



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

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March 2014

Friday, March 28, 2014: René Armstrong discusses History Lost – History Found: Researching and Writing a Memoir

Public Invited. Join us at 6:30pm for coffee and socializing.

**This meeting is at the University Baptist Church (UBC) in the Chapel, 1st floor.
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Clear Lake City – [online map](#))**

Come discover some tips on including history into your family stories to make them relevant and affecting.



RENÉ ARMSTRONG

When René Armstrong's husband found a box of 295 letters in a junk store on 6th Street in Texas City, they had no idea the profound piece of history in their possession until she transcribed these words into a document. Sitting down and reading the over fifteen-hundred handwritten pages written between 1941-1944 took her on the journey of discovery of a time that was gentler and kinder, even in the midst of war.

Enhanced with official, now declassified, government documents, the love story of James Richard Jones and Helen Elnora Bartlett unfolds as he writes to his sweetheart from the jungles of New Guinea.

She tied their personal story through his letters with actual pieces of history to make this work of literature something that will appeal not only to the couple's family members, but also to those who are interested in history. It emphasizes how each person's individual life impacts our nation's collective history.

René Palmer Armstrong is the author of *Wings and a Ring: Letters of War and Love from a WWII Pilot*. She was born and raised in Texas City, Texas. She is a two-time cancer survivor. Upon turning 60, she retired from a regular job to write and make hand-crafted jewelry. She is now fulfilling a life-long dream of traveling while promoting her book.

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Any news to share?

Send information to the editor
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

March meeting location has been moved to the Chapel, 1st floor.

Plan to pick up the December 2013 Quarterly issue at this meeting.

Deborah Cole, *Quarterly* Editor, is looking for articles and photos to use in future issues. Please consider sending her some of your family material.

**Need a ride to the meeting?
Contact Polly Swerdlin**



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Message from the Treasurer

Loren Martin



LOREN MARTIN

Having been re-elected by the BAGS membership, I am serving my third year as Treasurer. This volunteer position functions very similar to your own individual personal financial efforts – taking income and distributing it to pay bills and other expenses within a formal annual budget approved by the BAGS Board. The one major difference between the BAGS financial effort and most personal accounting is that I monthly submit formal written accounting reports to the BAGS Board describing all income and expenses and reflect the status of these events with respect to the approved Budget. Actually, being BAGS Treasurer is easier than managing my own personal finances. Many people make a bigger deal out of being a treasurer than is necessary and some even have a fear or lack of confidence in their ability to provide this simple, important volunteer effort. Really, if I can do anyone can do it!

My wife, Mary, and I were referred to BAGS by a co-worker, Mike McCown, who had seen the 2001 “Galveston County Daily News” notice stating that a genealogical society was being formed. We joined it as charter members and soon became very involved volunteering. I have actively participated on the BAGS Board since 2004.

My research began with very little recorded family information. Census records, books (both from several libraries and some purchased), visits to county court houses and much online activity has allowed me to determine much information. However, many source documents are still missing. These facts lead to English, Scottish and German roots. My Martin family roots go back to North Carolina, Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri. They include Kemp, Davidson, Glazebrook, Ellis, Elmore, Bowles, Quinn, Bridges, Winn, Waggoner, Gard, Large, Thompson and Prouse ancestors in Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Ohio, New Jersey and Kansas. My maternal Callaway ancestors go back to Virginia, Indiana, Iowa and a brief stop in the Rio Grande Valley. They include Edgington, Marshall, Broome, Webb, Ashenhurst, Ping, Sappenfield, Barnes and Bullock ancestors in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina.

Loren

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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Old Memories Take on a New Meaning

By Mary Leonard Martin great-great-great-great-great granddaughter of William Flagg and great-great-great-great-great niece of Bezaleel Flagg.

When I was in the fifth grade sixty years ago, our school had skits on American history that the fifth and seventh graders presented for the school. Our class was assigned the Battle of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. I was to play a “minuteman” who hid down low beside the bridge. I was trying to work on my costume to make me look like a “minuteman.” I found an old brown hat of my aunt’s that was a derby style hat. I was able to pinch the hat into a three cornered hat like the minutemen wore. I don’t remember what the rest of the costume looked like, probably just plain school clothes. I don’t know what I had for a rifle, probably a broomstick. We were all hiding down beside the bridge when the British crossed it between Lexington and Concord, and then we starting shooting at the British. I don’t remember if I was one of the minutemen who was shot or not. There were some killed, but it wasn’t a battle with a lot of casualties.



