



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue No. 12

August 2012

Friday, August 31, 2012: Annual Show and Tell Dinner with Archivist Linda Reynolds presenting Basic Preservation of Archival Objects and Materials

Public Invited. Join us at 6:30pm for dinner.

**We meet at the University Baptist Church in the Chapel, 1st floor.
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Clear Lake City - [online map](#))**



Here is your chance to tell a brief family story about a treasured item, important family event, or research discovery. Dinner and programs will be held in the Chapel located on the 1st floor at UBC. Park in the lot nearest to Middlebrook Drive and use the entrance facing that street. The Society will provide BBQ meats for dinner. Members are invited to bring a side dish or a dessert. Please

remember to bring serving utensils.

Begin arriving at 6:00 pm to setup food dishes and items for the program. We will begin eating at 6:30 pm and sharing "Show & Tell" items.



This year we have a guest speaker Archivist Linda Reynolds from Stephen F. Austin's [East Texas Research Center](#). She will present a program at 7:00 pm 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.



Linda Reynolds

Linda Reynolds received her M.S. from the University of North Texas in 2001 and passed the Certified Archivists exam in 2007. She has been at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) since 1998, has worked in the East Texas Research Center (ETRC) since 2000 and became Director of the ETRC in 2007. She is currently the Archivist for the Texas State Genealogical Society. She has a love for historical and genealogical research and has been researching her family since she was twelve, following her grandparents around and interviewing them about their heritage.

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It's Membership renewal time!

The 2012-2013 Society year begins September 1 and runs to August 31, 2013. The renewal rates have not changed from last year. Regardless if you are renewing, please complete the membership application form included in this newsletter.

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:

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

The July program, "The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth," was presented by Eric Sandifer, dressed in period. The program, based upon the 1909 book *The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth* by Finis L. Bates, was both interesting and entertaining. It calls into question whether or not John Booth was killed as believed;

however, I believe this question can only be answered by DNA testing sometime in the future.

Volunteers are still needed for the BAGS positions: Member Services and Telephone Coordinator. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Volunteers are essential to making BAGS a successful society. Please contact me if you would like more information about these positions.

The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project was declared completed on August 3rd. The project was completed in only 124 days with the help of more than 160,000 volunteers and is believed to be the greatest genealogical achievement in history. I would like to thank all the BAGS volunteers who indexed 117,993 records in support of this project.

In August, BAGS will have its annual "show and tell" and barbecue buffet. In addition to our usual activities, archivist Linda Reynolds, from Stephen F. Austin's East Texas Research Center, will present a short program on how to preserve, protect and care for your archival records and family heirlooms. If time permits, she will be available to answer specific questions from members about their particular items.

Remember to bring side dishes and/or deserts to the August buffet as well as any items you would like to share during show and tell. BAGS will provide the barbeque, paper plates, etc.

Bill

Welcome New Members

Eric and Glenda Sandifer of Baytown, TX

David Zwahr of Houston, TX

1940 U.S. Census – Searching & Correcting

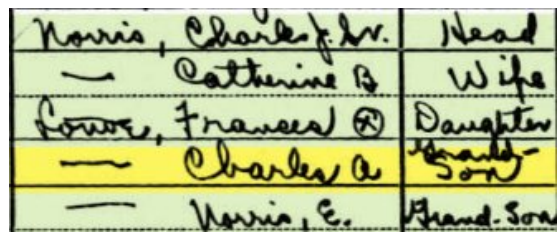
Ancestry.com has fully indexed the 1940 U.S. Census for every state and territory. Ancestry.com is providing access to this collection for free but you have to create an account and sign in with that account before the results will be shown. Click [here](#) to access the search interface. This interface provides search fields for name, birth year, birth location, living location, family member name, family relationship, marital status, street, gender, and race/nationality.

For the 1940 US Census Community Project led by FamilySearch.org, the indexing effort was completed on Friday, August 3, 2012. It will take a few more weeks to complete the quality audit of the remaining states (Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee) and publish them online for searching. However, the majority of the states and territories are already searchable online at www.familysearch.org/1940census. This interface provides search fields for name, living location, family member name, family relationship, gender, and race/nationality.

