



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

Volume 12, Issue No. 12

August 2013

### Friday, August 30, 2013: Annual "Show and Tell" Program and BBQ Potluck Dinner

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

**We meet at the University Baptist Church (UBC) in the Chapel, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 program 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 set up food dishes. We will begin eating at 6:30 pm and start the program at 7:00 pm.



Dinner!



"Show and Tell" program in August 2012.

**BAGS Bus Trip to  
Clayton Library is  
Thursday, August 22.  
Details on page 6.**

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(insert) Registration Form for John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. Seminar  
(insert) Membership Form for new and renewing members

**BAGS is hosting a seminar featuring  
John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.**

**Saturday, October 12  
from 9:00am to 4:00pm**

**Program details and registration are  
included in this newsletter and on the  
Society's website.**

**It's Membership renewal time!**

**The 2013-2014 Society year begins September 1.  
Details on page 6.**

## Message from the President

**Bill Mayo**

### BAGS Officers 2011-2013

#### President

Bill Mayo

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**BILL MAYO**

As August draws to a close, BAGS will be ending its current Society year and beginning a new one on the first of September. At this month's general meeting, members will also elect a new officers to serve for the next two years.

It has been a privilege to serve as your president for the past two years, and I want to thank all of you for your support during my term. I really appreciate all the efforts put forth by the many volunteers; you have been essential to the success of BAGS. We are an organization of volunteers and cannot be successful without members volunteering. Please give your full support to the new officers and volunteer when called upon. New volunteers bring new ideas, and these ideas result in a better society.

At this month's meeting BAGS will have its annual "Show and Tell" and potluck dinner. Please bring something for show and tell to share with us. It is always interesting to see and hear about what members bring. For the dinner, BAGS will furnish the BBQ meat. Members are asked to bring side dishes and desserts to go with the BBQ. I am looking forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting.

**Bill**



The slate of BAGS Officers for 2013-2015 presented during the July meeting. (L-R) Marie Krnavek, Deborah Gammon, Melodey Hauch, Annette Bowen, Loren Martin, and Shirley Lindquist. Barbara Moore is not shown.

**Thank you for agreeing to serve in these positions!**

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](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)

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## United Kingdom Research

Find search strategies for using the British National Archives' digital microfilm free resource (located online at

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/digital-microfilm.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/digital-microfilm.htm)) in the article "British National Archives – Digital Microfilm Access" by Ed Storey in *Internet GENEALOGY* magazine August 2013 issue. This collection covers naval personnel, civilian sailors, and army officers and families from mid 1700 through 1990. Access the [online catalog](#) to search all their online record collections.

Searching the catalogue is free of charge, but there may be a fee to download the records. For free items, you may still need to add them to a shopping cart and checkout but payment is not requested. If you are new to searching these archives, use the [start here page](#) to learn where and how to use the British National Archives.

The same magazine issue includes a second article "Memorial Inscriptions on United Kingdom and Irish Gravestones" by Alan Stewart on page 37-42 discussing free and subscription websites that provide transcriptions of gravestones, monuments, and floor-stones located in Britain, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

## It's Hurricane Season!

### ***Backup your research and make a plan.***

One way to ensure your research survives and thrives from a disaster is to go paperless. The article "The Paperless Chase" by Sunny Jane Morton in the *Family Tree Magazine* September 2013 issue discusses ten scanning tips for digitizing your family history photos and documents. The tips include file format, tools, prep, scanning, filing, and duplication with many references to other online resources for additional help.