Moving forward to five years ago, I was looking for the father of Suzannah Flagg who was my great-great-great-great-great grandmother. I found two Suzannah Flagg, one was the daughter of Bezaleel Flagg, and the other one was the daughter of William Flagg. They were brothers, but which one was mine. I wanted to prove mine for the DAR. I looked them both up, and one lady had claimed them both as her ancestor. Oh my! Someone had to have definite proof to claim either one of them as an ancestor. While on a business trip, Loren and I took time for a side trip to the New England Historic Genealogical Library. I discovered William Flagg had died intestate, so no answers there. I met a great librarian there named Chris Child. I told him my dilemma. He asked me if I had looked for the will of Bezaleel. By the time I got downstairs, he had a copy of Bezaleel’s will for me. His daughter’s name was Suzannah Knight. Later, I found a marriage record for this Suzannah. So, my ancestor had to be William Flagg. To complicate matters, William and Bezaleel had a sister named Suzannah, and grandma was Suzannah, too, but she was a Flagg by marriage. Look for the original records to solve mysteries.

I found that both Bezaleel Flagg and William Flagg were minutemen at the “Battle of Lexington and Concord”. So, fifty-five years later, I realized that I had played my great-great-great-great-great grandfather in a fifth grade skit. This is what makes it fun to be a genealogy enthusiast and to have a little knowledge of history. I probably wasn’t shot because my great-great-great-great-great grandfather lived to tell the tale. You might be playing the part of one of your ancestors and not even know it.

Welcome New Member!

Mary Samford of Friendswood

Please give a hearty welcome and introduce yourself to our newest member.

Psst... The Midwest Genealogy Center (www.midwestgenealogycenter.org) located in Independence, MO maintains bound collections of all the *BAGS Quarterly* issues for public use courtesy of Mary and Loren Martin's donation. In a thank you letter, the research assistant stated “Your Quarterly is top notch!!” Click [here](#) to access the library's listing of all periodicals maintained at the center. With access to almost three-quarter of a million on-site materials in a 52,000 square foot facility, you may want to stop by this summer and do a little research. Look for your surnames in their archival collections' [indexes](#). Click [here](#) to access their “Online Learning” page that contains video classes and handouts on basic methods and key resources to start your family history. Classes include Cherokee genealogy, analysis of pre-1850 Federal census, colonial immigration and land.

BAGS Special Interest Group (SIG)

Meetings begin in April. The first three are dedicated to UK & Ireland research. *Missed February's general meeting program?* There is good news! Nick Cimino will be discussing UK & Ireland research in greater detail at the Friendswood Public Library (located at 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood ([online map](#)) on



Tuesday, April 1 at 2:30pm to 4:00pm – Census records

Tuesday, May 6 at 2:30pm to 4:00pm – Civil Vital Records (BMD)

Tuesday, June 3 at 2:30pm to 4:00pm – Church/Parish records.

These sessions are free and the public is invited. Handouts for the classes will be emailed to the membership prior to the first meeting.

Tips from Klein Family History Fair

BAGS members Lynn Finger, Chester Karrick, Bettejean Spatafore, Bob Wegner, and Kim Zrubek attended this fair on Saturday, February 22 and learned a few tips and tricks. In several sessions, they watched video recordings of programs presented at the 2014 RootsTech, a family history and technology conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah on February 6-8. Handouts for all the RootsTech sessions are available on RootsTech.org website <https://rootstech.org/about/syllabus-materials>. Tips worth sharing:

War of 1812 Pension Application Files

Fold3 offers free access to approximately 180,000 pension and bounty land warrant application files relating to claims based on service between 1812 and 1815. The files generally contain documentation submitted in support of a claim, such as the original application form, affidavits, and statements from witnesses. Search by a name, date, or topic to retrieve and view scanned images of the application pages starting at <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions/>

Photograph Digital Restoration

“Do It Yourself Photo Restoration” by Ancestry Insider is a 39 page handout that provides instructions on techniques to digitally restore family photographs ([click here to access handout](#))

Suggestions when Scanning Photographs

Choose 300dpi (dots per inch) for 8x10 sized photographs. However, choose 600dpi for photos smaller than 8x10 to pick up the detail. Maps which contain small details, scan at 600dpi. If possible, have the scanning process create the digital image into a .tif (TIFF) formatted file. This file format produces a better digital image of the photo. Store this image in your digital archive. Either scan the photo a second time or use the TIFF image to create a second digital image as a .jpg (JPEG) format file. The JPEG copy has a smaller file size that is great for sharing. Remember to scan the backside of the photo as well if there is any information printed or written.

