



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

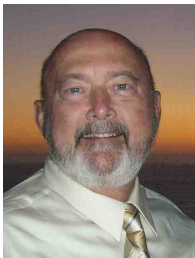
Volume 13, Issue No. 9

May 2014

Friday, May 30, 2014: Gale French presents "Using Google Earth in Genealogy"

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

**This meeting is at the University Baptist Church (UBC) in the Great Room, 2nd floor.
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Clear Lake City – [online map](#))**



GALE FRENCH

Google Earth™ is a 360 degree three dimensional way to view your ancestor's world! In this presentation, you will learn how to show findings of your research – from photographs to locations of homesteads. Google Earth™ has the power to geographically document the story of your ancestors. All this is tied together by creating a "tour" of the elements you've created to show family and friends. The Google Earth™ application for desktop, web access, and mobile access is free (www.google.com/earth).

Gale French has been interested in genealogy for over 25 years; his family and natural curiosity has nurtured this interest in him. He has lived in Texas all his life and worked for IBM in the U.S. Space program at NASA's Johnson Space Center for 26 years and is now retired. His work with commercial imaging technology and document management has enhanced his genealogy organization and presentation. He received the IBM Outstanding Contribution Award, NASA's Apollo Achievement Award, and the NASA First Shuttle Flight Achievement Award for Manned Flight Awareness. Gale researched and published a 600 page family history book on his grandmother's Elliott family line that came from England to Texas, fought in the Texas Revolution and received land for their service. He traced ten generations of Elliotts and their descendents. Gale is currently writing another book on his paternal line including numerous DNA tests for the French family. He participated in the Southern California Genealogical Jamboree's "Genealogy Idol" contest, presented at the 2014 RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City, and presented at the Houston 2013 & 2014 Family Search conferences. He recently received the Pioneers in Space Technical Achievement Award from the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

On Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00pm, Gale French will present "Self-Publish Your Family History" at the Friendswood Library. Gale will discuss the do's and don'ts of writing, formatting, editing, and publishing your own family history book and the various mediums available.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Registrar Message
- 3 Court Order, April Program Recap
- 4 SIGs, Genealogy Talk
- 5 BAGS Event Calendar
- 6 Local Area Events & Classes
- 7 FGS Conference Information

Any news to share?

Send information to the editor
newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

BAGS SIG schedules printed on page 4.

Need a ride to the meeting?
Contact Polly Swerdlin



BAGS Officers 2013-2015

President

Shirley Lindquist

President@TxBayAreaGen.org

First Vice President

Melodey Hauch

VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org

Second Vice President

Kim Zrubek (2014)

VicePres2@TxBayAreaGen.org

Recording Secretary

Deborah Gammon

RecordingSec@TxBayAreaGen.org

Corresponding Secretary

Annette Bowen

CorrespondSecretary@TxBayAreaGen.org

Treasurer

Loren Martin

Treasurer@TxBayAreaGen.org

Registrar

Bob Wegner

Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

Newsletter Staff

Editor / Compositor

Kim Zrubek

newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

Proofreaders

Chester Karrick, Shirley Robbins, and Geri Smith

Photographer

Neil Miserendino, Bill Mayo

Distributor

Neil Miserendino

Webmaster

Linda Carrington

linda@TxBayAreaGen.org

Message from Registrar

Robert "Bob" Long Wegner Jr.



BOB WEGNER JR.

I volunteered to fill the Registrar position prior to the March 2014 BAGS General Meeting because I wanted to contribute to this excellent organization. Happily, I dove into the responsibilities and quickly learned their complexity and the time intensiveness of this job. Needless to say, I am still learning my responsibilities, but grateful for the opportunity to serve BAGS in this capacity. The major tasks of this position based on my current knowledge are: **1)** Collect money at the BAGS general meetings and the BAGS post office box and record in the Excel program, then send the money to the Treasurer; **2)** Set up before the BAGS board meeting (includes board list); **3)** Set up before the BAGS general meeting (includes member lists and visitors lists, etc.); **4)** Take attendance at both the BAGS board meeting and the BAGS general meeting; **5)** Prepare member report for board meetings, submit membership article to the Newsletter (welcome to New Members), for the August newsletter recognize Contributor, Patron, etc. for the year; **6)** Maintain the Registrar's notebook with all the member application/forms, plus the Member Number spreadsheet and the Master List of Members spreadsheet; and, **7)** Send the new member information to the following chairmen - Member Services, Photographer, Email, 5-Generation Charts, Quarterly, Yearbook and President.

