



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 12, Issue No. 6

February 2013

Friday, February 22, 2013: Casey Edward Greene presents "Ruin / Restoration / Renaissance: The Rosenberg Library and Hurricane Ike"

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](#))**

Casey Greene will discuss the collection restoration and building reconstruction efforts completed at the [Rosenberg Library](#) as a result of the damage incurred by Hurricane Ike that hit Galveston in September 2008. The library is located at 2310 Sealy Ave. in Galveston, Texas ([online map](#)).

In 1984, Mr. Greene began working at the Rosenberg Library and became Head of Special Collections in 1994, overseeing the operations of the Galveston and Texas History Center (GTHC) and the Museum. He earned a Master's degree in American history from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He is a member of the Society of American Archivists and an appointee to the Galveston County Historical Commission.

The GTHC is one of the nation's premier archives of

Texas history. On the center's website www.gthcenter.org, view indexes to manuscripts, oral histories, photographs, sheet music, vertical files; lists of genealogical resources; and online photography exhibits. The Museum has a collection of approximately 6,500 artifacts, including paintings, costumes, implements, and other artifacts. Among its holdings are paintings of significant maritime artists Boyer Gonzales and Paul Schumann, as well as Sam Houston's dueling pistols and Santa Anna's smoking cap.



Casey Greene

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Bus Trip To Clayton Library

Wednesday, February 13 departs at 9:15am

Want to go? Details on page 6.

Pick up your copy of the
BAGS Quarterly December 2012 issue &
2012-2013 *BAGS Yearbook* at the
general meeting.

Mt. Olivet Cemetery Transcription Project work day coming soon.

Want to participate? Contact Alice Braud-Jones

Message from the President

Bill Mayo

BAGS Officers 2011-2013

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BILL MAYO

In January, I really enjoyed seeing such a good attendance at BAGS first meeting of the year. Of course, Trevia Beverly's presentation on "Harvey Girls" may have encouraged some to attend. I was not aware of "Harvey Girls" and found the subject interesting.

In addition to regular BAGS meetings, the remainder of the year will be quite busy with the election of new officers and the recruitment of editors for the *BAGS Newsletter* and the *BAGS Quarterly*. As the success of BAGS is dependent upon volunteers, it is essential that members volunteer as the need arises. Please volunteer for positions that you can assist in.

Casey Greene will be our guest speaker this month and will speak on the Special Collections of the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. Hope to see you there.

Bill



Welcome our Newest Members!

Cindy Gard from Friendswood

**Fred & Carolyn Newton from Houston
(correction from November 2012 issue)**

In Memoriam

**Carole Lynn Monk O'Neal, a former BAGS member, passed on Friday, February 8, 2013. An announcement was published in the *Houston Chronicle* February 10, 2013.
Our prayers go out to her family.**

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:

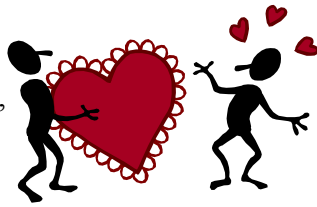
Editor, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447, or newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

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Family Love History

Consider compiling stories from family couples (e.g. parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles) and include a picture of the couple.

Suggested questions to ask:



How did you meet each other?

When did you realize that you were in love with each other?

How did you decide to get married?

Where did you get married?

Who was at your wedding?

(From “Family Valentine Project: Introduction to Genealogy with Kids” by Kimberly L. Keith, on About.com website.)

Vintage Valentine’s Day Cards



View Valentine’s cards, printed in the late 1800s through the 1900s, on the website *Postcard and Greeting Card Museum* accessed at

www.emotionscards.com/museum/museum.html.

This site also features vintage cards for birth announcements, birthdays, New Year’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Looking Ahead: BAGS March Program – Lineage Societies

Come hear Lynne Brooke discuss the different lineage societies, determining which society is right for you, and the application process. Lynne is a professional genealogist who was formerly part of the Daughters of the American Revolution genealogical staff.

