



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue No. 6

February 2012

Friday, February 24, 2012: Irene Walters presents "A Nation of Immigrants: US Naturalization and Genealogy"

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](#))

Irene will discuss the history of naturalization laws and requirements in the United States and how this affected your ancestors and their naturalizations. She will also discuss using naturalization records for genealogical research, what you may find and how to find it.

Irene Walters is the "Yankee Librarian" at Houston's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. She is originally from New York State and has her Master's of Library Science degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Irene came to Clayton in September 1997 and over the years has been in charge of volunteers, periodicals, CD-ROMs,

and computers. Currently, Irene is the liaison between Clayton and the Houston Public Library cataloging department. She also coordinates Clayton's involvement in the digitization project with the LDS Library in Salt Lake City. Irene has given talks to many local groups on various aspects of genealogical research including, computers, the Internet, ancestors in the modern military, using newspapers for your research, New York State, Irish and French research. Irene started her own genealogy research as a teenager and has taken her lines back into France and Ireland. Her German lines and those dropped off by passing alien ships are more difficult to trace.

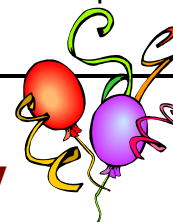


Irene Walters

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BAGS 10th Anniversary



Come join us in celebrating this anniversary at the April general meeting. The program will include a presentation by Emily Croom, a reflection of the society's history, and honor the founding members. Cake and punch will be served and door prizes will be given.

BAGS Officers 2011-2013

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The Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to assisting members in genealogical research and education.

Articles on genealogy are welcome. Inclusion is based on space available and is subject to editing. Please include permissions with copyrighted material submissions.

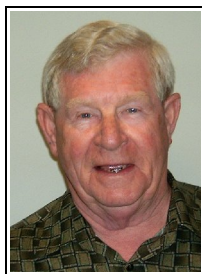
Questions or comments on the BAGS Newsletter should be addressed to:

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Message from the President

Bill Mayo



BILL MAYO

After BAGS being in recess for a couple of months, it was great seeing such a good turnout at the first meeting of the year. Being a sixth-generation Texan, I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Thomas Green's program on Texas history and the various flags that have flown over Texas; I was also surprised at how much I had forgotten (or never knew). I never realized that the groups of volunteers

who fought in the Texas Revolution created their own flags.

Speaking of volunteers, BAGS still needs a couple of volunteers - one to serve on the Telephone Committee and one on the Members Services Committee. Anyone interested please contact me. BAGS depends solely on volunteers to make it a successful society.

BAGS would like to start a group work session prior to the monthly meetings to help members with genealogical questions and/or with problems using software, such as Family Tree Maker. Volunteers are needed to serve as a group leader and to assist members with problems. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering as group leader or willing to assist to members. The ability to conduct such a program will depend upon volunteers.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting. Don't forget Valentine's Day and President's Day.

Bill

BAGS member **Pauline Ann Hartsfield Ohsie** passed away Wednesday, February 1, 2012. The *Houston Chronicle* published her obituary on February 5 furnished by Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home and it is currently available [online](#).



Our prayers go out to her husband Bill and her family.

Know Your Records Program – Introduction to Genealogy Video Series

Five popular workshops led by U.S. National Archives experts covering introduction to researching census, immigration and military records are now available online as YouTube videos for free public viewing. Click on a title below to view the corresponding YouTube video. – From press release “National Archives Puts Popular Records Workshops Online for First Time” January 4, 2012.

Genealogy Introduction: Military Research at the National Archives: Volunteer Service

(8:22 minutes) Archives Specialist John Deeben discusses compiled volunteer military service records at the National Archives based on extractions from original hospital, muster, pay rolls, unit returns, and prison records (coverage from American Revolution to Philippines Insurrection)

Genealogy Introduction—Military Research at the National Archives: Regular Service

(6:11 minutes) Archives Specialist John Deeben explains how to use Army registers of enlistment (coverage from 1798 to 1914) and Navy rendezvous reports (coverage from Mexican War to 1890s) for research.

Genealogy Introduction—Military Research at the National Archives: Pension Records

(9:04 minutes) Archives Specialist John Deeben discusses what family history information can be obtained from pension application records and where you can find these records. *Did you know pension records were first held by the Veteran's Administration and then they were transferred to the National Archives?* The typed summaries you find in pension records were generated by VA staff members as a result of genealogy query requests.

