



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 12, Issue No. 5

January 2013

Friday, January 25, 2013: Trevia Wooster Beverly presents “A Harvey Girl or a Soiled Dove”

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](#))**

“A Harvey Girl or a Soiled Dove” tells the good and the bad of certain ladies' contributions to the Civil War effort, before the day of women's liberation and the available records of identification. Some served as spies, etc. Red light districts in Galveston and Harris counties are discussed, as well as the “reservation” story up in Waco. They are listed on the census under various terms.

Trevia Wooster Beverly is a native Texan, her interest in genealogy began with a ninth-grade English project. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and maintains an active membership in a number of archival, cemetery, historical, genealogical, library, museum, lineage, and preservation organizations. She lectures and conducts

seminars and workshops throughout Texas and teaches genealogy classes in Houston.

Trevia is the Conference Chairman for the annual July Angelina College Genealogy Conference held in Lufkin, Texas. She is a member of the faculty since 1998. This year's conference entitled *Constructing Images from the Past* is scheduled for July 18-20, 2013. Trevia will present *Coming to America: Immigration & Naturalization* as one of the special all-day workshops held on Thursday. The schedule for Friday and Saturday includes eight speakers offering 24 sessions. Details about the schedule, accommodations, and registration can be found online at www.angelina.edu/genealogy/genealogy.html



Trevia Beverly

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At The January General Meeting:

Pick up the new
BAGS Quarterly December 2012 issue
and congratulate Melodey Hauch
on receiving two TSGS Writing awards.

Message from the President

Bill Mayo

BAGS Officers 2011-2013

President

Bill Mayo
president@TxBayAreaGen.org

First Vice President

Shirley Lindquist
VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org

Second Vice President

Alice Braud-Jones
vicepres2@txbayareagen.org

Recording Secretary

Nick Cimino
ncimino@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Annette Bowen
annette.bowen@gmail.com

Treasurer

Loren Martin
LMartin497@aol.com

Registrar

Deborah Cole
registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

Newsletter Staff**Editor / Compositor**

Kim Zrubek
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

Proofreaders

Resa Hennings, Chester Karrick
Shirley Robbins, Geri Smith

Photographer

Neil Miserendino

Webmaster

Linda Carrington
linda@TxBayAreaGen.org



BILL MAYO

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful and safe holiday season and are ready for the New Year to begin. As much as I enjoy the holidays, I still am glad to get back into my routine in January.

BAGS will begin 2013 with Trevia Beverly presenting a program entitled "A Harvey Girl or a Soiled Dove" on January 25th. Other speakers are scheduled throughout the year as well as a special seminar in the Fall.

This will be an election year for BAGS, so we will be looking for candidates to fill positions on the board as well as editors for the *BAGS Newsletter* and for *The BAGS Quarterly*.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting. Please mark the date on your calendar.

Bill



This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the people of Harris and Galveston counties, Texas, who have an interest in genealogy.

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

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

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

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A New Year's Resolution "Organize your research"

Congratulations if you already have your information digitized and entered into a computer program that organizes and prints reports concerning your family's information! No matter if you are computerized or not, there are several tools that should be used to help focus, clarify, summarize, and track progress of your research on specific people. These tools are the family group sheet, research question list, research log, surname list, and timeline. They can be maintained electronically (in a document or spreadsheet format) or handwritten. Keep a copy of each close by when you are researching.

Family Group Sheets

Start with a family group sheet to provide the names and vital dates of any already discovered members in a single-family unit. Citations to the sources where this information was originally found should be included for future reference. This sheet is a good summary of names, dates, and relationships to help verify new information is consistent with your known ancestor's history. It will also help facilitate looking for other family members using the cluster research method (i.e. by looking at extended family and friends). Genealogy software easily prints the family group sheet as one of the available reports.

Research Questions

Second, write down a specific list of who, when, why, where questions you want to answer or objectives you want to achieve concerning one or more people on a family group sheet. Consult this list each time you begin researching to stay focused. As you are reviewing records additional questions will surface. Continue to add questions or goals to this list as a way of recording them for future use. Depending on your preference, start a new list for each family unit, person, geographical location, or research location.

Research Logs

During your research, maintain a research log to track the resources you have already searched for a specific person, family, or geographic location. Log entries should include the name of the resource/book/record searched, location where the source was accessed (e.g. library, call #, drawer #, website, database name, URL), date they were

accessed, list search terms (e.g. surnames, place names), AND briefly document what was found or NOT found. Your research will inspire new search angles and resources. This log can also include sources you plan to search and the purpose of the search. Consult this log each time you begin researching, to determine where to begin and what records to avoid searching a second time. Some online record sources are continually updated. Those resources should be searched periodically. The log dates can help you set up a schedule for repetitive searches. The article "Logging On" by Lisa A. Alzo in *Family Tree Magazine*, issue January/February 2013, p. 24-27 talks about creating a log, storing it online as a *Google* document, and provides inspiration for using this information during research.

