



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 13, Issue No. 3

November 2013



Members and their guests are invited to

BAGS Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, November 16

from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the

Hope Village Cafe' (Tea Room)

**located at 4541 FM 2351, Friendswood, TX
(a map is provided [online](#) and as an insert in this newsletter)**

**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.**



***Enjoy the holiday spirit and a
pleasant lunch with friends.***

Lunch is dutch. Meals cost \$6-\$15.

A special ham plate with potato casserole, vegetables, and a roll will be offered.
Otherwise, choose from their menu of soups, salads, sandwiches, and desserts.

Food orders will be taken between 11:00am and noon.

Benefits Foundation for Hope Village

www.hope-village.com



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(Insert) Map to the Party

**The regular
general meetings
resume in
January 2014.**

Message from the President

Shirley Lindquist

BAGS Officers 2013-2015

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SHIRLEY LINDQUIST

Top 5 Family Thanksgiving Traditions

Every American family has their own way of celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday. It's likely that very few families are able to do all these traditions, and most families have a variety of ways of doing each one. Here are the five most popular:

1. Turkey and Trimmings: From the first Thanksgiving to today 95% of Americans eat turkey. Regional differences vary from the traditional roasted turkey, deep fried turkey from the South, salt encrusted turkey from New England, and coffee rubbed turkey from Hawaii.
2. Time for Football: Dating back to the first college championship held on Thanksgiving in 1876, holiday rivalries are very popular.
3. Parades: The first American Thanksgiving Day parade was held in 1920, sponsored by Gimbel's Department Store in Philadelphia. The New York City Macy's Parade tradition began in 1924, and is seen by more than 46 million people each year in person and on TV.
4. Making a Wish: Many families tug at the wishbone of the turkey, tugging on either end, to win the largest piece and get the "wish". This dates back to the Etruscans of 322 B.C. The Romans brought the tradition with them when they conquered England, and the English colonists carried the traditions on to America.
5. Thanksgiving is about giving thanks for the people and blessings of the past year. The holiday is truly a celebration of praise and thanksgiving. Let us, as BAGS members, be grateful for our organization and the many members who volunteer their time and talent! The Bay Area Genealogical Society offers many opportunities for all of us in friendships, as well as learning.

**Remember the BAGS Holiday Party,
Saturday, November 16, from 11:00 – 1:00pm
at Hope Village Café
located at 4541 FM 2351, Friendswood, TX**

[article data pulled from "Top 5 Family Thanksgiving Traditions" by Kimberly Powell published on About.com]

Shirley

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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Texas City During World War II: Oral History Project

This oral history project is now available online at www.texascity-library.org/wwii/index.php Of the residents interviewed, some lived in Texas City during the war, some served in the military, and some came to Texas City after the war. The oral histories available to date are from Fred Applegath, Wanda Applegath, Duane Barger, John Hart, Willie Mae Hazzard, Earlis Hines, Warren Jones, Holman Lilienstern, Earnestine Moreno, John Quinn, Lyman Reed, Mary Ann Reed, Lou Ringer, Thomas Sledge, Douglas Stiernberg, Margaret Tuma, Robert Updegrove, Gwen Atwood Uzzell, Troy Uzzell, Clarence Wood, and John Wood. Texas City grew during WWII with the influx of many people and government money. The entire oral interview and transcript can be downloaded from the website.

The website also provides articles and photos regarding Texas City during the war years. *Did you know Texas City was home to the Longhorn Tin Smelter, only tin smelter in North America?* [From the *Galveston County Library System News*, Fall 2013 Volume 11 Issue 2]

Another Use For The Pedigree Chart

In honor of Halloween, Nathan W. Murphy posted the article "Death Chart" on the *FamilySearch* blog ([see article online](#)) showing a different use for the pedigree chart. Instead of names and vital dates, he recorded each ancestor's cause of death on the chart. This provides an interesting perspective and may point out a trend that could help you live longer through preventive steps.

This idea suggests other uses for the pedigree chart. What about documenting occupations or military service? Another copy of the chart documenting the locations they lived could help identify a migration pattern and point to a different geographic area to focus your research.

Kiss A Veteran

BAGS IS A WINNER !

Melodey Hauch received two first place writing awards at the Texas State Genealogical Society Conference in Round Rock on November 1, 2013.

As editor, Melodey accepted the first place award given to the *BAGS Quarterly* in the society quarterly publications category.

Her article "Hitchcock's Beguin-Opitz Cemetery and the Old Lady of the Thicket" won in the manuscript category for non-professional genealogists. This article was published in the September 2013 issue of the *Quarterly*.

Melodey is pictured here with TSGS President Susan Kaufman. (It was dress for a Texas-style BBQ at the awards banquet.)



Congratulations on a job well done to Melodey and the Quarterly staff!

Interested in helping?