Genealogy Introduction—Immigration Records at the National Archives (11:57 minutes) Archives Specialists Katherine Vollen and Rebecca Crawford provide an overview U.S. Customs Service (1800-1890) and immigration and naturalization records (1891-1957), including records of ports and border crossings.

Genealogy Introduction: Census Records at the National Archives (11:57 minutes) Genealogy expert Constance Potter introduces the U.S. Federal Census Records 1790 to 1930, provides some background into the information collected, and explains how they can be used for genealogical research.

Black History Month: National Archives Online Research Resources

Access African American Heritage:
[Introduction to Research and Links to Resources](#)

Access Archives Library Information Center:
[Black History resources](#)

[View a video](#) about the iconic image and its photographer from the Archives collection of August 28, 1963 March On Washington photographs.



Thomas Bruce Green, III

January Program Recap

The Handbook of Texas article “Flags of Texas” by Charles A. Spain Jr. ([accessible online](#) and the book is available at your local library) summarizes many different flags that have flown over Texas soil. However at last month’s meeting, Thomas Green presented even more flags discussing detailed events at specific forts and settlements. The program was a real treasure-trove of facts.

Thomas is a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Texas Army. Visit the [SRT website's](#) calendar to find out where the group is presenting programs and reenactments. Thomas will be presenting “History of the Four Presidents of the Republic of Texas” on Friday, May 4, 2012 from 10:30 to noon at Freeman Library located at 16616 Diana Lane in Clear Lake City ([online map](#)). (article continued on page 6)



NARA – New Online Search Interface

As part of the flagship initiative in their [Open Government Plan](#), the U.S. National Archives is working toward providing a single online free-text search point to make the permanent records of the federal government easier to find online. The solution is a prototype called **Online Public Access (OPA)** launched in December 2010 and accessible at www.archives.gov/research/search. The OPA currently provides access to nearly one million electronic records currently in the [Electronic Records Archive \(ERA\)](#), which are not available elsewhere online. OPA also searches all content in the [Archival Research Catalog \(ARC\)](#) and all web pages on www.Archives.gov. Only a few of the series within [Access to Archival Databases \(AAD\)](#) are searchable from OPA at this time but total inclusion is planned in the next few years.

Online Public Access

A centralized, streamlined means of searching multiple National Archives resources at once. **Try it out and let us know what you think!**

Search Online Public Access

[Advanced Search](#)

Single search point to online NARA records

Enter one or more keywords in the search box and click the search button. Try searching for an ancestor name, or place (e.g. Bath County Kentucky), event (e.g. influenza epidemic 1918 Texas). If you enter more than one keyword, OPA combines them with an 'AND' so that the search obtains results containing all the keywords. You can also enter more complex search expressions as detailed in [Search Tips](#).

The results are presented as brief summaries arranged into the following possible groups: 1) Results with Online Holdings (found within the ERA, ARC and ADD resources), 2) Results with Description Only (a digital copy is not included), 3) Results from Archives.gov, and 4) Results from NARA's Authority Files (organizational histories and personal biographies within the ARC).

Up to three results are shown for each grouping on the initial grouping page. To view more results in a group, click the **View all...** link in the top right corner of the box (e.g., View all Online Holdings).

Use the "refine" lists on the left side of the page to

OPA results page

narrow the results listed. When a refinement is applied to the search results, a red "X" is placed in front of that refinement. To remove refinement from the search results, click on that red "X" and the results list will updated automatically.

You can save, print, and share a result. To save an image, look for "Download this image" link that will open another browser window containing just the image. Then select the browser's Open/Save As option to save the file to your device.

Did you see the news that the restored Magna Carta confirmed by Edward I in 1297 is now on display at the National Archives? The document is written on parchment with iron gall ink. When King John confirmed the first Magna Carta on June 15, 1215 with his seal, "he was acknowledging the now firmly embedded concept that no man--not even the king--is above the law." (from NARA's [Magna Carta and Its American Legacy](#)). View two online videos explaining the behind-the-scenes creation of the encasement used to store the restored 1297 Magna Carta ([view](#)) and the document's conservation treatment ([view](#)).

