



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue No. 1

September 2011

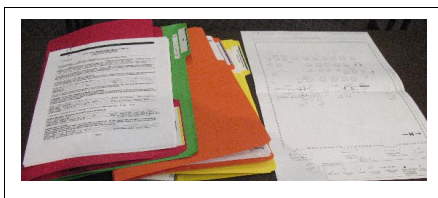
### **Friday, September 30, 2011: Deborah Cole presents Tips & Tricks from the 2011 FGS Conference**

*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 member Deborah Cole attended the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) annual conference "Pathways to the Heartland" held in Springfield, Illinois on September 7-10, 2011. She will share tips and tricks received from some of the classes. Four days of programming covered topics of research & reconstruction strategies; technology tools; Iowa, Scots-Irish, National Archives, and 1940 U.S. Census research; material preservation and restoration; and society promotion.

Deborah has been working on genealogy off and on since the age of 16. Lately she has been actively working on documenting the Wilson Family Cemetery in southern Anderson County, TX. She has created a survey and researched the lives of those buried there and interviewed current living family members. Some of these materials were presented at last month's Show & Tell. The surnames found in the cemetery are: Wilson, Powell, Farmer, Knighten, Harris, Isbell, White, Luke, House, Beatty, Edwards, McCall, Denson, Harper, Stephens, and Weatherly--all related directly or through marriage to Andrew Wilson, Jr., who was born in South Carolina in 1806 and moved to Texas in 1850.



Deborah earned a BA in History with a minor in Writing from Stephen F. Austin State University. She is currently employed as a Sr. Administrative Assistant for a commercial real estate company.

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

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#### **September general meeting:**

**The 2011-2013 Officers will be installed.**

**Pick up new September 2011 *BAGS Quarterly* issue.**

**Purchase new BAGS Padfolios**

**Last chance to submit items for the October BAGS Freeman Library display. Details on page 6.**

**Renew membership by September meeting if you want to be included in the Yearbook.  
Details on page 5.**

## BAGS Officers

### President

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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)

All rights reserved.

## Message from the President

**Tina Medlin-Chatham**



TINA  
MEDLIN-CHATHAM

This is my final message as President of BAGS. I have really enjoyed my two years in that role. This is a great organization and I am proud to be a part of it. I loved working with all the other Board members but I am especially glad that this role helped me to get to know a lot more of the members. I look forward to working with the new President of BAGS and all the other Board members.

Hope to see you all at the General meeting on the 30th when the new Board members are installed.

Tina

## New Members

*Please give a warm welcome  
to our newest BAGS member:*

**Sonya Cuculis of Houston**

## THANK YOU

**Tina Medlin-Chatham**

**Lynn Finger**

**Tammy Frey**

**Susie Ganch**

**Claudia Grafton**

**Mary Martin**

**Bill Mayo**

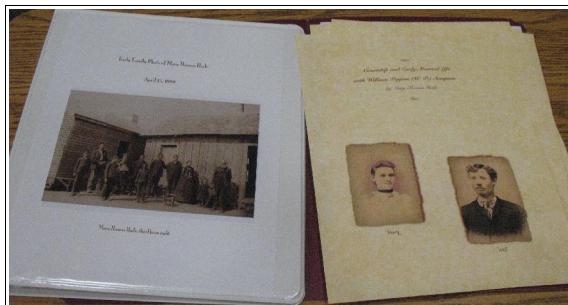


BAGS membership extends grateful appreciation to you for outstanding service to the society as 2009-2011 BAGS officers.

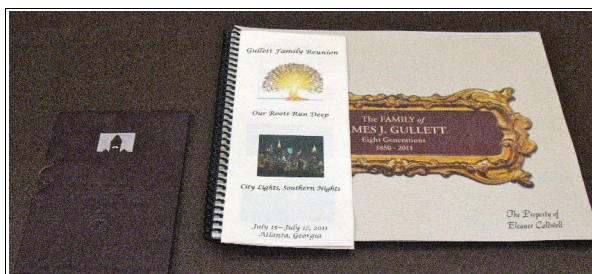
## Show & Tell – Great Fun!

Members shared wonderful items and advice at last month's Show & Tell program

Several members have been busy creating family history books. Maurine Lee's book includes her grandmother's handwritten notes detailing her courtship and early-married life in the 1880s.

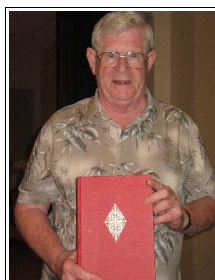


Eleanor Caldwell and her daughter created a beautiful book for the Gullett Family Reunion in July 2011 that includes photos and images of primary source records such as slave documents, WWI draft cards, and marriage certificates. Eleanor also shared the 1933 Morehouse College graduation announcement book for her father George Russell Finley. The book contains graduates' names, program schedule and photographs.