My wife, Betty, and I were referred to BAGS by a good friend and ardent BAGS member, Chester Karrick, who I had worked with during the 2010 U.S. Census. We joined BAGS in 2011 and soon became involved in participating in its events. Betty became the current Assistant Registrar at the April 2014 General Meeting.

I dabbled in genealogical research over the years but did not become serious about it until I joined BAGS. Through BAGS I have learned so much from various meetings and other research learning opportunities promoted and advertised by BAGS. My research began with little if no recorded family information. But much online activity through *FamilySearch.org* and *Ancestry.com* plus visits to former family residences, grave sites and local libraries helped immensely to lay the foundation for much of my genealogical information. There, of course, is still much more information to locate about my ancestors. My roots currently lead to English, Welsh, French and German. Wegner family roots include Euer, Kopp, Krieter, Long, Meeker, Roller and Synder ancestors in Ohio, Wisconsin, France and Germany. My maternal Parmley ancestors include Ashton, Baker, Bartholomew, Doney, Flesher, James and Kenyon in Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, England and Wales.

[At a general meeting, say hello to Bob and thank him for serving as our Registrar! – newsletter editor note]

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

All rights reserved.

Court orders Veterans Affairs to produce headstones

Congratulations to Deborah Gammon and Joyce Zongrone and thank you to Kimberly Sullivan, Lonnie Cox, Jack Ewing for providing the assistance needed to get the court order issued.

After almost 50 years of lying in all but forgotten unmarked graves, two World War I veterans will finally receive their rightful government headstones after a Court Order was issued by Galveston County Probate Court Judge Kimberly Sullivan, Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 11 am, 600 59th St., Suite 2305, Galveston, Texas, 77551.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs initially denied headstones for Privates Frank R. Ellis and Oscar Bernard Juenger, US Army, because they currently have no next of kin. This did not deter a tenaciously dedicated local historian and genealogist, Deborah Gammon, who has, for more than 3 years, been gathering data, doing genealogical research and reconstructing their service records in hopes of officially marking their graves.

After contacting Galveston County 56th District Court Judge Lonnie Cox for help with a Court Order to name her next of kin, Cox arranged for League City attorney Jack Ewing to donate his services to draft and to submit the Court Order to be presented in Probate Court. Once the order is signed, the Veterans Administration has agreed to process the headstone request. [announcement posted by Lynna Kay Shuffield online at *RootsWeb.Ancestry.com* in TX-CEMETERY-PRESERVATION-L threaded mail archive, Wednesday, April 2, 2014]

Refer to the Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration's website <http://www.cem.va.gov/hmm> for information concerning eligibility for a free government headstone, marker or medallion and the application process. The applicant must either be a decedent's next-of-kin, an authorized representative on behalf of the decedent, or an authorized representative on behalf of next-of-kin. To directly access the general information sheet and application form, click here <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330.pdf>

April Program Recap

Thank you Sue Yerby for discussing each of the free online research resources that are available to the public when visiting a Family History Center. Click on this link to access a complete list of those free online resources and a description of each https://help.familysearch.org/publishing/699/106761_f.SAL_Public.html

These are the Family History Centers located in our area and their published operating hours. Call before you go, to verify the hours have not changed. You can find a LDS Family History Center near you (worldwide) using the online locator

<https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>

Alvin FHC 2700 Lehi Lane, Alvin, TX 77511 (281-585-3033)

Hours: Wednesday 7pm-9pm; Thursday 8:30am-12pm ; Friday 8:30pm-12pm; and Saturday 8am-10am.
Closures: All holidays, two weeks at Christmas

Clayton Library 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, TX 77004 (832-393-2600)

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10am-6pm; Wednesday 10am-8pm; Friday and Saturday 10am-5pm

Friendswood FHC 505 Deseret Drive, Friendswood, TX 77546 (281-996-9346)
Hours: Tuesday 10am-2pm & 6pm-9pm; Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm; Friday 10am-2pm; and 2nd Saturday each month 10am-2pm. Closures: Thanksgiving week, two weeks at Christmas

Galveston FHC 3114 77th Street, Galveston, TX 77551 (409-744-7938)
Hours: Monday thru Saturday by appointment after 5pm; Sunday 12-2pm, and Thursday 5pm-7pm

League City FHC 4655 South Shore Boulevard, League City, TX 77573 (281-535-3034)
Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 7pm-9pm; Friday 2-4; and Saturday 10am-12pm, 2-4. Closures: Major Holidays. The FHC is at rear of building. Knock on door or ring bell.