Surname Lists

During your research, write down the different spellings for surnames and given names, as they are uncovered. Printed record indexes will help you identify spelling variants. Use this list to search for each spelling variant in each record resource you access.

Timelines

As you research a person, single family, or family line, create a timeline that summarizes their life events. Timeline entries include the date and location of events such as birth, marriage, death, migration, immigration, military service, land ownership, newspaper articles, and will probate. Timelines can point out an inconsistency in a date or location such as a person appears in two locations at the same time or two dates are documented for the same event. A timeline can guide research by showing a migration pattern, identifying new geographical locations to search for records. Timelines show time gaps where more information is needed.

Forms Resources

The electronic spreadsheet is helpful to track questions, logs, name lists, and timelines. The entries can be prioritized, color coded, and sorted in different ways. A number of online resources provide free copies of family group sheet, questions list, and log that can be printed. For example, these forms are available in PDF format on *Ancestors*:

(continued on page 4)

Emancipation Proclamation

150th Anniversary

Signed by President Abraham Lincoln on
January 1, 1863

This proclamation declared “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free.” This exempted Union states and the Confederacy portions that were already under Northern control. The Proclamation announced the acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy. By the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union. The [13th Amendment](#) to the U.S. Constitution passed by the Congress on January 31, 1865 and ratified by the states on December 6, 1865 formally abolishing slavery in the United States. [From online NARA website page entitled “[Featured Documents : The Emancipation Proclamation](#)”]

A Texas Connection:

[Listen](#) to a small portion of an interview recorded in 1961 with Charlie Smith who was then 119 years of age. In this audio clip, Smith describes his life while working on the Smith Ranch in Texas at age 21 in 1863 when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. The complete oral interview is housed in the National Archives on a cassette tape. The description of the complete interview is interesting:

Smith indicates that he was 12 years old when he was put on a slave ship from Liberia to U.S. He says he was bought at an auction in New Orleans by Charles Smith, a wealthy Texas rancher, who gave him his name (Smith states his real name was Mitchell Watkins). Smith lived and worked as one of the family on the Smith Ranch in Texas near Galveston and Red River. The King Ranch of Texas is on the land that was once the Smith Ranch.

Smith, 21 years old when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, went to Hollywood with Charles Smith's son, John.

There he appeared as the cowboy, "The Trigger Kid" in Western films.

Smith discusses obtaining his Social Security card at the age of 113; marrying three times; and his

views on money, lifestyles, religion, work, and his formula for a long life.

[Text from sound recording archival description pulled from online [ARC Database](#) entry “Interview with Charlie Smith, Former Slave and Black Cowboy Actor, 11/1961” ARC Identifier 100990 / Local Identifier 16.332B]

A New Year's Resolution

(continued from page 3)

Charts and Records

(www.byub.org/ancestors/charts). Microsoft Word and Word Perfect formats for these and other forms are available online on *Cyndi's List* under the category “Organizing Your Research » Printable Charts & Forms” ([click here](#)) and on *FamilySearch Wiki* “Research Forms” article ([click here](#)). Be careful using some of the record summarizing forms because you run the risk of creating an error each time you duplicate or transcribe primary record information. Happy New Year! ... by Kim Zrubek

HELP US SEARCH!



We are looking for two people to serve as the *BAGS Quarterly* Editor and the *BAGS Newsletter* Editor beginning the next Society Year 2013-2014 (September 2013). In a nutshell, an editor identifies, requests, and develops content for the publication. The layout and electronic publishing tasks can be shared with other members that have word processing skills. If you know of someone that would be a good editor for *BAGS*, please contact President Bill Mayo. Current *BAGS Quarterly* and *Newsletter* Editors, Melodey Hauch and Kim Zrubek respectively, are happy to answer any questions concerning details of these positions.