Number please. The group had fun discussing experiences with placing phone calls using telephone operators when Leanne Fehlman presented a 1900's Magneto-type wall telephone. The online [Telephone Museum](#) has information on the history of the instruments and the people who created them.

Bill Mayo encouraged us to periodically search for the same family information on the Internet since every day potentially new information is published on the web. By "looking again", Bill



discovered the German spelling of his great-great-grandfather's name to be Frederick G. Mejo and a 72 page biographical essay. Mejo was the last bookbinder for President Thomas Jefferson.

Michael McCowen discussed his success in locating cousins by participating in Family Tree DNA's family finder test. Nick Cimino discussed his success in connecting with people after loading vital information from an inherited German Bible into the online RootsWeb [WorldConnect Project](#).

Several items that will be included in this year's BAGS library display were presented at the program.



Aprons and cookbooks that were used by several generations in Barbara Moore's family.

Kim Willett Sullivan shared her great-grandmother's doll and her granddaughter's Barbie doll.



Kim also shared her father's Keuffel & Esser slide rule.



Nick Cimino showcased a large map of ancestral land obtained as a result of researching North Ireland land records. He also shared a photo album complete with legend of signatures linking the photos. This album was purchased at an antique fair and given the legend, Nick located matching U.S. Census records. **(continued on page 7)**





## TSGS Conference Update

Submitted by Claudia M. Grafton, Clayton Library Friends President and Proud BAGS Member, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P.

The Texas State Genealogical Society Convention will be here in two months! All the committees are working overtime to present Texas with an exceptional and informative event that will be remembered for years to come. In addition to classes and workshops, there are social gatherings both evenings. An "Ice Cream Social" followed by a "Birds of a Feather" get together is scheduled for Thursday. Friday, the TSGS Award Banquet will offer surprises galore! From beginning to end we have scheduled something enjoyable for everyone.

### Call for Volunteers

I invite BAGS members to play a active part in, not only the entire event, but also assisting me in the "Hospitality" and "Set up " portion before, during, and in between sessions. I need help with the decorations before the event (tables, lobby and general) on Wednesday, Nov. 2. The banquet tables will require some attention before Friday evening's event. The vendors might need to take a break or two and it would be nice if we could "sit in" for them, if necessary. Since Houston is "hosting" this shindig, the committees are prepared to fill in the holes and I'm hoping you all might help out. I am suggesting the same commitment from all the Societies I am visiting, which averages three visits a week. However, I am counting on BAGS members to make a good showing, since the Hobby-Marriott is located so close to us.

I've already heard from some of you. Please tell me what day you might be available for some "light duty". I promise to make it fun! I might have some projects coming up a few weeks before the event, if that is more convenient to you. Just let me know by the September meeting. I'll have a sign up sheet at the meeting. Call or e-mail if you miss signing up.

Thank you, in advance, for all your help and support in hosting the November Conference. I want a good showing from BAGS whether or not you volunteer, as I'm particularly proud of this society and it's members.



**Access  
complete TSGS  
conference  
schedule, and  
registration  
information  
[online](#).**

Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS) Conference will be held at the Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport, November 4-5, 2011. There will be a Pre-Conference day on Thursday, November 3 with events in the morning at Clayton Library and a writing workshop in the afternoon at the hotel put on by the Conference speaker Paula Stuart-Warren. Early registration postmarked by October 15, 2011.

### **Topics presented by Paula Stuart-Warren at the conference on Saturday, November 5, 2011 are:**

***Finding and Using Manuscript and Special Collections Repositories:*** A lecture on how using manuscripts and special collections as sources of information can help fill in gaps in your family's history.

***Southern Deeds: More than Land:*** To most people, deeds are nothing more than land transactions. Find out how Southern deeds can be the key to unlocking vaults of valuable information that would surprise many.

***Railroad Records and Railroad History: Methods for Tracking:*** Many people's ancestors traversed the nation working for the railroad. This lecture demonstrates the wealth of historical materials available all across the US, and how to find it.

***The WPA Era: What it Created for Genealogists:*** During the 1930's and 1940's the Works Progress/Projects Administration put many people to work and created a goldmine such as record transcriptions, courthouse and manuscript inventories, indexes, city/county histories, and histories of businesses and families. Learn here what may be available for you.

