



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 10, Issue No. 10

June 2011

Friday, June 24, 2011: Eric Sandifer presents "Who Were the Huguenots?"

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](#))



Eric Sandifer

Historian and re-enactor Eric Sandifer will be dressed as Colonel William Barrett Travis to relate a brief history of the French Protestants in Europe, their migration to America, and contributions made by their descendants which include several famous people in Texas history. He is a member and past President of the Saint Bartholomew Chapter of the Huguenot Society of Texas, Incorporated. Eric and his wife, Glenda, are members of many lineage societies including the Major John White Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and the Goose Creek Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, respectively. The photo of Eric Sandifer was taken with one of the "Twin Sisters" located on the hallowed ground at San Jacinto Battlefield during the annual re-enactment of the Battle for Texas Independence.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 President's Message
 - 3 New Members, Memoriam, Houston History, Scotland Resources, Success Stories, Civil War 150th resources
 - 4 Library Display, Receiving Tribal Membership
 - 5 Calendar for BAGS
 - 6 Committee News
 - 7 Local Area Events, Conferences, & Classes
- (inserts)
- Dr. Arlene Eakle Seminar Registration Form
 - BAGS Membership Application

**Pick up the new May 2011
Quarterly issue.**

**2011-2013 Officer slate
has been filled.**

**Changes to the Bylaws were passed
at the May general meeting.**

**Membership renewal has begun.
Details on page 6.**

BAGS Officers

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Message from the President

Tina Medlin-Chatham



TINA
MEDLIN-CHATHAM

Last month I wrote about some of the 'get to know each other' games I have used at reunions. This month I will focus on things I have done for fun when the group knows each other well (or thinks they do)!

I have each person attending write something unique about themselves on a note card (and include their name). Then put them all in a box and draw one out, read the card and see if any can guess who wrote it. To help them, I give out a list of questions or even preprinted cards

with questions. Some of the questions I have used are:

What piece of wisdom or advice would you like to pass on?

Who influenced your life the most?

What did you think you would be when you grew up?

What events most changed your life?

Tell us about your happiest memory of family times.

What is your funniest family memory?

What do you remember about your grandparents or other relatives?

What family tradition do you still practice today?

What was your first job?



As you can see, the questions could be endless. And, the part I like best is that I have some fun and interesting facts about family members that I can add to my family tree.

Another idea is to see how well everyone knows 'who belongs to whom'. Make a large ancestry chart with only one generation of names (perhaps great grandparents). You can hang on a wall or lay on a table. Write descendant names on slips of paper and put in a box. Have each person draw one or more, put their name on the back of the slip and then pin to the chart where they think the person belongs. See who had the most correct and recognize them in front of the family for their family knowledge.

I hope all of you who are planning reunions find some of my ideas helpful.

Have a great summer!

Tina



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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Houston History



Ann Becker shared some wonderful old photographs and stories of Houston politicians and business owners. Ann is a member of Houston's Living History, www.houstonlivinghistory.com.

This organization has produced 4 short videos on the city of Houston in 1840, 1910, 1912, and 1935 including old photographs and re-enactments with period dress and cars. View these videos on *YouTube*:

1840 Video: See events pivoting around "The Old Place" (log cabin now located in Sam Houston Park [map](#)) serving as the Gray's home and host to the Texas Army one evening.

1910 Video: Visit the new Harris County Courthouse ([map](#)) and the Rice Hotel.

1912 Video: Visit the John Wiley Link's beautiful home that currently houses the University of St. Thomas Administrative Offices ([map](#)).

1935 Video: Walk across Houston's first bridge, McKee Street Bridge, for a picnic in James Bute Park ([map](#)).

Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration

HISTORY™ online interactive resources:

[Civil War 150](#) is a teaching tool on many aspects of the war.

[Sherman's March](#) explores the details in the Atlanta, Savannah, and Carolinas campaigns.

[Ultimate History Quiz](#) has two quiz categories: general interest and American Civil War.

Got An iPad?

HISTORY™ offers a new app called "Civil War Today" for a fee exclusively for the iPad. Daily updates using original documents, photos, maps, diary entries, quotes and newspaper broadsheets unveil the events in real time over the course of four years. (click [here](#) for more information).

Welcome New Members

Give a warm welcome to the following new members:

Carolyn Aschom Willett and Kim Willett Sullivan of Webster.

Roots in Scotland?

"The Clans of the Scottish Highlands" by Alan Stewart in *Internet Genealogy* magazine February/March 2011 issue, pages 29-32 discusses clan history and provides an online resource for each of the largest Highland clans. This magazine is available at your local library.

