



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

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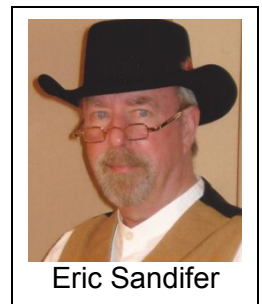
Friday, July 27, 2012: Eric Sandifer presents “The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth”

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](#))**

As all family researchers come to discover, libraries, courthouses, cemeteries and sites are all necessary venues to peruse when tracking ancestors. And family stories are indispensable aids--to be proven, or disproven--as the case may be. In period-correct dress, Eric Sandifer will present a story that includes all of the above, beginning with a young lawyer practicing in Glenrose Mills, Texas in the 1870's and ending in the present-day. This story has been the subject of a [book](#) written in 1907 by Finis Langdon Bates, a former Attorney General of the State of Tennessee and the paternal grandfather of actress Kathy Bates; the *Life Magazine* [July 1938 edition](#); *Oklahoma Today* [November/December 2004 edition](#), pages 54-57; *Texas CO-OP Power Magazine* [September 2009 edition](#); and a recent [episode](#) of *Brad Meltzer's*

Decoded aired on the History Channel. It has likewise been the subject of a series of newspaper articles over the course of several decades, and is often repeated as family tradition among Booth collateral descendants living in 21st-century Texas and said-to-be direct bloodline descendants still living in Tennessee. Eric has personally re-traced Booth's known movements from the box at Ford's Theater into Baptist Alley, and Soper's Hill to Garrett's Farm. He has visited every site mentioned in Bates' book and Bates' grave in Memphis, Tennessee. Eric has also visited with Booth family members currently living in Texas. This story is entertaining, informative and intriguing. So set your TV's to record the Olympics and come enjoy this program.



Eric Sandifer

At the June 2011 BAGS meeting, Eric dressed as Colonel William Barrett Travis and presented the wonderful program entitled *Who Were the Huguenots?* 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.

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- inserts: BAGS Renewal Form, and J. Mark Lowe, CG Seminar

It's Membership renewal time!

The 2012-2013 Society year begins September 1st

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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:

Editor, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447, or newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

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Message from the President

Bill Mayo



BILL MAYO

I hope everyone had a happy and safe 4th of July holiday. July is probably the most important month in American history, since it was the month in which the Declaration of Independence was signed. Of course, many other important American events have occurred during the month of July. We who live in the Clear Lake area know that it was in July that NASA landed the first man on the moon. Looking at various calendars, I am reminded that the World War I began and the Korean War ended during the month of July. As I have mentioned before, the Texas General Land Office is of particular interest to me since it identifies Texas events that occurred during the lifetime of my early ancestors who arrived in Texas prior to 1834. It also includes more current events that have occurred in my lifetime.

Alice Braud-Jones has been busy lining up guest speakers for the next several months. In July, guest speaker Eric Sandifer will present the program "*The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth*" dressed in attire worn during that period. On July 7, 1865, four individuals were hanged for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Lincoln. This July program should be both interesting and entertaining.

BAGS volunteers are still busy indexing the 1940 U.S. Census and have completed more than 87,000 records as of June 30th. Members participated in the "July 2" effort to index more than 5 million records in a single day; the goal was met in 16 hours and more than 10 million records were indexed and/or arbitrated within the 24 hour period. As of this writing, more than 80% of the census has been indexed since it was released 3 months ago. This is a remarkable feat.

Be sure to attend the July meeting to learn about the escape and suicide of John Wilkes Booth.

Bill

Welcome New Member
Betty Brandl
She lives in Florida.

Membership Renewal Time!

Dear Members,

It's that time of year again! During the months of July and August, we will be renewing memberships for the 2012-2013 year, which runs September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013. The renewal rates have not changed from last year—a single membership is \$20 and a family membership is \$25. There is an additional \$5 fee if you want the *BAGS Quarterly* and *Yearbook* mailed to you. If you wish to support the society at a higher level, you might consider one of the following—Contributor-\$30-49, Patron-\$50-\$99, Lifetime membership-\$600 or higher.

Please fill out a new membership application form. One is attached to the newsletter, which you can print and mail to the address at the top of the form or bring the form with you to the next meeting you attend. In addition, I will have forms available at the Registrar's table when you enter the meeting room.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Deborah Cole, BAGS Registrar

Annual Show and Tell with BBQ Dinner

Friday, August 31 in the UBC Chapel on the first floor. Park in the lot and use the entrance closest to Middlebrook Drive.

BBQ dinner starts at 6:30pm. Members are encouraged to bring salads, sides, and desserts. Meats and trimmings will be provided.

Here is your chance to share a brief family story about a treasured item, important family event, or research discovery.