*You know you live on the Gulf Coast when ...*

- *You can rattle off the names of three or more meteorologists who work at the Weather Channel.*
- *You have more than 300 C and D batteries in your kitchen drawer.*

[Posted by Ron Franscell on the Hurricane Digital Memory Bank website <http://hurricanearchive.org>]

## Vertical Files at Clayton Library

I discovered bible records for a Texas ancestor on the DAR GRC Index Resource and ordered a copy. I was surprised to discover that the records were also in the Vertical File at Clayton Library. I encourage you to check for ancestor names in the Family Vertical Files located on the second floor next time you are at [Clayton Library](#). This resource is a series of filing cabinets containing file folders of miscellaneous loose papers arranged alphabetically by surname. Also check the Family Bible Records that are located at the end of the Family Vertical Files. These bible records are copies of the family pages (typically showing birth, marriage, and death dates) from family bibles that had been donated to the library in the past. To assist you in using the Family Vertical Files and the Family Bible Records, there are two notebooks on top of the filing cabinets, one titled "Vertical File Materials - Families" and the other titled "Bible Records in the Vertical Files". These notebooks show which surnames are represented in these two collections. [Majority of this text is reprinted from article "Family/Surname Sources at Clayton Library" published in the online library newsletter [Clayton Town Crier, July 2013 issue](#) with permission.]

## Update Your Online Toolkit

The 2013 list of 101 best websites for genealogy selected by *Family Tree Magazine* is published in the September 2013 issue. There are some new regional resources. This list is also accessible online at [www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites)

Find the boundary chronology of a US state or county using *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*, a free resource by the Newberry Library accessed online at <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>

Find a public library nearest to the US area you are researching using the [www.PublicLibraries.com](http://www.PublicLibraries.com) directory.

Find a historical society in the US, Canadian, or Australian geographical region you are researching using *Society Hill Directory* at [www.daddezio.com/society](http://www.daddezio.com/society)

Find contact information to request vital records (birth, death, marriage, divorce) for a specific US state or territory on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>



## July Program Recap



Greg Boyd of Arphax Publishing gave some background about himself and his company that has published 510 books in the Family Map series. The books provide maps of the first landowners in the public land states. Greg then provided a live demonstration of the *HistoryGeo.com* website and the First Landowners Project. Greg has put all of the maps from the books online into one single interactive map containing over 7 million land owners spread out among 17 of the 23 public land states and Texas. A parcel of land is linked to the county boundary history, patent details, survey, and original document images. He has produced two free online YouTube videos demonstrating how to use this product.

First video: *HistoryGeo.com's First Landowners Project - Map Viewer Essentials* shows how to view a single-map containing millions of original landowners in Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin (with all states west of these, and Florida, yet to come). ([click here to view video](#))

Second video: *HistoryGeo.com's First Landowners Project - Tips, Tricks, and New Tools* shows how to locate original landowners, towns, and cemeteries, and how to use longitude and latitude to zoom to locations in this single map with over 7.2 million original landowners. ([click here to view video](#))

For those that prefer the hardcopy, Clayton Library has over 500 of Greg's books containing township/range maps for various counties in 21 states: AL, AR, CO, FL, IL, IN, IA, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NM, ND, OH, OK, SD, UT, WA, and WI. Use the Houston Public Library Online Catalog at <https://halan.sdp.sirsi.net/client/hou> to determine if Clayton Library has a family map book

for your specific state and county. Enter the search terms: "family maps" boyd alabama (change alabama to the state you are researching).

A screenshot of a search interface. It features two dropdown menus: the first is labeled 'Everything' and the second is labeled 'All Fields'. To the right of these is a text input field containing the search terms '"family maps" boyd alabama'. A blue 'Search' button is located to the right of the input field.

Access the Texas land survey maps books by entering the search terms: boyd texas bell (change bell to the county you are researching).

## Notice the FamilySearch.org home webpage has changed?

Click on the "Search" at the top of the [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) home page to access the familiar keyword and browse search page.



At the top of the search page are tabs to access an interface for searching individual records, submitted genealogies, LDS library catalog, digitized genealogy and family history publications, and the wiki. Use the wiki to find helpful how-to research articles on a topic or country/state. Many publications from the Clayton Library have been digitized and can be viewed online using the "Books" search. Just enter "Clayton Library" in quotes.

### Family History Books

A screenshot of the 'Family History Books' search interface. It shows a search input field containing the text '"Clayton Library"' and a blue 'Search' button to its right.