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, February 20, 2012	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, February 24, 2012	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Irene Walters from Clayton Library on “A Nation of Immigrants: US Naturalization and Genealogy” Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Monday, March 26, 2012	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, March 30, 2012	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Gay Carter, Reference/Documents Librarian at the Alfred R. Neumann Library, UHCL Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Monday, April 23, 2012	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, April 27, 2012	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Come celebrate BAGS 10th Anniversary. Emily Croom is the guest speaker. Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Monday, May 21, 2012	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, May 25, 2012	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Melodey Hauch Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Monday, June 25, 2012	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, June 29, 2012	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Monday, July 23, 2012	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, July 27, 2012	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Monday, August 27, 2012	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, August 31, 2012	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting : Annual Show & Tell Meet in the Chapel on 1 st Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>

Committee News

Bus Trips To Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

New trip dates will be assigned in March. Watch the BAGS website for the list of dates.

If you have not been to the Clayton Library, consider going with our group 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.

Attendance Report Jeanine Lawrence

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



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, or call her at (936) 588-6752.

BAG\$ Report for January 2012 Loren Martin, Treasurer

No income or expenses were submitted.

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,520.93
Income	\$8.50
Expenses	-\$392.50
Balance on hand 1/31/2012	\$3,136.93
CD Balance	\$6,344.27

Volunteer Opportunities!



- We need a person to serve on the Telephone Committee.
- We need a person to serve on the Members Services Committee.
- *Are you familiar with Family Tree Maker? Interested in assisting other members with "how to use" questions?*
- *What to help members who have research questions?*

If you are interested,
contact Bill Mayo, BAGS President.



January Program Recap

(continuation from page 3)

Thomas Green was appointed an Admiral in the Texas Navy by Governor Perry. In 1958, Texas Governor Price Daniel established the Honorable Texas Navy with the purpose of "assuring the survival of Texas' Naval history. The Texas Navy, Inc., now the [Texas Navy Association](http://www.texasnavy.org), was formed by an act of the 63rd Texas Legislature becoming effective on August 27, 1973. As a non-profit organization, they are devoted to preserving the history of the three Navies of Texas. The Governor of Texas is still the Honorary Commander-in-Chief and the Governor still appoints one member to the fifteen-member board. One of their current goals is to monitor and support the search for the *Invincible*, one of the first Texas Navy flagships which sank just off Galveston in 1837. Ultimately they would like to create a replica of the *Invincible* that would sail from and be on display in Galveston.

Local Area Events & Classes

Clayton Library Free Program

Finding Free Persons of Color in Louisiana from the Early French Period to the Civil War on Saturday, February 25 from 10:30 to 11:30am. The library is located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston ([online map](#)).

The presentation will offer resources and records that are valuable for Louisiana researchers who want to learn about their Free Persons of Color. Reservation is required for this program. Call the Clayton Library at 832-393-2600 to make a reservation.

FREE Genealogy Weekend in Historic Huntsville, Texas

Celebrate Texas Independence Day Weekend in General Sam Houston's Hometown & the Newly Renovated and Expanded Huntsville Public Library!

Friday, March 2 – Sunday, March 4 at Huntsville Public Library, 1216 14th Street, Huntsville, TX 77340 ([online map](#))

Complete program schedule is available online for [adults](#) and [children](#). Topics to be discussed are DNA, genealogical resources in Huntsville, FamilySearch overview, getting over brick walls, challenges of African American research, resources in the Texas General Land Office, prison records, and courthouse research. There will be a tour of the library's genealogy collection and extended research times on Friday and Saturday evenings. Activities for children ages 7-16 are planned for Saturday, March 3 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. This is limited to 36 students, so registration is recommended. The children will learn to be "Genealogy Detectives". The event is hosted by Huntsville Public Library and Walker County Genealogical Society. Pre-register is encouraged but not required. Register by either calling the library 936-291-5471 or emailing Denise Tilson, Adult Services Coordinator at dtilson@huntsvilletx.gov and provide your name, phone number, and email address.

Voices By The Bay

An oral history documentary on Seabrook, TX going back to 1832 was recently completed by Karen Tisdell based on interviews with long-time residents of the area. More information online at www.water-ways.org

FREE Houston Family Search Genealogical Conference

Saturday, March 24 from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the LDS Kingwood Stake Center located at 4021 Deerbrook Drive, Kingwood ([online map](#)). ***Want to carpool to this event? You can catch a ride with Kim Zrubek. Send her an email at newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org or call at 281-482-7135.*** View class descriptions and schedule, presenters, registration, and lunch information online at www.HoustonFamilySearch.com The registration and lunch order forms are included in this newsletter.