Research Success Stories

After 22 years of research, Barbara Moore was accepted as a member of the Santa Rosa County Florida Muscogee Creek Tribe on March 27, 2011.

A 30 year old brick wall crumbled for Oletia Teas after the research maintained by a Tennessee cousin was posthumously published online by the cousin's family and found through a Google search.

Resa Hennings was recently contacted by new relative after finding the Eric Hennings family 5-generation chart published in July 2007 *BAGS Newsletter*.

[Congratulations! Want to share your research success? Send information to the editor]

BAGS member **Jean Marie Wisneski Van Vlierden** passed away Thursday, May 26, 2011. The *Galveston County Daily News* published her obituary on May 29 and it is currently accessible [online](#).

Our prayers go out to Shirley Robbins and her family.

BAGS Display @ Local Library

We are planning for October's display in the lobby of Freeman Library. We have decided our theme this year will be "Time to Look Back". Some ideas already offered are some aprons from 6 generations, family pictures through the years, cameras, typewriters and timepieces as they have progressed.



Do you have some artifacts that can be matched with a modern item to show the changes? We would like to show something prior to 1900, then perhaps about 1950 or 1960, along with what we use now in 2011.

There are 16 shelves available, each 3' x 18" x 18". The shelves can be rearranged lower or higher, but the dividers are fixed at 3' wide. It is all kept under lock and key by the reference librarian.

Please contact any of us with ideas and what you have to offer. We would love to make it happen once more.

Polly Swerdlin ([e-mail](#)), Barbara Moore ([e-mail](#)), Oletia Teas ([e-mail](#))

Receiving My Tribal Membership by Barbara McClellan Moore

We all have different goals for doing our research. Some are for health information from the past, or perhaps to answer questions about ancestors we want to know more about. Then there is the search for our cultural heritage. There are so many mountains to climb, swamps to wade through, plains to cross and other terrains which makes up the easy portion. The hard part is getting people to talk about a past too painful to remember because of the prejudice and often cruel times associated with the memories.

I walked these pathways, breaking through one brick wall after another looking for my Cherokee ancestors. Along the way, I also found I had Creek heritage. I began to find people associated with my two tribal families. Several years ago I was adopted into the Nighthawk Keetoowah Cherokee Stomp Ground in Vian, Oklahoma based on information we were able to piece together about my ancestors by word of mouth. The Cherokee passed stories down verbally, they were not written. These people came from the Quallah Boundary in North Carolina. Then

I found connections with family members in Florida who helped me trace our ancestor, Na-Ho-Ga, back to her birthplace; the Eufala Creek Nation in Georgia. She lived to be over 100 years old. I was told I could talk to someone about this in Pace, Florida when I came home.

It turned out that Chief Tommy Nichols is a distant cousin from my paternal grandmother's family. I gathered every birth and death certificate, obituaries, and articles from newspapers. I needed pictures of headstones and had all my family group sheets and pedigree sheets. I needed to prove back to where the Chief and I tied into the family line together, which was accomplished. Since I could not prove the Cherokee ties with the proper paperwork, I decided to try for the Creek side. This is the one I have the most connection with where my family still lives, which was comforting. I went to Chief Tommy Nichols of the Santa Rosa County Muscogee Creek Tribe and talked with him. A tribal member Gail Allred would do all the investigations and verifications. I was told it would take several months. That was January 2010. In February 2011, I received an e-mail that everything cleared. My paperwork would be presented at the March Council Meeting. I received a call from a local Muscogee Creek tribal member and we talked about my name being presented at council meeting. Bryan and I had met before, and I was surprised he was contacted to call me as an extension of the council. It was suggested I send the council a copy of flyers concerning Native American activities I had been part of or were upcoming. I had already sent these on my own to let them know I am actively representing our people in Texas. On March 27, 2011, 11 P.M., I received a phone call saying my card would be arriving in the mail.

There are several classifications of tribal groups:

1) Community groups seeking to hold on to remnants of what people have passed on and participation in Native activities with other community groups.

2) Federally Recognized Tribes: There are many benefits and advantages available for these tribes. Some MAY be financial (very few) but educational and medical care and other programs are established for them. There is a Senate Bill 880 in the Florida Senate right now seeking federalization for Muscogee Creek. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will contact state tribal members for verifications in April 2012. Federally recognized tribal members have a card resembling a driver's license.

(continued on page 5)

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.**

Friday, June 24, 2011	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Speakers: Eric and Glenda Sandifer present “Who Were the Huguenots?” in period dress as William Barrett Travis and David Crockett. Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Wednesday, July 6, 2011	9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library (details on pg. 6)
Monday, July 25, 2011	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, July 29, 2011	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Speaker: Linda Jamison presents “The Orphan Trains”
Wednesday, August 3, 2011	9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library (details on pg. 6)
Monday, August 22, 2011	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, August 26, 2011	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Annual Show & Tell with Potluck Dinner in the Chapel on 1st Floor at UBC.