Periodically visit the "Records" search page, and choose "United States" (or another country) under the "Browse By Location" section to see what record collections have been recently updated. For example, this month the *Arkansas First Draft Registration Cards* (1940-1945) images, *BillionGrave Index, Boston, Mass. Passenger Lists* (1820-1891) images, *Texas County Tax Rolls* (1846-1910) images, and *US Public Records Index* have been added or updated.

## Scandinavian Research

Take a look at the five techniques to puzzle out patronymics, read church records and find ancestors in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark presented in the article "Discovering Scandinavian Roots" by Diana Crisman Smith published in *Family Tree Magazine*, September 2013 issue.

# 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.**

## August

**Entire Month** BAGS Display on exhibit at the Freeman Library in Clear Lake City located at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, TX ([online map](#)). Library hours are Monday and Wednesday 10:00am to 9:00pm; Tuesday and Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm; Thursday 1:00pm to 9:00pm; and Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm.

**Thursday, August 22** 9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library (details on pg. 6)

**Monday, August 26** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210

**Friday, August 30** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Annual “Show & Tell” with BBQ Potluck Dinner

## September

**Entire Month** BAGS Display on exhibit at the Pasadena Public Library in Pasadena

**Monday, September 23** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210

**Friday, September 27** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker: Ron Lucas will discuss Civil War Fire Arms.

## October

**Entire Month** BAGS Display on exhibit at the Evelyn Meador Library in Seabrook

**Saturday, October 12** 9:00 am – 4:00pm Seminar featuring John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. ([www.genealogyjohn.com](http://www.genealogyjohn.com)) at UBC

**Monday, October 21** 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210

**Friday, October 25** 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting – Speaker David Zwahr will present “Finding Your Relatives Masonic History”

## November

**Entire Month** BAGS Display on exhibit at the Fairmont Public Library in Pasadena

**November 16** 11:00am to 1:00pm Annual Holiday Party at the Hope Village Cafe in Friendswood, TX. A general meeting is not held in November.

## December

A general meeting is not held in December. Regular monthly general meetings resume in January 2014.

## Committee News

### Bus Trips To Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

The bus leaves for Clayton on

**Thursday, August 22**

Thirteen people participated in the bus trip on July 23. 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.



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.

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](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings. The BAGS website [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org) and the current newsletter always have a current listing of trips.

### Membership Renewal Time!

It's that time of year again! During the months of July and August, we will be renewing memberships for the 2013-2014 year, which runs September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014. 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

### 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](mailto:pmswerdlin@gmail.com)

Leona Cook: 832-864-3043  
[lbcook@hal-pc.org](mailto:lbcook@hal-pc.org)

### Attendance Report

For July, 53 members and 7 visitors attended the general meeting.

### BAG\$ Report for July 2013

Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$1,491.75
Income	\$1,571.00
Expenses	-\$626.82
Balance on hand 7/31/2013	\$2,435.93
CD Balance	\$6,391.18

## Local Area Events & Classes

### George Memorial Library Closed

George Memorial Library in Richmond, TX is closed **now through September 29**, to carry out renovation of the first floor. It will re-open on **Monday, September 30**. This library has a Genealogy and Local History Department on the second floor of the building. The department's resources focus on the southeastern United States and include materials relating to the history of the South, federal censuses, genealogy, and the Civil War.

### 1st Louisiana Guard: Free Men of Color in the Civil War

**Saturday, August 31 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Clayton Library** located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston (online map).

Local historian Rodney Sam will show the genealogical value of information contained in Civil War Pension files, as well as shine a light on the lives of Free men of color. The presentation will also feature case studies gathered from the pension file of three Union soldiers who served in the 1st Louisiana Guard. Seating is limited so registration is required. Call Clayton Library at 832-393-2600 to sign up.