# 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>Friday, September 30</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> <b>Speaker: BAGS Member, Deborah Cole presents Tips &amp; Tricks from the 2011 FGS Conference</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, October 12</b>	<b>9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library</b> (details on pg. 6)
<b>Monday, October 24</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, October 28</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting - Speaker: Family Tree DNA</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, November 2</b>	<b>9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library</b> (details on pg. 6)
<b>Saturday, November 19</b>	<b>11:00am – 1:00pm Holiday Party at Hope Village Tea Room</b>

## Membership

### Tammy Frey, Registrar

We're off to a great start for the new Society Year! Renewals are rolling in as our members are keeping up with the new deadline to be in the *BAGS Yearbook*. Thank you! For those who haven't yet renewed, remember that you must do so by the September meeting if you want to be included in the *Yearbook*. If we don't have your picture, or if you want your photo updated for the *Yearbook*, we can either take your picture at the meeting or you can email it to Neil Miserendino.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past four years as the BAGS Registrar. The best part was being able to interact with you all and to see your smiling faces each month as you came in. What a delightful group of members we have! I am very pleased that Deborah Cole is willing to be our new Registrar. She will do a great job! I hope you will all stop by and greet her ... and while you're at it, pay your dues! As always, if you have any changes in or corrections to your contact information, please notify us at [Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org).



## Latest Quarterly is ready!

### Melodey Hauch, BAGS Quarterly Editor

Be sure to pick up the latest issue of the *BAGS Quarterly* at the September meeting. This September issue will be the fourth and last one for this year, and this will be a good time to catch up on issues you may have missed. Members submitted terrific articles for our tenth volume, and I am looking forward to Volume 11 which I hope will be my last. If you have been reading the *Quarterly* and thinking that you would do it differently, this is the time to join the staff and find out how I go about composing and printing the issues.

## Mocavo – Genealogy Search

### Submitted by Lewis W. Jarman

Are you tired of all those 10 million hits when you are searching for genealogy data using Google or other web search engine? Try *Mocavo* ([www.mocavo.com](http://www.mocavo.com))! This new search engine is designed to provide access to all of the world's free genealogy information with one search interface. Just type a name, city, state, or county and watch what happens. Good hunting/searching for those missing people in your family tree.

## Committee News

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

#### New Trip Dates:

Wednesday, October 12

Wednesday, November 2

Wednesday, January 18, 2012



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](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings.

### 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 six 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.

**Please refer to the insert in this newsletter for more information and registration form for your contribution.**

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

### Help get the word out about BAGS!

Do you have a neighborhood newspaper in which we could list our meeting dates and speakers? Please forward the name of the paper and its e-mail address to Publicity Chair, Resa Hennings, at [resa@resa.us](mailto:resa@resa.us), or call her at (936) 588-6752.

### Attendance Report

#### Jeanine Lawrence

For August, 55 members and 2 visitors attended the general meeting and 15 members attended the Board meeting.

Considering the past eleven meetings, the average attendance was 54 people. The highest attendance was at Sue Yerby's presentation on the Family History Center resources in September 2010. The lowest attendance was at the Holiday Party in November 2011.



### BAGS Scrapbook

**Submit any clippings or items for our scrapbook to Lynn Finger.**

### BAG\$ Report for August 2011

#### Bill Mayo, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,693.65
Income	\$480.00
Expenses	<u>-\$266.15</u>
Balance on hand 8/31/2011	\$3,907.50
CD Balance	\$6,316.68

## Free Local Events

### Car Show on Saturday, October 1

A chance to see some antique models at Friendswood Friends Church, 502 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood ([online map](#))

### Legendary Norden Bombsight

**Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00pm** at the Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood ([online map](#)) W. N. Crawford will discuss his training as a WW II Bombardier/Navigator with pictures detailing the operation of the bombsight.

### "Memories to Memoirs" (3 sessions)

**Fridays, October 7, 14, and 21 from 10:30am to noon** at Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane, Houston ([online map](#))

### Alternative Publishing Options

**Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00pm** at Friendswood Public Library ([online map](#))

### Lineage Help Nights

**Each Wednesday in October from 5:30pm to 7:30pm** at the Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas ([online map](#)). Need help with your genealogical Lineage Society Application? Visit our experts on lineage research each Wednesday night in the Clayton Library Main Library for a FREE consultation.

**"Historic Flags of Texas" by Tom Green, SRT on Monday, November 10 from 10:00 to 11:30am** at Melvin Knapp Center, 2424 South Park Avenue, Pearland ([online map](#))

**"Memories of a Texas Ranger" by Sgt. Haskell Taylor, Texas Ranger retired Monday, November 14 from 10:00 to 11:30am** at Melvin Knapp Center, 2424 South Park Avenue, Pearland ([online map](#))

## Show & Tell (continued from page 3)



Susie Ganch reminded us that reading historic fiction is an entertaining way to study the political, social and economic issues during specific time periods. The following books were recommended by Susie:

***New York* by Edward Rutherford** – History of New York City area from 1664 to present.

***Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett** - Follow five interrelated families (American, German, Russian, English and Welsh) as they live through WWI, the Russian Revolution and women's suffrage. (first of a trilogy)

***Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah** – Life in Leningrad during WWII.

***Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer** – Life on Guernsey Island, Europe during WWII German occupation.

***Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen** – Great Depression era from the perspective of a struggling circus and it's workers.

***Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson** – 1900 Galveston Hurricane based on letters, telegrams, and reports from Isaac Monroe Cline, the resident senior U.S. Weather Bureau official, and testimony of survivors.

### Reading List Resources

Register through your local public library to receive periodic e-mails from **NextReads'** containing historical fiction reading lists (example: [August 2011 issue](#)).

***Historical Fiction: Reading Lists for Every Taste* by Brad Hooper** lists popular historical fiction titles described and categorized according to their underlying appeal features, topics and themes.

***Historical Fiction: A Guide To The Genre* by Sarah Johnson** lists books published between 1995 and mid-2004 containing stories that take place prior to 1950 and written from research, not personal experience.

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

# BAGS

*Bay Area Genealogical Society*



## REMINDER

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

Deadline for  
October Issue is  
Saturday, October 8, 2011



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

Registrar

P.O. Box 891447

Houston, TX 77289-1447

<http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org> ··· [registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

If this is a family membership, list the other family members' full names:

\_\_\_\_\_

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 included at no additional charge if picked up  
by end of Society year  
☐ Quarterly & Yearbook by mail ... \$5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Quarterlies mailed all together at year end)

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.



# Bay Area Genealogy Society Display Freeman Library - October 2011



## CONTRIBUTION REGISTRATION

SURNAME

GIVEN NAME(S)

NAME OF ITEM

ID NUMBER: Panel \_\_\_\_ Shelf \_\_\_\_ Item \_\_\_\_ (assigned by committee members)

USER OF ITEM

RELATION TO DONOR

WHERE USED

TIME PERIOD USED

Do you have some artifacts that can be matched with a modern item to show the changes? We would like to display something from or prior to 1900, then perhaps about 1950 or 1960, along with what we use now in 2011. If you don't have a modern matching item to spare, we'll do our best to find one.

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.

Each item must have this registration filled out to allow us to display and return to rightful owners at month's end.

Items will be collected during the September general meeting. Installation is planned for Saturday October 1 from 8:30 am to 10. Removal is planned for Thursday October 27, also from 8:30 am to 10. Items not picked up that day will be brought to the October 28 meeting.



2011 Library Committee  
Polly Swerdlin 281-814-4606  
Barbara Moore 281-756-9455  
Oletia Teas 713-436-2606

The Texas State Genealogical Society with 2011 Annual Conference Hosts The Clayton Library Friends  
Present

## From Allen's Landing to the Moon Landing: Destination Houston November 4 - 5, 2011



### FEATURING PAULA STUART-WARREN

Paula Stuart-Warren has been a board certified genealogist (CG) since 1988. Her research specialties include methodology, research planning, one-on-one consultations, the U.S. National Archives and its regional facilities, the Family History Library, Midwestern and Plains states, Minnesota Historical Society, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Wisconsin Historical Society, American Indians and unusual records. Paula has worked for clients and her own family history on-site in courthouses, state archives, public and university libraries, and historical societies all across the U.S. and brings that knowledge to her audiences.



### CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

- Thursday, November 3, 2011 – A special writing workshop with Paula before the conference begins on Friday – sponsored by Clayton Library Friends
- Friday, November 4, 2011 – Conference begins -- A full day of multiple lectures each hour with a variety of experts
- Saturday, November 5, 2011 – a full day with Paula – 4 topics
- Don't miss the FREE vendor /exhibit hall
- An opportunity to research at one of the 5 best genealogy libraries in the United States, the Clayton Library before and after the conference
- Networking with other genealogists, getting hints, winning door prizes, maybe finding a new cousin, discovering a new research method... and so much more!

The Texas State Genealogical Society and  
the Clayton Library Friends invite you for a  
weekend shared by your fellow genealogists!  
You never know who you will find!!

**Marriott Houston South at  
Hobby Airport**  
9100 Gulf Freeway  
Houston, TX 77017  
(713) 943-7979

For more information, please visit  
[www.rootswest.com/~txsgs](http://www.rootswest.com/~txsgs)  
or  
[www.claytonlibraryfriends.org](http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org)



**Texas State Genealogical Society**

**clf** Clayton Library  
Friends