Pasadena FHC 4202 Yellowstone, Pasadena, TX 77504 (281-991-8479)
Hours: Tuesday 10am-6pm; Thursday 6:30pm-8:30pm; and Saturday by appointment only. Closures: public holidays.

BAGS Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

These sessions are free and the public is invited.

UK & Ireland Research SIG Tuesday, June 3 at 2:30pm to 4:00pm (last meeting)

Nick Cimino will be discussing church and parish records. Meet at the Friendswood Public Library located at 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood ([online map](#)). May 6 was the second meeting for this SIG where Nick discussed the available civil record resources. He recommended the following websites for research guidance:

On the *FamilySearch.org* wiki:

(England) https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/England_Civil_Registration

(Ireland) https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ireland_Civil_Registration-Vital_Records

(Scotland) https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Scotland:Research_Strategies_for_Locating_Births,_Marriages_and_Deaths

United Kingdom General Register Office:

(website overview) <https://www.gov.uk/research-family-history>

(PDF leaflet on record details)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/260936/Family_History_Lflt_v8.pdf

Beginning Genealogy & African-American Research SIG

Hosted by the Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and BAGS. Nick Cimino and guest speakers will provide instruction on how to begin researching your family's ancestry. Charts and ideas for beginning your research will be provided. Throughout the classes, there will be an emphasis on "The Six Phases of African-American Research." Classes will be held on the 2nd Monday each month in the Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church located at 1725 Texas 3, League City, TX ([online map](#)). The class dates are:

Monday, June 9 at 7:00pm

Monday, July 14 at 7:00pm

Monday, August 11 at 7:00pm

Monday, September 8 at 7:00pm

Seating is limited, and there will be handouts, so please register to attend. Bring family information as you know it now, a notebook and pen or pencil. To register, call or email Polly Swerdlin, BAGS Member Services Coordinator, at 281-814-4606 or pmswerdlin@gmail.com.

At the May SIG meeting, we had the pleasure of listening to guest speaker Liv Taylor-Harris discuss her research journey to discover past generations of her family. She publishes the blog "Claiming Kin" (<http://claimingkin.com>) where she discusses resources, research strategies, and upcoming Houston events. *New to genealogy research?* Take a look at her steps, tips, and resources posted on blog page "New Here?" <http://claimingkin.com/new>

Genealogy Talk

GenealogyTalk (www.genealogytalk.com) is a NEW free online social network community for professional and amateur genealogists. This resource is sponsored by advertising so personal and group memberships are free. The goal of this new resource is to provide a central place to discuss research problems (by topic, location, surname, organization, or business) and connect research needs to willing volunteers (Helping Hands Network). BAGS Board is considering creating a group page to market and network our Society. If you are interested in administrating this publicity resource, please contact the BAGS President.

THANK YOU!

Bettejean Spatafore for
volunteering to serve as the
Publicity Chairman.

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

Friday, June 27 at 7:00pm: Nick Cimino discusses African-American research

Friday, July 25 at 7:00pm: Melissa Hayes discusses proving second marriages for female ancestors

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: Program TBD

November: Annual Holiday Party

December: No general meeting

Board Meetings

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

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.

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, Houston, 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. Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings.

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.

Ancestor 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 in any format (handwritten, typed, generated report, etc.). The chart does not need to be complete and information about living relatives should be omitted.

BAG\$ Report for April 2014

Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward 3/31/2014	\$4,652.06
Income	\$66.50
Expenses	-\$392.72
Balance on hand 4/30/2014	\$4,325.84
CD Balance	\$3,669.18

Local Area Events & Classes

Genealogy Basics Boot Camp

Saturday, June 7 at 1:00pm in Clayton Library located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston.

Interested in your family history, but not quite sure where to start? Found some information, but need to know what else is available? Join the boot camp for an exercise in genealogical research resources! This session focuses on starting genealogical research by examining basic tools, such as the pedigree chart, and basic research strategies. Learn about the different genealogical materials available to researchers and how they lead to other sources. Reservations required. Please call the library at 832-393-2600. Program is free and open to adults and teens.

Technology Day

Saturday, June 14 from 1:30pm to 4:00pm in Clayton Library located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston. These classes are classes focused on the importance of technology in your research. Learn how to make tech work for you! Reservations required. Please call the library at 832-393-2600. Programs are free and open to adults and teens.

1:30pm to 2:30pm: HathiTrust Digital Library is a digital preservation repository that provides long-term preservation and access services for public domain and in copyright content from a variety of sources, including Google Books, the Internet Archive, Microsoft, and in-house partner institution initiatives. These sources grant access to a variety digitized copies of valuable genealogical and historical books, journals, and periodicals that may not be otherwise accessible. The presentation explains this great resource, and how it can help you!