Call To Action

March 8, 2012 is the deadline to sign a petition to keep public access to the Social Security Death Index for genealogy research, and encourage use of the SSA's Death Master Index to screen for fraudulent income tax refund claims that use the SSNs of recently deceased infants and adults. Learn more [FAQ](#) and talking points [flyer](#). Access and sign the petition at <http://wh.gov/khE>.

Who Do You Think You Are?

This NBC TV series has begun a new season airing on Fridays at 7:00pm. The previously shown episodes for this season can be viewed [online](#).

Finding Your Roots

This PBS TV series with historian Henry Louis Gates Jr. will begin on Sunday, March 25 at 7:00pm. The new series will feature two people in each one-hour episode, including husband-and-wife actors Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, who jokes she's afraid they might turn out to be cousins. Access the show's [website](#) to view the schedule, preview the show and read other family stories.

Texas Independence Day

The 176th anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence will be recognized during a free two-day festival, March 3-4 at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site ([map](#)). This celebration brings the Republic of Texas era to life. The festival will be held from 10am until 5pm both days, with endless opportunities for family-oriented activities. Click [here](#) for a schedule of events.

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BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



Celebrating 10 years

REMINDER

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

Have any news to share?

Send information to
the editor at
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

HOUSTON FAMILY SEARCH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

MARCH 24, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
4021 Deerbrook Drive
Kingwood, TX 77339

Pre-Registration

**Please complete and submit this form online or print and mail to:
Houston Family Search c/o Karen Rasmussen
3414 Willow Ridge Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339**

Name_____

Address:_____City_____ST_____Zip_____

Phone:_____Email:_____

How did you hear about the Conference?

☐ Genealogical Society ☐ Lineage Society ☐ LDS ward/stake ☐ Friend ☐ Other

Do you need handicapped parking_____ other services? _____

LUNCH: Bring your own, visit local eateries, or view "Lunch" under registration tab to order pre-paid box lunch. Box lunches must be ordered by March 10, 2012. One hour is planned for lunch to facilitate idea sharing. Please confine eating to designated area of the building.

WORKSHOPS: View "Schedule" tab and indicate the sessions you are most likely to attend to assist in coordinating room assignments for the presenters.

Session #1_____

Session #2_____

Session #3_____

The Conference is free. Pre-registration is not required but is requested to help in logistical planning. Packets will be prepared only for those pre-registering. Walk-in registration and packet pickup for pre-registrants begins at 8:00 a.m.

Please contact the Conference Director for registration questions:

Karen Rasmussen

karenrasmus@yahoo.com or TX_Kingwood@ldsmail.net

281-358-9329

HOUSTON FAMILY SEARCH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

LUNCH PURCHASE ORDER -- \$10 PER BOX LUNCH

**Please enter order online and mail a check payable to "Kingwood FHC" to:
Or print form, complete, and mail with a check payable to "Kingwood FHC" to:**

**Houston Family Search c/o Karen Rasmussen
3414 Willow Ridge Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339**

Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

LUNCH: Bring your own, visit local eateries, or purchase a pre-paid box "Lunch" using this form. Box lunches must be ordered by March 10, 2012. One hour is planned for lunch to facilitate idea sharing. Please confine eating to designated area of the building.

BOX LUNCH CONTENTS, Provided by Chick-fil-A: \$10 Each

Choice #1: Chick-fil-A Chicken Sandwich (A boneless breast of chicken seasoned and served on a toasted buttered bun with dill pickle chips. Comes with chips, fruit cup, fudge nut brownie, and bottled water)

Choice #2 Chick-fil-A Chargrilled Chicken and Fruit Salad (Slices of grilled chicken breast on a fresh blend of romaine and iceberg lettuce surrounded by shredded red cabbage and carrots, monterey jack and cheddar cheeses and a refreshing variety of fruit-- strawberries, grapes, apples, mandarin oranges--served with Harvest nut Granola and Berry Balsamic Vinaigrette dressing. Bottled water.)

Indicate Choice and Quantity:

_____ Choice #1, Chick-fil-A Chicken Sandwich \$10 Each

_____ Choice #2, Chick-fil-A Chargrilled Chicken and Fruit Salad \$10 Each

Check # _____ for \$ _____ enclosed.