.com* is opening their entire *Civil War Collection*, accessible at [www.ancestry.com/civilwar150](http://www.ancestry.com/civilwar150), to everyone the week of April 7-14. You will be able to search without a subscription.**

**The highlights are the newly-digitized National Archives "Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-1865," "U.S. Soldiers Compiled Service Records, 1861-1865" and "U.S. Soldiers Compiled Service Records, 1861-1865."**

## Culinary Preservation

Food recipes are wonderful documents to include in your collected family history, especially if you can include a photo of the cook or any family stories surrounding a meal including the dish. Family recipes provide a glimpse into a family's heritage, linking us to ancestors and either a special event or daily life. A collection of family recipes make nice personal gifts for wedding and baby showers. Consider giving a *BAGS Cookbook* as a Mother's Day gift. Purchase one for \$15 at the next general meeting.



The Janice Bluestein Longone Culinary Archive located at University of Michigan William L. Clements Library is dedicated to preserving all things culinary related to American history. "Far more than just cookbooks, it contains a wide diversity of materials from the 16th to early 20th centuries - books, ephemera, menus, magazines, graphics, maps, manuscripts, diaries, letters, catalogues, advertisements, and reference works." [website's general description] The catalog and guides are available online at [www.clements.umich.edu/longone-archive.php](http://www.clements.umich.edu/longone-archive.php).

# 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.**

<b>Monday, April 25, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, April 29, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> <b>Speaker: Gay Carter, Reference/Documents Librarian at the Alfred R. Neumann Library, UHCL presents “Who Knows...What Answers...Lurk on the Internet? An Adventure with 20th-Century Research”</b> Meet in the Great Room on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
<b>Monday, May 23, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, May 27, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> Meet in the Great Room on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
<b>Wednesday, June 1, 2011</b>	<b>9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library</b> (details on pg. 6)
<b>Monday, June 20, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, June 24, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> <b>Speakers: Eric and Glenda Sandifer present “Who Were the Huguenots?”</b> Meet in the Great Room on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
<b>Wednesday, July 6, 2011</b>	<b>9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library</b> (details on pg. 6)
<b>Monday, July 25, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, July 29, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> Meet in the Great Room on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
<b>Wednesday, August 3, 2011</b>	<b>9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library</b> (details on pg. 6)
<b>Monday, August 22, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, August 26, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b>

## Committee News

### BAGS QUARTERLY NEWS

Quarterly editor Melodey Hauch will be working with Lisa Struthers, Director of the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Library at the San Jacinto Museum of History, to publish several very old family Bibles from the library's collection. Plans are for the first transcription to be published in the June issue.

### Mt. Olivet Cemetery Transcription Project Progress Report

The project had a work day on Tuesday, April 5 at the cemetery. The goal is to finish all of St. Dominic, St. Gregory and St. Edith sections.

The project always could use more volunteers to work at the cemetery or at home on a computer transcribing the cemetery notes and pictures.

If you would like to join the group in recording and transcribing the grave markers, contact either Neil Miserendino, Alice Braud-Jones, or Melodey Hauch.

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

We have received new dates:

Wednesday, June 1

Wednesday, July 6

Wednesday, August 3

Wednesday, September 14

**Mark your calendars to join BAGS members for a reasearch trip to Clayton Library.** If you have any questions please call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435 or e-mail Mary at [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com).

### Membership

#### Tammy Frey, Registrar

Last month we had a renewal, and two new members joined. Our current membership is 165. Among these, there is a wealth of knowledge and skills. What skills do you



have that you might share with our group? How well do you know your fellow members?

There are great benefits to becoming more involved in the organization. You have the pleasure of increasing the number and depth of your

acquaintances. There is a wonderful sense of satisfaction in belonging and in accomplishing a worthwhile purpose. And, you have a chance to make a difference in the future of our Society. Won't you consider becoming more involved? We'd love to hear from you!

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 March, 37 members and 6 visitors attended the general meeting and 9 members attended the Board meeting.

### BAG\$ Report for March 2011

#### Bill Mayo, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,232.98
Income	\$29.53
Expenses	<u>-\$343.22</u>
Balance on hand 3/31/2011	\$2,919.29
CD Balance	\$6,303.34

## Local Events

### Free Genealogy Programs at Clayton Library

For more information all the Clayton Library at 832-393-2600. The library is located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas 77004 ([online map](#)).

#### Clayton Library Orientation

**Saturday, April 16 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am**

Learn about the vast family history research resources at the facility. Reservations is not required.

#### Daughters of the American Revolution Day

**Saturday, April 30 from 10:30 am to 4:30 am**

Ever wonder how to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)? Representatives from local DAR chapters will be at Clayton Library for consultation and research help in preparing lineage papers for submission to the DAR. Reservations is not required.

***Clayton Library will be open  
Easter weekend:***

***Friday, April 22 & Saturday, April 23.***

**New to genealogy research?  
Take a look at the [online](#)  
research guide published by  
Clayton Library.**

### FamilySearch Indexing

At the Friendswood Public Library on Monday, April 18 is canceled and will be rescheduled.

### The Annual TSGS Conference is coming to Houston!

**November 4-5, 2011 the Texas State Genealogical Conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel near Hobby Airport.**

**Help is needed in planning and working this conference.**

**If you are interested in being part of this event, contact Claudia Grafton via email at**

**[VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org)**

### “Splitting the Blanket” presented by Emily Croom

**Saturday, May 14 at the Clayton Library  
Friends General Meeting.**

This program covers finding records from divorce in your family research. Registration is at 10:15 am with the meeting beginning at 10:30 in the Clayton Library Carriage House Meeting Room ([online map](#)).

### Italian Heritage Museum in League City

**[The League City Historical Society](#)** has reserved Butler's Courtyard for the evening of May 26 at 6:30pm for a special meeting of the Historical Society focused on restoration of the Ghirardi House in Heritage Park, League City. BAGS member Nick Cimino will provide a presentation on efforts to preserve the Ghirardi House as a museum devoted to the history of the Italian families of the Galveston Bay area including League City, Dickinson and beyond. Read a back story on the Ghirardi farmhouse printed in the *Galveston Daily News* [online article](#) “Italian heritage museum house safe – for now” by Sara McDonald on June 19, 2007.

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Nick Cimino program  
presenter at the  
BAGS March Meeting

# BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



## REMINDER

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

Deadline for  
May Issue is  
Saturday, May 7, 2011