We are looking for members to work on Publicity Committee and the Welcome Committee. Interested or have questions, contact one of the BAGS Officers.

Thank you Patsy Chappellear for accepting to serve as the *Yearbook* Editor!

For the Sergeant-At-Arms position, the Board decided at each meeting to ask a veteran to lead group in stating the pledges.

October Program Recap

David Zwahr presented a program entitled “Finding Your Relatives Masonic History” where he discussed how to locate a male relative’s membership and record of advances and achievements. The Masonic membership form called the “Petition For The Mysteries of Masonry” can provide evidence of residency, family, and occupation. Former lodge affiliation, demit (honorable withdrawal/transfer), suspend, dropped, or expelled notes in a service record can also provide clues as to a change in residency. Inspired by David’s presentation, Dad began researching his father’s Masonic service that had lasted 50 years. Thinking his father was active in each town he had lived in, Dad wrote down the places and date ranges where his father had been beginning around the age of 30. The list includes Mt Vernon, Indiana; Electra, Texas; Garland, Texas; Brady, Texas; and Seguin, Texas. As David suggested, Dad completed the “Masonic Record Request Form” ([online PDF](#)) and submitted it to The Grand Lodge of Texas Masonic Library & Museum to get the service record within the state. To locate the original membership form, Dad accessed The Grand Lodge of Indiana’s website and used their lodge locator feature to find contact information for the Mt. Vernon lodge. Dad called the lodge during their advertised monthly meeting. While on the phone, the lodge secretary took the time to look up granddad’s service record. He confirmed the original membership and acceptance did occur at that lodge. He also clarified the membership was held at that lodge until 1969 where it was demitted (transferred) to Seguin, Texas documented by a “Petition of Affirmation” and a “Certificate of Good Standing.”

So surprise! Granddad did not hold a membership in any of the other towns. In a few months we hope to receive a copy of the original membership form and service record. Thanks for the inspiration David!

Research Resources

Not all Masonic Lodges have staff or records available to do genealogy research. Start with a Masonic Library & Museum or Grand Lodge in the state or country where your ancestor lived and determine whether they have records available for your research. A list of Masonic Library & Museums with their contact information is available online at <http://bessel.org/maslibs.htm>. These

libraries also house books written by masons concerning family or lodge history. Generally, they are not public libraries but the public can access the materials by scheduling an appointment.

New York records can be requested from the [Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library](#)

Michigan records can be requested from the [Michigan Masonic Museum and Library](#).

Texas records can be requested from the [Grand Lodge of Texas Masonic Library & Museum](#). If you would like to visit the library located in Waco, contact Barbara Mechell or Bruce Mercer to schedule an appointment by calling 254-753-7395 or emailing barbara@grandlodgeoftexas.org. [Houston Masonic Library and Museum](#) is accessible by appointment, call 713-410-6010.

Virginia records can be requested from the [Grand Lodge Library, Museum, and Historical Foundation](#).

The Grand Lodge contact information for each U.S. state and Canadian province, and some countries is available on the “Grand Lodge Listing” www.masonicinfo.com/grandlodges.htm webpage and some additional countries are included on the “Masonic Lodge of Education” webpage www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/masonic-lodge-locations.html. Note the Prince Hall Freemasonry is the African-American counterpart fraternity in North America founded by Prince Hall in the late 18th century. Additional links to Prince Hall Masonic Lodges can be found in the Open Directory Project’s [Craft Masonry listing](#). Consider reviewing local lodge newsletters published either monthly or quarterly.

Clayton Library has books covering abstracts of Arkansas records 1862-1990 compiled by Desmond Walls Allen; Mississippi Masonic death records 1819-1919; and Masons in the Grand Lodge of Kentucky 1800-1850.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has some Masonic membership, death and cemetery records. To view their book and microfilm holdings, go to the Family History Library catalog and perform a keyword search for "Masonic records" (click [here](#) to access that listing) or a subject search for “freemasons” (click [here](#) to access that listing).

BAGS Events 2013-2014 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.

November

Entire Month BAGS Display on exhibit at the Fairmont Branch Pasadena Public Library located at 4330 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, TX ([online map](#)). Library hours are Monday and Wednesday from 10:00am to 8:00pm; Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00am to 6:00pm; Saturday from noon to 5:00pm; and closed Sunday.

Saturday, November 16 **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](#))

A general meeting will not be held in November.

Wednesday, November 20 **9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library** (details on pg. 6)

December



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

January

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 **9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library** (details on pg. 6)

Monday, January 27, 2014 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210

Friday, January 31, 2014 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting

February

Monday, February 24, 2014 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210

Friday, February 28, 2014 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting

March

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 **9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library** (details on pg. 6)

Monday, March 24, 2014 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210

Friday, March 28, 2014 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting

April

Monday, April 21, 2014 6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210

Friday, April 25, 2014 7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting

Committee News

Bus Trips To Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

The bus leaves for Clayton on

November 20, 2013

January 15, 2014

March 4, 2014



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. 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 trips.