Archivist Linda Reynolds from Stephen F. Austin's East Texas Research Center will present a program on how to preserve, protect and care for your archival records and family heirlooms. Linda will be available before and after her program to provide a limited assessment on your individual heirlooms and archival documents.

War of 1812 Resources

Clayton library staff published an article in their eNewsletter "Clayton Town Crier" July 2012 issue discussing the online and hardcopy resources available for researching ancestors that were involved in the War of 1812. Click [here](#) to access the eNewsletter issue for free, no account or library card needed.

Hurricane Season



Plans, checklists and TxDOT evacuation routes can be found online at www.TexasPrepares.org

Prepare Genealogy Records:

- Backup your data. Don't just save a GEDCOM file. The GEDCOM backup only contains basic data about a person. It will not include all your notes, photos, and citations.
- Keep those backups on small removable media (e.g. compact discs or flash drives) or store on the Internet "cloud" (e.g. your email, Google Docs, Dropbox)
- Start scanning original documents (e.g. old letters, photographs) that cannot be replaced then backup and share these digitized images.

Know anyone that would need help evacuating in the event of a hurricane?

Register them in advance for a ride by dialing **2-1-1**. This includes people that:

- Have a disability or special health care need and require assistance to get out.
- Cannot drive and cannot arrange transportation.
- Do not have a vehicle and you have no one else to help you evacuate.

1940 U.S. Census Community Project



Bob Loyd, BAGS member, began indexing the 1940 U.S. Census records last April and is continuing the effort. He is thoroughly enjoying the experience. Alexis Loyd, Bob's daughter-in-law, interviewed him to write the article "Make History With 1940 Census Community Project" which was published in *Where To Retire* magazine, July/August 2012 issue, page 14. BAGS name was mentioned in the article. Thanks Alexis!

Since June, a 1940 Census search interface has now become available for the states of **Alabama, California, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Washington**. Access the search interfaces states and others at www.familysearch.org/1940census and click on "View All States" under "Overall Progress" section.

The indexing process is complete for New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Watch for search interfaces to become available for these states.

Search interfaces are already available for Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, and West Virginia.

At the time of printing, BAGS members have indexed over 111,600 records of which over 21,500 records were indexed in the month of July. A BIG Thank You to the members that have spent the last several months indexing: Annette Bowen, Patsy Chappelle, Gloria Dupuy, Robert Loyd, Loren Martin, Bill & Vicki Mayo, Kenneth Nelson, Jama Richardson, Polly Swerdlin, and Douglas Wilson.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about the indexing process, send Kim Zrubek an e-mail at newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Extra! Extra! Free Quarterlies

Extra copies of *BAGS Quarterlies* from Vol. 1 (2001-02) to Vol. 10 (2010-2011) will be available at general meetings, now for free. Members are welcome to pick up and donate sets to libraries that are interested in adding them to their periodical collections.

June Program Recap

If you did not attend the June meeting, you missed receiving a real "shot in the arm". Jennifer Ross-Nazzal's passion for searching and finding information concerning Emma Smith DeVoe's life provides real encouragement to other researchers. Her underlying message is to be patient and take the time to review page-by-page the loose collection of materials and newspapers available in archives and libraries in order to find those nuggets of gold. She generally found indexes to manuscript collections did not include all the subjects found in the collection. She recommends you commit the time to dig into any collection located close to where your ancestor may have lived or worked.

Fort Bend County Obituary Online Resource

The Fort Bend County Libraries Obituary Database is a searchable, online database designed to help residents of Fort Bend County, and those with ties to the area, to conduct genealogical research, either from the library or from home. Click [here](#) to access the online interface where you can search by name, birth date or death date.

Information contained in the burial records includes name, birth and death dates, cemetery of burial, and notes. In addition, a growing number of records contain .jpg images of obituaries that were published in the *Fort Bend Herald* from August 1, 2007, to the present. Obituaries dated before August 1, 2007, will be progressively added each month. The database contains thousands of records and will continue to grow as we add new records and obituaries from our in-house file. Alternate criteria for inclusion are listed below:

- Selected obituaries that were published in the *Houston Chronicle*, donated by volunteers.
- Obituaries of residents of Fort Bend County
- Obituaries of past long-time residents of Fort Bend County.