Tribal Membership (Continued from page 4)

3) State Recognized - This card is renewable annually. You must be a member in good standing to renew it. It states:

*Santa Rosa County Creek Indian Tribe, Inc.
Established in 1990 under Florida License 285.19
and recognized by the **Muscogee Indian Council of Florida** in 1996, operating hereunder does certify the holder of this card*

_____ Name Roll number _____

as a member, entitled to all the rights, privileges, benefits, courtesies, actions, or assistance by Federal, State, local or private entities that would be afforded to any other Native American person or group, existing under any other statute, executive order or legislation in existence in the state of Florida appertaining to other Native American Indians.

It has been a long road for the Muscogee Creek to try and get federalization; almost as long as I have been looking for them. Hopefully they will succeed this time. I do know I have been welcomed with open arms into many Native groups whose people I have met over the years and now am welcomed and called "sister" by them. My own children do not understand where the drive and compulsion came from within the mother they have loved all these years that compelled me to complete this search. They do know how happy I am that I have completed it. Their father was not interested in hearing about this search any more than my father wanted my mother to speak of it. So my children at least have a solid, clear pathway to follow if they choose to go back and look at their ancestors. I did this just because I needed to do it for myself. There truly IS a good side of being selfish in life...we need to do things for ourselves sometimes. I have no regrets.

Committee News

Bus Trips To Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

We had 13 people go on the last bus trip on June 1. Three of them had never gone with us before and they were all busy working on DAR lineage papers. Some of us in that same group were looking at *Colonial Dames of the 17th Century* books.



Our next trips are: Wednesday, July 6; Wednesday, August 3; and Wednesday, September 14. 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 Rec Center parking lot before 4:00 pm. 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. Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings.

Mt. Olivet Cemetery Transcription Project Progress Report by Neil Miserendino

The following people participated in the workday at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Tuesday April 5, 2011: Neil Miserendino, Melodey Hauch, Alice Braud-Jones, William (Bill) Kreps, Lynn Finger, Regina Flynn, Tammy Frey, Chester Karrick, Polly Swerdlin, and Kim Zrubek. I want to thank all of the participants. On that day, in approximately 2.5 hours, we were able to document about half of the St. Dominic section and the majority of the St. Gregory section. Half of the group took photographs of markers while the other half documented the placement and location details. As the weather is hot we are not planning another workday at the cemetery until the fall. Resa Hennings and Tammy Frey are currently transcribing the information that was photographed into electronic form. When complete, Melodey Hauch, her husband, and others will walk the cemetery a second time to verify the electronic transcriptions against the markers. After verification, the information will be ready for publication in the *BAGS Quarterly*.

Membership Tammy Frey, Registrar

With such a hot beginning to the summer, aren't you glad you have a hobby that you can pursue indoors in the air conditioning? I certainly am! I'm saving any cemetery research for cooler weather – like November! Be sure to mark your calendars for the summer meetings. Besides free air conditioning, we will be having some excellent speakers and a great time visiting with each other! This month our speaker, Eric Sandifer, will make his presentation on the Huguenots while wearing period dress. It promises to be an interesting and informative evening!

When you come to the meeting, be sure to bring your checkbook so that you can go ahead and renew your membership for the new Society Year, which begins September 1. If your information is the same, you do not have to redo the membership application. Yes, I know September still seems far away, but this way you can just get it done and not have to worry about missing the deadline. This year, the cutoff deadline for the Yearbook will be earlier so that we can get the Yearbook published and to the membership more quickly. Your early renewal will help us greatly in accomplishing this goal. Thank you!

As always, if you have any changes in or corrections to your contact information, please notify us at Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Attendance Report Jeanine Lawrence

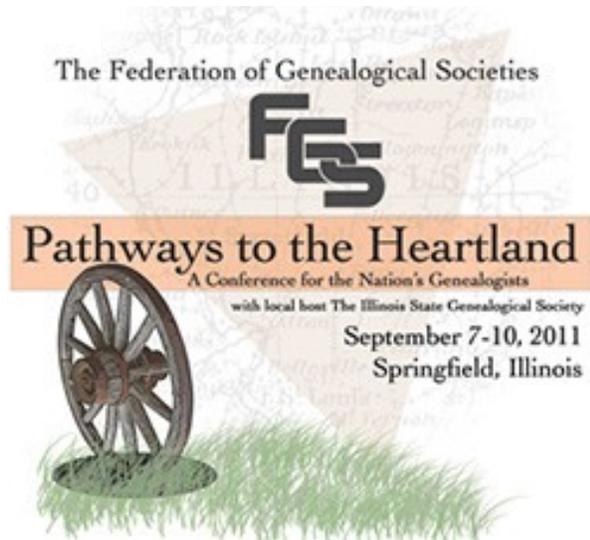


For May, 53 members and 6 visitors attended the general meeting and 13 members attended the Board meeting.