Please support Deborah Cole our new Quarterly Editor by sending her content to use in the publication.

BAG\$ Report for November 2013

Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,133.43
Income	\$1,496.97
Expenses	<u>-\$544.75</u>
Balance on hand 9/30/2013	\$4,085.65
CD Balance	\$6,396.31

Membership

Marie Krnavek, Registrar

As of the end of October, we have 159 new and renewed members. The memberships consist of 37 family and 83 single memberships.

It is important to keep our information up to date. If you have any changes in or corrections to your contact information during the year, please notify me by email at registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Thank you Polly Swerdlin for all your work this past year to schedule, setup, and tear-down a promotional display for BAGS and genealogy in local libraries!

Thanks To Our Generous Supporters!

We want to recognize and thank those members who showed their support for BAGS in the 2013-2014 Society year by making an additional donation along with their membership fee.

Thank you!

Your support makes a difference!

Contributors (donations of \$30 to \$49)

Wally & Norma Davenport
Alice Braud Jones
Barbara Larsen
Bob Loyd
Keith & Laurel Stine
Pauline Swerdlin
Bob & Betty Wegner

Patrons (donations of \$50 - \$500)

Resa Hennings
Jeanine Lawrence
Loran & Mary Martin

Local Area Events & Classes

Cherokee Trail of Tears and Native American genealogical research

Saturday, November 9 at 10:35 am in the University Branch Library, 14010 University Blvd in Sugar Land, on the UH campus ([online map](#))

Marjorie Lowe, an expert on Native American genealogy research, will be the speaker for the program “**Tiana’s Journey**.” Follow one family’s genealogy research experience, which led them to travel the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Find out how Native Americans are documenting their history through the National Trail of Tears Association.

The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. To register online at the library’s website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on “Calendar,” select “University Branch,” and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the Genealogy and Local History Department at 281-341-2608.

Excavation of the USS Westfield

Thursday, November 14 at 2:00pm in the **Texas City Museum** located at 409 6th St. North ([online map](#)) The USS Westfield, a refurbished Staten Island ferry, was the flagship of the Union fleet that controlled Galveston Harbor from October 4, 1862 to January 1, 1863. This fleet was part of the Union blockade designed to isolate the Confederate states and cut off Southern trade. Justin Parkhoff, a doctoral student handling the preservation project, will give a presentation on the excavation and restoration of the USS Westfield.

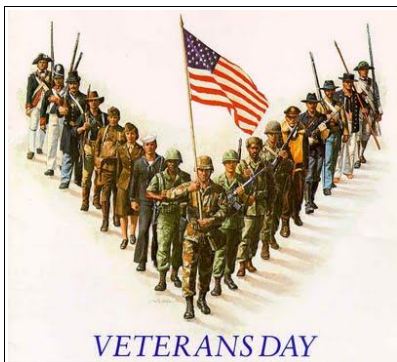


Photo from *PowerPoint Tips* 11/11/2009 blog posting
<http://powerpointfan.blogspot.com>

Clayton Library Programs

The following free programs are offered to adults and teens at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston ([online map](#)). All events require reservations. To place a reservation call the library at 832-393-2600. The library will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving. They may also be closed Saturday, November 30. Call before you go.

Internet Archives

Saturday, November 23 at 1:00pm

Internet Archive is a non-profit digital library offering free universal access to books, movies & music, as well as 357 billion archived web pages. This class serves as an introduction to this useful repository, and details how best to access it for genealogical purposes.

New Genealogy Research Databases

Saturday, November 23 at 2:30pm

This presentation introduces two of Clayton Library's newest research database acquisitions: "World Vital Records" and "Genealogy Connect." Find out how to access these digital resources and learn more about the unique digital content that each database provides.

Good News...FGS is coming to Texas!

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference 2014 will be held in San Antonio, Texas. This is an opportunity to access exceptional educational programs in our own backyard! The conference will be held August 27-30, 2014. The Marriott Riverwalk hotel is located directly across from the convention center where the conference will be held. They are already accepting reservations. Too pricey? There are many hotels in the surrounding area. Check to see if they have streetcar access to downtown. Click [here](#) to access a map of the VIA downtown streetcar service routes. Details on the programs and special events will be published on the 2014 Conference website www.fgsconference.org.

David Zwahr providing Masonic research advice and presenting his program during the October 2013 meeting. Photos taken by David's brother Jon Zwahr.



What a good looking bunch of people focused on research!



REMINDER

Join us for lunch at the
Hope Village Cafe on
Saturday, November 16
at 11:00am

Have any news to share?

Send information to
the editor at
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

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