BAGS Events 2013 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.**

January

- Wednesday, January 16** 9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library (details on pg. 6)
- Monday, January 21** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, January 25** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Trevia Beverly presents “A Harvey Girl or a Soiled Dove”

February

- Wednesday, February 13** 9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library (details on pg. 6)
- Monday, February 18** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, February 22** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Casey Greene, Head of Special Collections of the Galveston Library

March

- Monday, March 18** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, March 22 (date change)** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Lynne Brooke former DAR genealogist and Jane Powers, a member of over 100 Lineage Societies present “*Researching and Proving Your Ancestors for Lineage Societies*”

April

- Monday, April 22** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, April 26** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Melvyn Douglass, President of Highland Games Association, discusses Scottish Clans

May

- Monday, May 27** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, May 31** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Sue Yerby, SPG, discusses Court House Research

Committee News

Bus Trips To Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Plan to catch the bus on

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

Wednesday, February 13, 2013



Meet in front of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane ([online map](#)). The county bus departs at 9:15am and leaves

the Clayton Library at 3:00pm to arrive back at the Rec Center parking lot before 4:00pm. For lunch bring a sack lunch, use the library's drink and snack machines, walk to the first floor deli at Park Plaza Medical building, or ride the bus to a nearby restaurant.

If you have any questions or want to reserve seating, please call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435 or e-mail Mary at lmartin497@aol.com.

Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings. The BAGS website www.TxBayAreaGen.org and the current newsletter always have a current listing of library trips.

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.

RIDE – SHARE

Not driving at night?

Willing to share?

Too far to drive alone?

Want company?



Give us a call, we'll match you up!
We know who lives nearby...

Your Telephone Committee:

Polly Swerdlin: 281-814-4606

pmswerdlin@gmail.com

Leona Cook: 832-864-3043

lbcook@hal-pc.org

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

BAG\$ Report for December 2012

Loren Martin, Treasurer

No income or expenses were submitted.

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,381.69
Income	\$100.00
Expenses	-\$175.00
Balance on hand 12/31/2012	\$3,306.69
CD Balance	\$6,381.12

Missing your November and December newsletters?

Both issues will be sent to you in the next couple of weeks.



Local Area Events & Classes

Free Programs at Clayton Library

These programs are free and open to the public. The library is located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston ([online map](#)).

Library Orientation

Saturday, January 19 from 10:30am to 11:45am

Learn about the vast family history research resources at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, named "one of the 9 genealogy libraries you need to visit before you die" (*Family Tree Magazine*, July 2008) on this tour of the facility. No reservations needed.

Daughters of the American Revolution Day

Saturday, January 19 from 10:30am to 4:00pm

Ever wonder how to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)? Representatives from local DAR chapters will be at Clayton Library for consultation and research help in preparing lineage papers for submission to DAR. No reservations needed.

Researching War of 1812 Ancestors

Saturday, January 26 from 10:30am to 12:00pm

An overview of resources found in the books, microform, periodicals, and online researching for your War of 1812 ancestor will be presented. Reservations required, call the library at 832-393-2600 to sign-up.

"A Complete Guide to Records of the French in North America: Acadia, Canada, Louisiana and the Caribbean 1509-1811"

Saturday, February 2 from 10:00am to 1:00pm

Presented by Robert de Berardinism during the Houston Genealogical Forum meeting at Bayland Community Center located at 6400 Bissonnet, Houston (between Hillcroft and Beechnut, [online map and directions](#)). For more details: www.hgftx.org or call the GeneaLine (713) 968-9750.

Crossing the Wide Blue Seas: Passenger Lists of Our Ancestors

Thursday, February 7 at 7:00pm

Presented by Irene Walters, from Clayton Library, during the Galveston County Genealogical Society meeting in the Moody Mansion Museum located at 2618 Broadway St, Galveston, TX ([online map](#)). In Irene will discuss how to find evidence of your ancestors on passenger lists. The society is celebrating their 35th year anniversary during 2013.

Tarheels in the Family Tree by Helen F. M. Leary, CG Emeritus, FASG, FNGS.

January 18-20, 2013

Free webinar is hosted by the North Carolina Genealogical Society. After January 20, the webinar will be available, without cost to members, in the "members only" section of the NCGS website: www.ncgenealogy.org. A version on compact disc will be available in the NCGS online bookstore at that website.

Ms. Leary tells the story of North Carolina's geographic genealogy. She provides information, with wit and humor, that the serious genealogist needs to determine the location of records for their family. North Carolina has been the home to many families as they filtered down from the north, south and east on their way west, or remain for many generations. The information in this webinar will be helpful to all Southern genealogy researchers.

Houston Family Search Genealogy Conference

Saturday, April 17 from 8:00am to 4:00pm

Free conference will be held at the Friendswood Stake Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located on 505 Deseret Drive, Friendswood, TX ([online map](#)). For all information on classes, presenters and registration is available online at www.HoustonFamilySearch.com

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BAGS

Bay Area Genealogical Society



Celebrating 11 years

REMINDER

Next General Meeting is Friday,
January 25 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