BAG\$ Report for May 2011 Bill Mayo, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$2,851.24
Income	\$91.51
Expenses	-\$134.62
Balance on hand 5/31/2011	\$2,808.13
CD Balance	\$6,303.34

Local Events



Conference will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center located on One Convention Center Plaza ([online map](#))

Program schedule, speakers, special events, registration, hotel and travel information is published on the conference website www.fgs.org/2011conference Pre-registration postmarked by July 1.

Clayton Library Friends Host:

On Saturday, August 13 at 10:30am, Stephen Sloan from Baylor University will present "Library of Congress Oral History Project: interviewing your family members for posterity" at the general meeting.

Arlene H. Eakle, Ph.D. Seminar on Saturday, August 27 at 10:30am. Dr. Eakle is president and founder of The Genealogical Institute, Inc. Registration form is included in this newsletter and is [online](#). Topics include: 1) Migration Patterns from the British Isles to the Southern United States Before 1850 including people differences: English, Irish, Scots, Welsh; 2) Appalachian Triangle: Eastern Tennessee, Northwestern North Carolina, Southeastern Kentucky, Southwestern Virginia; 3) Naming Patterns: Your Key to Ancestral Origins in the Southern United States; and 4) Tracing a Southern Pedigree—Research strategies, finding aids, indexes, and under-used sources to by-pass burned courthouses.

15th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference

Family Myths and Realities



July 15-16, 2010 in Lufkin, Texas at Angelina College located on 3500 South First Street (Hwy 59 South - two miles south of Loop 187) [online map](#).

Attendees will have over 24 sessions from which to choose. Speakers include Philip Burnett Adderley, CGSM, David B. Appleton, Emily Croom, Bruce Lockett, John Sellers, and Jerry Woodman.

Note that two optional all-day workshops are also offered on Thursday, July 14. Conference sessions, times, registration information, and forms are available online at www.angelina.edu/genealogy/genealogy.html Pre-registration postmarked by June 25. A printable registration form is accessible [online](#).

Foreign Language Records Research

Monday, July 25 at 3:30pm at the Friendswood Public Library ([online map](#))

Sue Yerby, BAGS member and Family History Center Volunteer will discuss methods and tools for researching non-English records. Come share your tips or experiences with using non-English records. Program is free.

Save the date for the ...

Greater Houston Area Family History Conference

in Kingwood, TX on Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The featured speaker is Mr. Mike Hall, Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. This all day conference is hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

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



Ann Becker and Susie Ganch
at the May 27, 2011 general meeting

BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



REMINDER

Next General Meeting is
Friday, June 24 at 7:00 pm
Great Room (2nd Floor) UBC
Socializing at 6:30 pm

Deadline for
July Issue is
Saturday, July 2, 2011

Bay Area Genealogical Society

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

http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org ··· registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

Membership Application

Please bring to meeting or mail to above address with payment.

Membership: New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Full Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Preferred Name for Name Tag (include maiden name?) _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP Code _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____

If this is a family membership, list the other family members' full names & name tag preferences:

Occupation or, if retired, previous occupation of primary member _____

Occupation or, if retired, previous occupation of other member(s) _____

May we print your address, e-mail address and phone number in the Society's yearbook? Yes ___ No ___

Research interests, surnames _____

I need help with _____

I can help with (e.g., German translation, NY research...) _____

The Society needs your participation. Check the committee(s) on which you are willing to serve:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auditing | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Member Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Master |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ | | |

Payment – To calculate your payment, please choose one from each category:

Single membership \$20

Family membership ... \$25 \$ _____

Quarterly & Yearbook by mail ... \$5 \$ _____

(Mailed all together at year end; included at no additional charge if picked up by end of Society year)

Donation ... (see suggested levels below) \$ _____

Make checks out to "BAGS" Cash ___ Check # _____ TOTAL \$

Please consider a higher level of support for the Society:

Contributor - \$30-\$49, **Patron** - \$50-\$599, **Lifetime** membership - \$600 or higher.

BAGS is a non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Contribution confirmation letters may be requested from Registrar and picked up at the following meeting.