January Program Recap

Thank you Trevia Beverly for sharing the ins and outs of researching two groups of women: those that worked in Harvey Houses and those that worked in cathouses. If you are looking for information on a female ancestor of the age 18-30, Trevia recommended looking at events in your location and time period that involve groups of women (e.g. nurses, casquette girl, teachers, Harvey girls, “Rosie the Riveter”, soiled doves, canneries). She also encouraged us to include museums in our search for information. Records housed at museums can provide names of people participating in these activities. For example, Fred Harvey began operations in Texas in the 1890s to serve the Frisco and the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe (later acquired by Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe) railways. According to Stephen Fried, author of *Appetite for America* which is a history of Fred Harvey, the Texas dining locations were in Amarillo, Brownwood, Canadian, Cleburne, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Gainesville, Galveston, Houston, Kingsville, Panhandle, Paris, Rosenberg, Silsbee, Slaton, Somerville, Sweetwater, and Temple. The Galveston Railroad Museum located in the old Santa Fe railroad station maintained a display and records of the Harvey dining service. Unfortunately, those items were destroyed by the damage caused from Hurricane Ike in 2008 (according to current staff). The museum reopened in November 2012 and is open daily for self-guided tours. When researching, look for any museum that exists in your ancestor’s area and inquire how to access records they may have. You may find lists of names or identify a local historian to help take the next research step. Recommended books by Trevia Beverly:

The Harvey Girls: Women Who Opened the West by Lesley Poling-Kemp

What's A Poor Girl to Do? Prostitution in Mid-Nineteenth Century America by Elizabeth A. Topping

Ride the Harborside Express!

Saturdays between 11am and 2pm (weather permitting) at the Galveston Railroad Museum.

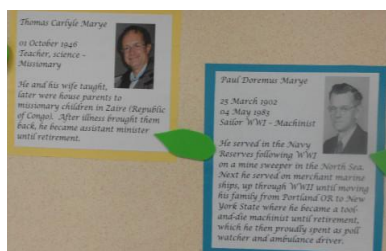
Take a 15 minute round trip excursion on an authentic Missouri Pacific Caboose #13895 short bay window caboose.

Contact the museum at 409-765-5700.

BAGS Library Display Theme for 2013 is...

“Our History Defines Us”

For this year's library exhibit, Polly is asking members to send her a photograph that reflects a historical event, period, or famous person accompanied by one or more photographs leading up to a present day family, real or fiction, personal or distant cousin. Send the photographs to Polly via email or loan her a flash drive, CD, or the picture to scan and return. Originals can be in print, tin type, slide, or film format. Polly has a scanner that will work for all. A single scan can be maximum 8 ½ x 12 inches – or “patched together” if original is larger.



The first display is on exhibit this month at the Parker Williams Library and will move monthly to 8 local libraries around the Bay Area: League City, La Porte, Seabrook, Clear Lake City, Friendswood, Pearland and Alvin.

Interested in contributing?
Contact member Polly Swerdlin.

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 (Sept. 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.



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*. The names of persons that appear in the quarterlies are included in the free public searchable *Periodical Search Index* (PERSI) accessible through *HeritageQuest™* provided by your local library. 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 member Eleanor Caldwell, Five-Generation Pedigree Charts Chairman.



Psst... Contact your local library to find out how to access PERSI within *HeritageQuest™*. Within PERSI, you can search for names of people, places, and events that have been published in over 6,600 genealogy and local history periodicals (e.g. society quarterlies and newsletters) written in English and French (Canada) since 1800.

FamilyTree DNA Help

If you have participated in FamilyTree DNA testing and would like assistance in reviewing and interpreting the results, contact member Mike McCown.

Get Published!

The *BAGS Quarterly* needs articles about your family history. The research does not have to be related to Texas. We have had terrific articles from members about their Civil War ancestors, their Christmas memories with family, as well as the search for the identities in an old family photo. Your research may give other members ideas that will help them with their own work. Email articles to Editor Melodey Hauch at rmhauch@comcast.net.