Ancestry.com Learning Center is Free

Ancestry.com offers free access to their Learning Center (no subscription needed). There are over 100 hours of video training available. The archived webinars include videos on such topics as Family Tree Maker 2012 new features, Finding Irish, Polish, Italian, African and Jewish ancestors, and common surnames research. Click [here](#) to access the webinars.

(tips continued on page 7)

Can you send Email?

Great! We need a volunteer to email local and neighborhood newspapers announcing BAGS general meeting, speakers, and program topics. Please contact the President or First-Vice President.

BAGS Event Calendar & Committee News

Monthly General Meetings

The last Friday of the month at 7:00pm.
Come at 6:30pm to enjoy coffee and socializing.
The public is invited to visit.

These meetings are held at the University Baptist Church (UBC) located at 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059 (Clear Lake City).

Friday, March 28 at 7:00pm: Rene Armstrong discusses tips including history in family stories.

Friday, April 25 at 7:00pm: Sue Yerby discusses Family History Portal Resources.

Friday, May 30 at 7:00pm: Gale French discusses using Google Earth in genealogy

Friday, June 27 at 7:00pm

Friday, July 25 at 7:00pm

Friday, August 29 at 7:00pm: Annual Show & Tell

Friday, September 26 at 7:00pm Speaker is Gay Carter, retired UHCL Government Documents Librarian

Friday, October 31 at 7:00pm

November: Annual Holiday Party

December: No general meeting

Research Trips at Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

The bus leaves for Clayton on
Wednesday, May 21
Wednesday, June 4
Wednesday, July 9
Tuesday, September 23



The June 4 date was added to the schedule after the March 4 trip had to be canceled due to bad weather.

Meet in front of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane, TX 77062. 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.

The current schedule is always available on the BAGS website www.TxBayAreaGen.org and printed in the newsletter.

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.

Board Meetings

Last Monday of the month at 6:30pm.
All members are welcome to attend.
These meetings are held at the University Baptist Church (UBC) on the second floor in room LC-210.

Monday, March 24 at 6:30pm

Monday, April 21 at 6:30pm

Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30pm

Monday, June 23 at 6:30pm

Monday, July 21 at 6:30pm

Monday, August 25 at 6:30pm

Monday, September 22 at 6:30pm

Monday, October 27 at 6:30pm

Board meeting usually not held in November or December.

THANK YOU

Thank Bob Wegner for volunteering to serve as the Registrar's Assistant.

Thank Patsy Chappellear for volunteering to create the *BAGS Yearbook*.

BAG\$ Report for February 2014

Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward 1/31/2014	\$4,779.82
Income	\$53.00
Expenses	<u>-\$113.90</u>
Balance on hand 2/28/2014	\$4,718.92
CD Balance	\$3,669.18

Local Area Events & Classes

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, TX 77004. Events may require reservations. **To place a reservation call the library at 832-393-2600.**

Women's History Day

Saturday, March 15

As part of National Women's History Month, Clayton Library will hold a day of classes focused on researching female ancestors by not only demonstrating important research techniques, but then also applying them through a case study featuring a mysterious widow.

Second Wives Club

Saturday, March 15 at 1:00pm to 2:00pm

This talk is all about proving second marriages for female ancestors. Here we will explore the resources that will confirm a second marriage, even if you know for a "fact" your ancestor only married once. Or so you thought! Reservations required.

The Mystery of Lillie Mae Ford: Documenting Husbands and More

Saturday, March 15 at 2:30pm to 3:30pm

Genealogy involves using multiple sources to analyze and create a family narrative. This presentation is a case study about the discovery of documents and the paper trail of documents left by Lillie Mae Ford and her unexpected name changes. Multiple research strategies will be discussed as well as the importance of primary and secondary sources. This class may be useful for both beginners and advanced researchers. Reservations required.