### Volunteers Needed

Clayton Library is looking for one or two volunteers to assist on the **Microprint Desk** for one Saturday a month from 11am to 3pm. This position requires a strong background in genealogical research (to be able to assist customers with any research questions they may have), as well as skills in using the microprint readers and printers (training is available for using the microprint machines). If you have been doing genealogical research for a good while and are interested in helping customers one-on-one with their microprint-based genealogical research, please contact Steven Bychowski, Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator, at 832-393-2600 or [steven.bychowski@houstontx.gov](mailto:steven.bychowski@houstontx.gov).

### Beverly Rice, CG Seminar

**Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 9:00am to 4:00pm** in the John Calvin Presbyterian Church located at 8102 Midcrown, San Antonio, TX 78239 ([online map](#)). Program hosted by the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society. Program and registration details are available online at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsaghs2](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsaghs2) then click on "News" tab. Seminar topics include:

*Organization & Analysis: Using Timelines in Genealogical Research*

*Researching Your Female Lines*

*They Fought for the South – Researching the Soldiers & Sailors of the Confederacy*

*Railroads and Their Role in Western Migration (west of the Missouri River)*

### Genealogy Roadshow

A new PBS series *Genealogy Roadshow* is coming this fall that combines history and science to uncover the fascinating stories of diverse Americans. The program is scheduled to air Mondays, September 23-October 14 from 8:00pm to 9:00pm (Central Time) and features research in Austin, Detroit, Nashville, and San Francisco.

### Blazing The Family History Trail

#### Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Conference

**October 31 – November 2**

in the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel & Conference Center located at 1209 North I-35, Round Rock, TX. Co-hosted by Williamson County Genealogical Society. Key speaker is Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS. There will be partner society sessions, librarian's track, and FamilySearch classes on Thursday, October 31. A variety of classes will be offered for genealogists of all experience levels on Friday. Thomas W. Jones will present four lectures on Saturday. Registration, program details, and hotel reservation information will be published online at [www.txsgs.org/Conference/2013ConfSaveTheDate.html](http://www.txsgs.org/Conference/2013ConfSaveTheDate.html)



During the month of August 2013, The BAGS informational display is at the Freeman Library located at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, TX (in Clear Lake City, [online map](#)). Library hours are Monday and Wednesday 10:00am to 9:00pm; Tuesday and Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm; Thursday 1:00pm to 9:00pm; and Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm.



### REMINDER

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

### *Have any news to share?*

Send information to  
the editor at  
[newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)





[www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org)

# **Bay Area Genealogical Society**

*presents  
a one day seminar*

**"You Know Who They Were,  
Now Discover Their Real Story"**

*featuring*

**John Philip Colletta, PhD**

**Saturday, October 12, 2013**

**9:00am to 4:00pm**

**University Baptist Church  
1st Floor Chapel  
16106 Middlebrook Drive, Clear Lake City  
(map on the back)**

**Dr. John Philip Colletta is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. Knowledgeable, experienced and entertaining, he resides in Washington, D.C. He has worked at the Library of Congress, taught workshops at the National Archives, and wrote the books *They Came in Ships*, *Finding Italian Roots*, and *Only a Few Bones*.**

**Today, Dr. Colletta is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and Boston University's Certificate in Family History program. More information about Dr. Colletta can be found on his website [www.genealogyjohn.com](http://www.genealogyjohn.com)**



Dr. Colletta

## This seminar includes the following lectures:

### ***Records of the Federal Courts 1789-1911: Drama in Your Ancestors' Lives***

Federal court records contain all manner of information about your ancestors: their finances, business dealings, personal and family relationships, homes and property, personalities, disputes, triumphs and defeats. This lecture explains the system of federal courts, 1789-1911, and describes the records those courts created. Research strategies demonstrate how to use the Web site of the National Archives, public records, newspapers, Federal Cases, the Federal Reporter, and other tools to find federal court cases involving your ancestors. Particular case studies reveal the fascinating personal information these records contain.