Searching

The search indexes for Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org were developed independently and therefore the same search can produce different results from each resource. Meaning you may have more success in finding the right 1940 Census entry for a person in Ancestry.com vs. FamilySearch.org, or visa versa. For example, I was helping a friend locate her father, Charles Lowe, who lived in Miami, Florida in 1940. She knew his mother's name was Frances Lowe and they were all living with Frances' parents Charles and Catherine Norris. Using Ancestry.com, my searches for Charles Lowe in Florida returned many entries but none appeared to be the correct person. I tried searching for Charles Norris in Florida and then Frances Lowe in Florida. I would have found the entry if I had used a wildcard to compensate for different spellings (i.e. Charl* would match Charle, Charlie, Charles), but I gave up and switched to FamilySearch.org. My first search provided the exact match. My problem was the surnames were transcribed correctly in FamilySearch.org and not in Ancestry.com. In Ancestry.com, the Lowe was transcribed as Loure. Charles Norris was transcribed as Charle and Frances was transcribed as Franees. I don't blame the transcribers because the handwriting is hard to read and I am stunned FamilySearch.org got it right.

Here is the image and corresponding transcriptions.



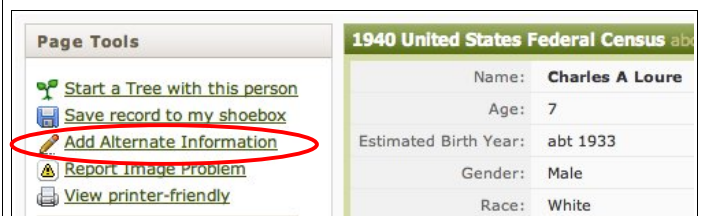
1940 U.S. Census entry from Ancestry.com for Charles A. Lowe, Miami, Dade Co., Florida.

Name	Age	Household
Charles J Norris	58	head Charles J Norris
Catherine B Norris	56	wife Catherine B Norris
Franees Loure	27	daughter Frances Lowe
Charles A Loure	7	grandson Charles A Lowe
Norrie E Loure	4	grandson Norris E Lowe

Transcriptions of the 1940 U.S. Census entry for Charles A. Lowe, Miami, Dade Co., Florida. Ancestry.com on left, FamilySearch.org on the right.

Correcting

Ancestry.com provides an online error reporting system allowing users to add alternate information or corrections (e.g. transcription errors, birth or maiden names, nicknames, name variations, incorrect originals), report an image problem, and leave comments. The original information remains intact. You will find these features in the **Page Tools** section on the left side of an individual's summary page. Click [here](#) to access instructions for using these features. For my 1940 U.S. Census example, I viewed the summary page Charles A. Loure and selected **Add Alternate Information** within the **Page Tools** section on the left side of the page.



Then in the "add an update" popup window, I selected **Name** as option for "Provide alternate of" question, chose **Transcription error** for "reason", entered corrected information, cited my source, and then clicked the **Submit Alternate** button. When the change was applied, I was asked if the same change should be made to the mother's and brother's surnames. This process can be used to also update the relationship, age, birth year, and birth place.

(continued on page 4)

(continuation from page 3)

Popup window for adding alternate information

These updates appear written in italics in the index overlay when viewing the record image. However according to the online help, the same information will be viewable by others in roughly four weeks.

Surname	Given Name
Norris	Charle J
Norris	Catherine B
<i>Lowe</i>	Franees
<i>Lowe</i>	<i>Charles A</i>
<i>Lowe</i>	<i>Norrie E</i>

I can update or delete the alternate information I added through the same feature. Click on **View/Add Alternate Info** in the **Page Tools** area. Then the “view member contributions” popup window appears. Click on the **trash can** to delete a contribution, or click on **Add** to include additional alternate information.

The Experience

Use wildcards and include birth or residence information to compensate for different name spellings when searching the 1940 U.S. Census records. BAGS members that participated in the indexing project for these records have a better understanding of this problem after agonizing over correcting a census taker's errors for names, places, and gender associations.

Loren Martin, BAGS Treasurer, kindly provided the

following summary of his indexing experience which is shared by several of the BAGS indexing volunteers.