For many years, the Genealogy department's volunteers and staff have been compiling a FBC Burial Records Database. In 1997, this burial information was published as a five-volume set entitled *Registry of Cemeteries in Fort Bend County, Texas*. A supplement was published in 2004, and another supplement is currently being compiled. These resource are housed in the [Genealogy Department at George Memorial Library](#). [from database about page]

BAGS Events 2012 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, July 23	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, July 27	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Eric Sandifer presents “The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth” 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	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, August 31	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting : Annual Show & Tell Meet in the Chapel on 1st Floor at UBC Pot luck dinner begins at 6:30 pm
Monday, September 24	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, September 28	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Charlie Gardes presents “It’s A Gusher” Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Monday, October 22	6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
Friday, October 26	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Susan Kaufman presents “The 1940 Census” Meet in the Great Room on 2 nd Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
Saturday, November 17 (tentative date)	Annual Holiday Party in Hope Village Cafe’ Members and guests are invited. 11:00 am – 1:00 pm 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)



**No general meetings in
November and December**

Committee News

Bus Trips To Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

The Society schedules research bus trips to the Clayton Library that depart from the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane ([online map](#)). Thirteen people attended the bus trip in May and seventeen people attended the July bus trip. Additional trips are not scheduled at this time. However, more trip dates will be set this fall. The newsletter and the BAGS website www.TxBayAreaGen.org will publish the new dates when they are available. If you have any questions, please call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435 or e-mail Mary at lmartin497@aol.com.

BAGS On Display...

Polly Swerdlin setup a display of information promoting genealogy and BAGS during the month of June and July in the Evelyn Meador Branch Library located at 2400 North Meyer Road, Seabrook ([online map](#)).



BAGS Display at Seabrook Branch Library

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.

Attendance Report

Deborah Cole

For June, 43 members and 3 visitors attended the general meeting and 7 members attended the Board meeting.

BAG\$ Report for June 2012

Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$2,380.87
Income	\$32.75
Expenses	-\$397.75
Balance on hand 6/30/2012	\$2,015.87
CD Balance	\$6,352.81

**Hope you are having
a great summer!**

Internet Funnies:

*I think my ancestors had
several "bad heir" days.*

**Genealogy:
Chasing your own tale!**



*Grab a BAGS Padfolio at the general
meetings for \$20.*

Local Area Events & Classes

Writing your family history – an interactive day

Saturday, September 29 from 10:30am to 4:00pm at the Clayton Library located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston ([online map](#)).

Join Pamela Stuart-Warren, CG, for a very fascinating day consisting of a morning lecture with an active afternoon of writing exercises.

10:30am -12:30pm Lecture: "A Baker's Dozen"
2:00pm - 4:00pm Writing Exercises

This program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited to 45. **You MUST call Clayton Library at 832-393-2600 to sign up. You will register for the whole day.**

Free Lineage Help

Most Wednesday nights from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Clayton Library

Looking to join the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution, or Daughters of the Republic of Texas? Members of the Oran M. Roberts Chapter UDC #440 will be available MOST Wednesdays to help you discuss your lineage application research. Call 832-393-2600 to confirm the team will be here. Sign up when you get to the library.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 Conference

August 29 – September 1 at the Birmingham Convention Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Visit the conference website www.fgs.org/2012conference for registration, travel, lodging, programming, and activities. You do NOT have to be a member of a genealogical society to attend--the conference is open to all. Visit *FGS Conference News Blog* www.fgsconferenceblog.org to get the latest information on hotels, speakers, Society Showcase, and transportation tips.

Preserving and Reuniting Heirlooms of Genealogical Value

Wednesday, August 22 at 7:00pm in the Friendswood Public Library located at 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood ([online map](#)). Many heirlooms end up in estate sales or antique stores as orphans without a proper home. This free program will focus on the rationale and methods for the preservation of heirlooms. Professional genealogist and BAGS member, Nick Cimino will discuss how to locate and preserve heirlooms in your family. He will also present a slide show of heirlooms that he has found in estate sales and antique stores and demonstrate his methods for reuniting those heirlooms with descendants.

3rd Annual Save Texas History Symposium

Saturday, September 15 from 8am to 5pm at the Thompson Conference Center located on 2405 E. Campus Drive, Austin, TX ([online map](#)). Hear new perspectives on the Texas role in the War Between the States from Dr. Rick McCaslin, Dr. Don Frazier and Mr. Ed Cotham. Topics include Union plans for a Texas invasion, the Battle of Galveston, new genealogy workshops, Tejano involvement in the Civil War, as well as special tours of the Texas State Cemetery and the GLO archives and maps vault. Hosted by the Texas General Land Office. Program and registration information available online at www.savetexashistory.org or call 512.463.3289.

Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Conference

Thursday-Saturday, November 1-3 at Riley Conference Center, 4726 Stanley Ave., Fort Worth, TX ([online map](#)) on the campus of Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. Featured speaker is Curt B. Witcher, Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center Manager in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Hosting societies are [Arlington Genealogical Society](#), [Grand Prairie Genealogical Society](#), and [Mid-Cities Genealogical Society](#).

Program, pricing, registration, sponsorship, exhibit, and advertising information is available online at: www.txsgs.org/Conference/conference.html

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BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



Celebrating 10 years

REMINDER

Next General Meeting is
Friday, July 27 at 7:00pm in 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

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 _____

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.