Orientation to the materials available at the Clayton Library

Saturday, April 19 at 10:30am

Tour the facility and learn about the vast family history research resources at the Clayton Library. Reservations not required.

Descriptions of the material collections available at the library are posted online at

www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton/collections.html

USS TEXAS Centennial Commissioning Celebration

Saturday, March 15 from noon to 10pm. Pay tribute to the surviving crew members and the last remaining "dreadnought" that was commissioned on March 12, 1914 and served in WWI and WWII. Ticket purchase and festival schedule is posted on the website www.battleshiptexas.org.

Combat Diary

Monday, March 17 at 7:00pm at the

Friendswood Public Library located at 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, TX 77546.

WWII Sergeant Emmett Jackson and author of *Combat Diary* will discuss his experiences as a combat engineer who located and disarmed German mines. He served on the front line during the Battle of the Bulge and crossed the bridge at Remagen while it was still under fire. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

Ours and Theirs: Tax and Land Laws

Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 10:00am to

12:00pm at Bayland Park Community Center located at 6400 Bissonnet, TX 77074 between Hillcroft and Beechnut).

This program will be presented by Debbie Parker Wayne, CG and Certified Genealogical Lecturer. "Tax and land records can provide clues to the lifespan of an ancestor, if you can interpret the records according to the laws of the time. Tax records can also tell you how your ancestor may have lived. Learn to interpret records using real-life examples." Hosted by Houston Genealogical Forum. Free. Visitors welcome.

Free Virtual Learning Meetings

National Institute for Genealogical Studies offers one-hour online get-togethers with instructors. These meetings are **open to everyone**. View the list of dates and topics on the webpage www.genealogicalstudies.com/eng/chats.asp Look for the "Instructions" link on the same page for additional information. Some of the upcoming March meetings are:

Sunday, March 16 at 6:00pm English records

Thursday, March 27 at 3:00pm Canadian records

Thursday, March 27 at 4:00pm Irish records

Tips from Klein Family History Fair (continued from page 4)

Resources for Foreign Record Research

On the “Deciphering Foreign Language Records” RootsTech 2014 handout, Randy W. Whited recommended the following two websites:

Script Tutorials: Paleography, Old Documents and Family History Research

<https://script.byu.edu/Pages/choices.aspx>

This website offers guidance in the deciphering of manuscripts and other old documents that were printed in old typefaces or written in old handwriting styles. Languages covered include English, German, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

German Gazetteers Online <http://www.progenealogists.com/germangazetteersonline.htm>

A useful collection of German gazetteers that are free and usually searchable. These resources are useful in identifying difficult to read place names.

Not interested in Germany? Take a look at the Articles & Education Research Tools section on the *ProGenealogists.com* because it covers many other countries, U.S. States, and research topics.

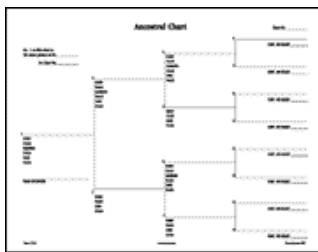
Access the articles at <http://www.progenealogists.com/articles.htm>.

Houston Family Search Conference: Research Using Technology in the 21st Century

Saturday, April 26 from 9:00am to 3:40pm in Summerwood Stake Center located at 14350 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, TX 77044.

This is a free all-day conference consisting of four sessions. Choose from beginner and advanced research topics. These are not video replay presentations. Conference class details and registration are online at www.houstonfamilysearch.com

Want to car pool? Contact Kim Zrubek. Signup sheet will be available at the March general meeting.



Member Five Generation Charts

Need help or have questions concerning creating your ancestry chart? Please contact member Eleanor Caldwell, Five-Generation Pedigree Charts Chairman. All members are encouraged to submit a chart of their family. The chart does not need to be complete and information about living relatives may be omitted.

Query Column for Your Genealogical Research Projects

Have a “how to” research question? Stuck looking for a specific person or family? Want a hint on how to proceed? Need an explanation on information found in a record? Here is a chance to get some help. Send your question(s) to Kim Zrubek, newsletter editor at newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org The question will be printed in the newsletter for other members to help answer by sharing their own research experiences in order that all of us may discover successful ways to jump over brick walls.