“When the 1940 Federal Census Indexing Project began, I wanted to participate to help others who would be researching in the future. I have been very appreciative of the many indices that have been available to me in my research in the past. The first few 1940 batches that I indexed were a challenge. I had trouble deciphering the handwriting, was bothered by the misspellings and inaccurate geographic references, my very poor typing skills, and the slowness of my old computer. It was a slow process in the beginning, because of these issues and diligently looking-up the correct spelling of the cities, counties and countries where individuals had lived in 1935. However the more batches that I transcribed, I began to be 'pretty good' at deciphering handwriting and learned when to correct spellings and wrong locations and when to just copy what was recorded (for example, cities or counties listed in the wrong state or entered in the wrong column). My typing proficiency improved a little and I learned how to adjust to the slower computer turnaround. I then became obsessed with entering as many batches as I had time (spending late nights and many hours during the day). The sense of accomplishment and the 'good feeling' was very rewarding that I was actually in some small part repaying others, who indexed before me, and helping those who would use this information starting almost immediately. I genuinely had fun doing this project and am very proud and thankful for the thousands of individuals who accomplished so much and in such a very short period of time.” – Loren Martin

Family Memorabilia

Family Tree Magazine, July/August 2012 issue includes the article “How to Organize Your Family History Archive” which provides guidelines on what to keep and how to preserve. The critical question you should ask: *Is this item’s value (monetary, historical, cultural, sentimental) worth the time, archival materials, and storage?* Page 24 includes lists of suggested items to keep and to throw away. Click [here](#) to access the article online and click [here](#) to access the guide on what to keep and what to toss.

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, 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” and a program by Archivist Linda Reynolds from Stephen F. Austin’s East Texas Research Center 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	
Friday, January 25, 2013	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Trevia Beverly presents “A Harvey Girl or a Soiled Dove”
Friday, February 22, 2013	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Casey Greene, Head of Special Collections of the Galveston Library
Friday, March 22, 2013	7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Lynne Brooke former DAR genealogist and Jane Powers, a member of over 100 Lineage Societies present “ <i>Researching and Proving Your Ancestors for Lineage Societies</i> ”

Committee News

Bus Trips To Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Three new trip dates will be selected during the second two weeks of September. Mary is hoping to have the chance to select date in October or November and then two more dates in January, February or March.

These research bus trips to the Clayton Library depart from the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane ([online map](#)). 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 Scrapbook

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

Five-Generation Charts

Have you submitted your five-generation chart to BAGS? All members are encouraged to submit a pedigree chart of their family. The chart does not need to be complete and information about living relatives may be omitted. The charts are published in the *BAGS Quarterly*. If you prefer that your chart not be published, you may certainly make a note of that. However, publication does have its benefits! BAGS does receive queries regarding five-generation charts found in the *Quarterly* issues. Getting your information out there may provide a connection that will help you to fill in those frustrating gaps in your genealogy! What are you waiting for? If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Eleanor Caldwell.

For those that attended the Angelina Conference Genealogy Conference in July, if you have a tip, tidbit, or other research information you would like to share, please email it to Kim (newsletter@txbayareagen.org) for publishing in the newsletter.

BAGS On Display

Polly Swerdlin is organizing a public display of information promoting genealogy and BAGS to put on exhibit during September at the Freeman Memorial Library and during October at the Friendswood Public Library. If you have an antique toy or ancestor's portrait to loan for September's display, it would be most graciously appreciated. Please call or email Polly Swerdlin: 281-814-4606 pmswerdlin@gmail.com

BAGS members Deborah Cole and Lewis Jarman are attending the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 Conference in Birmingham, Alabama August 29 through September 1.

Have fun Deborah and Lewis and bring back some research information for us!

Attendance Report

Deborah Cole

For July, 44 members and 3 visitors attended the general meeting and 11 members attended the Board meeting.

BAG\$ Report for July 2012

Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$2,015.87
Income	\$636.01
Expenses	-\$165.09
Balance on hand 7/31/2012	\$2,486.78
CD Balance	\$6,352.81



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.

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 are available online at: www.txsgs.org/Conference/conference.html

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.

When you are in Baltimore, Maryland, Eric Sandifer recommends taking time for a walking tour of Green Mount Cemetery, one of the earliest rural or garden cemeteries in the United States. Established in 1834 and placed on the National Register of Historic places in 1980, you will see splendid architecture, beautiful gardens, and graves of people that influenced the Nation's history. Ask Mr. Sandifer to give you the facts surrounding John Wilkes Booth's grave at that location. He recommends you request a tour with the cemetery's superintendent to hear some of the inside stories and secrets. Visitor information and an image gallery is available online at www.greenmountcemetery.com/visit-greenmount-cemetery.html

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BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



Celebrating 10 years

REMINDER

Next General Meeting is
Friday, August 31 at 7:00pm in the
Chapel (1st Floor). Dinner begins
at 6:30pm

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.