### ***Lesser-Used Federal Records: Sources of Rich Detail about Ancestors' Lives***

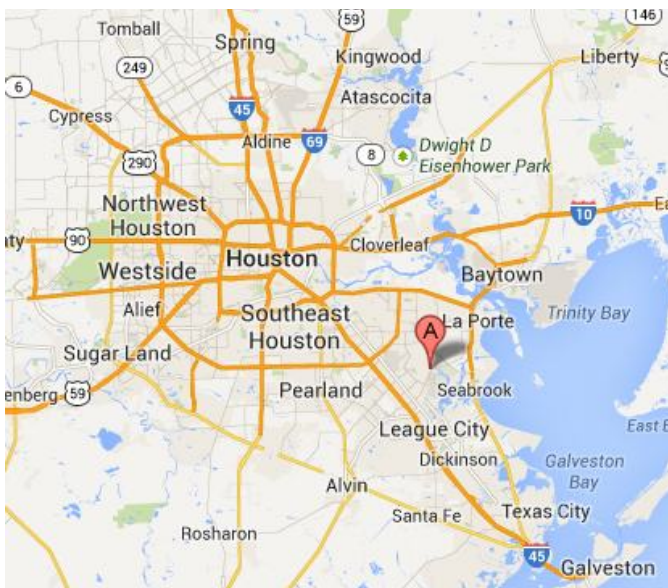
Whenever the path of an ancestor's life intersected with a federal government agency, paperwork was created. That paperwork fills our National Archives. Most of it has not been indexed, published, microfilmed or digitized, but some of it has. This lecture explores some of the more easily accessible paperwork that provides rich biographical detail about our ancestors. Discussion includes a selection from the following: 1) passport applications, 1791-1925; 2) homestead files, beginning 1863; 3) Civil War Income Tax records, 1862-72; 4) The Journals of Congress, 1789-1873; 5) Appointments of Postmasters, 1789-1971; 6) Federal Court records, 1789-1911; and 7) Civil War draft registrations, 1863-65.

### ***The Library of Congress: An Introduction and Overview***

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., is one of the country's greatest repositories for genealogical research. Yet, because it is dauntingly large and requires on-site research, it tends to be underutilized. This lecture takes the mystery and trepidation out of using our national library and demonstrates the tremendous benefits of making a research trip to Washington. It sketches the institution's history, describes the formalities for using it, and highlights — one reading room at a time — the innumerable and often unique treasures it holds. The extraordinary Web site of the Library of Congress is explored, and practical suggestions are made by someone who worked part-time at the library for twenty years.

### ***Private Archives: What They Are and How to Use Them***

Private entities, such as churches and synagogues, businesses, social organizations, and educational institutions, create records about their activities and their members. Over time these records accumulate, and eventually many private entities segregate them into an archives for preservation and research. Using Internet sites, this lecture describes the various kinds of private archives that exist and explains when and why you might want to search for one. Five sample cases illustrate how using private archives contributed to the speaker's genealogical research.





# Bay Area Genealogical Society

*presents*

**John Philip Colletta, PhD**

*seminar*



**"You Know Who They Were, Now Discover Their Real Story"**

Registration Form

Saturday, October 12, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

University Baptist Church, 1st Floor Chapel

16106 Middlebrook Drive

Houston (Clear Lake City), TX

**Name of Registrant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member of:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Genealogical Society**

**Early Registration Fee = \$30.00 Per Person**

**Postmarked on or before September 30, 2013**

**Box Lunches: \$10.00 each** (includes sandwich, chips, cookie, coffee or tea)

(Check one) ☐ Turkey ☐ Roast Beef ☐ Tuna ☐ Veggie

\$ 30.00 Early Registration  
(before Sept. 30)

\$ .00 Lunches

\$ .00 BAGS Contribution

**Total Enclosed:** \$ .00

**Late Registration or Registration at the Door is \$40.00 per person.**

**NO LUNCH available for late or at the door registrants.**

**Questions??** Go to [www.txbayareagen.org](http://www.txbayareagen.org) or E-mail: [genealijonz1@comcast.net](mailto:genealijonz1@comcast.net)

Make Checks Payable to: **Bay Area Genealogical Society**

Return Form to: **BAGS Registrar, P.O. Box 891477, Houston, TX 77289-1447**