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.**

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 Rosenberg 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 presents *"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

- Tuesday, May 28 (date change)** 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

June

- Monday, June 24** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, June 28** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Emily Croom

July

- Monday, July 22** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210
- Friday, July 26** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting

Committee News

Bus Trips To Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Plan to catch the bus on

Wednesday, February 13, 2013



Thirteen people participated in the January bus trip. More trip dates will be chosen in February.

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.

Membership

Deborah Cole, Registrar

If you have any questions, feel free to email Deborah Cole at registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Attendance Report

Deborah Cole and Nick Cimino

For January, 54 members and 5 visitors attended the general meeting and 11 members attended the Board meeting.



Need A Ride... Or Willing To Share A Ride... To BAGS Meetings

*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

BAG\$ Report for January 2013

Loren Martin, Treasurer

No income or expenses were submitted.

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,306.69
Income	\$70.80
Expenses	-\$481.11
Balance on hand 1/31/2013	\$2,896.38
CD Balance	\$6,381.12



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

Local Area Events & Classes

Houston Family Search Genealogy Conference

Saturday, April 27 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](#)). Information on classes, presenters and registration is available online at www.HoustonFamilySearch.com

Come Meet The Grandfather of Mrs. Walter Hall

Butler Longhorn Museum is now offering guided tours of the historic Fairview Cemetery on the banks of Clear Creek in League City. To reserve your tour, call [Butler Longhorn Museum](#) at 281-332-1393.

The history of an area is buried in it's cemetery. Fairview has 10 Confederate veterans and 10 Union veterans, murder victims, murderers, WWI casualties, a victim of the 1947 Texas City Explosion, Japanese settlers, and the original Italian families who arrived before 1900. Your guide is BAGS member Deborah Gammon, who has been digging up the stories in Fairview since 2006.

Longhorn Museum was the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hall. Helen Lewis Hall is the granddaughter of Charles R. Reifel, one of the CSA veterans, and she is the namesake of League City's library.

3rd Annual RootsTech Conference

March 21-23, 2013 in Salt Lake City, UT.

RootsTech offers an opportunity unlike any other to discover the latest family history tools and techniques, connect with experts to help you in your research and be inspired in the pursuit of your ancestors. You will learn to use the latest technology to get started or accelerate your efforts to find, organize, preserve, and share your family's connections and history. Visit www.rootstech.org to access information concerning schedule, exhibits, registration, venue, and travel.

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, February 16 from 10:30am to 11:45am

Learn about the vast family history research resources at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. No reservations needed.

Quick Start Your Genealogy! Overview of genealogical research tools

Saturday, March 9 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

The class will discuss how to use the Houston Public Library catalog to discover Clayton Library resources, and how to use Ancestry Library Edition and FamilySearch online resources. Reservations required, please call the library at 832-393-2600.

“Scottish and Irish Research – Laying the Foundation”

Saturday, March 2 from 10:00am to 3:00pm

Free seminar presented by Craig Scott, CG 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. Catered lunch is available for \$10.00 or bring a lunch. Access [online registration form](#).

The Travis Letter Returns

The William B. Travis "Victory or Death" letter written on February 24, 1836 will be on exhibit as well as other items at the Alamo Shrine in San Antonio, Texas between February 23 and March 7, 2013. More information is available online: 1) about the exhibit at www.travisletter.com, 2) about the letter from Texas State Historical Association "Travis pens his famous letter from the Alamo" [article](#), and 3) the actual letter's text from Texas Heritage Society "The Travis Letter" [webpage](#).



BAGS Display on exhibit during the month of February 2013 at the [Parker Williams Branch Library](#), located at 10851 Scarsdale Boulevard, Suite #510, Houston, TX 77089 ([online map](#)). Library hours are Monday 1-9, Wednesday 10-9, Thursday 10-6, Friday 1-6, Saturday 10-5, closed Tuesday and Sunday.



REMINDER

Next General Meeting is Friday,
February 22 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