3:00pm to 4:00pm: Using Evernote for your Genealogical Research. This presentation will highlight the importance of embracing emergent technology for genealogists of all experience levels. It will include a walkthrough and discussion of the various ways in which the organizational tool Evernote can benefit anyone with their family history. Please feel free to bring your devices with Internet access enabled.

North Harris County Dulcimer Society Performance

Wednesday, May 28 at 7:00pm at the Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood. NHCDS is an ever growing group of music lovers that plays just about any instrument that doesn't have to be "plugged in"! BAGS member Barbara Moore is a member of this group. Come clap and stomp to the folk music.

Harriet Tubman - in Her Own Words

Thursday, May 29, 2014 starting at 7:00pm at Butler's Courtyard, 122 N Michigan Ave, League City. Presented by Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux during the League City Historical Society Monthly Meeting.

Self-Publishing Your Family History

Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00pm at the Friendswood Public Library. Gale French will discuss the steps involved in publishing information about your Family History in book form. You'll learn the Do's & Don'ts of writing, formatting, editing and publishing your book and the various mediums available, including e-Books and standard books.

“Gone to Texas”

The 2014 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be in San Antonio, Texas on August 27-30, 2014. Details about the conference are printed on page 7 in this issue.

Clayton Library Friends is giving away two single-day FGS 2014 Conference Registrations to two lucky CLF members, valued at \$85 each. Join CLF before June 1, 2014 to be eligible for the drawing! The drawing will be from names of CLF members (as of June 1). The Clayton Library Friends membership form is accessible online at their website www.claytonlibraryfriends.org

Want to attend and carpool to San Antonio? Need a room buddy? Contact Kim Zrubek



A conference for the nation's genealogists
August 27-30, 2014★San Antonio, Texas
with local co-hosts
San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society
and the Texas State Genealogical Society

The **Federation of Genealogical Societies** Conference is coming to San Antonio, Texas, August 27-30, 2014!

The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center will host the conference's workshops, lectures, and exhibit hall. With over **160 sessions, there will be something for all levels of genealogists and family historians -- beginner to advanced.** Plus, there will be luncheons, special activities, and local research opportunities.

Below is all the important information you'll need to know or visit <https://www.fgsconference.org>

Programming: If you are a genealogy and family historian of any skill level looking to improve your research skills, learn about new technologies, and network with other researchers who "get" your genealogy obsession, then days **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday** will be what you're looking for.

- For more information, to check out the sessions, and to register, please visit the FGS 2014 **Conference Program Page** (<https://www.fgsconference.org/program>)
- View, download, or save to your computer the FGS 2014 **Conference Brochure PDF version** (https://www.fgsconference.org/FGS2014_%20RegistrationBooklet_web.pdf)
- The FGS 2014 **Conference Hotel** is the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel located directly across from the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Rates and online registration can be accessed online at <https://www.fgsconference.org/lodging>

Special Activities:

- **Luncheons** - When you register you will have an opportunity to add-on luncheons. These tend to fill up quickly so don't wait too long to decide.
- **Research at the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society Library** - This beautiful facility houses a vast collection including books, periodicals, maps, vertical files, microfilm, and family history volumes. SAGHS has published about two dozen volumes of Bexar County records.
- **Research at the San Antonio Public Library Texana/Genealogy Department** - Located on the sixth floor of the Central San Antonio Public Library, this collection includes 65,000 microfilms, 77,000 books, 150 drawers of archival files, 75 map cabinet drawers, and approximately 300 cubic feet of archival collections.
- **A Night in Old San Antonio** - a festive evening filled with fun, characters, food, and music in the historical art village of La Villita
- **An evening at the Institute of Texan Cultures** – Eat a barbecue dinner and leisurely explore the Institute.
- **Sponsored Tour to Panna Maria**, the oldest Polish settlement in the U.S. Travel in an air conditioned coach with Cecile "Ceil" Wendt Jensen, MA, CG to tour the Visitors Center, Snoga's Store, St. Joseph School Museum, and Immaculate Conception Church.
- Details on activities are published at <https://www.fgsconference.org/activities>

The FGS 2014 Conference in San Antonio is a wonderful opportunity to attend a national conference, learn from popular speakers, and to make new genealogy friends (or visit with those you haven't seen in a while).

United Kingdom & Ireland BAGS Special Interest Group meeting on May 6, 2014 at the Friendswood Library. Professional genealogist and BAGS member Nick Cimino was presenting the material.



REMINDER
Next General Meeting is
Friday, May 30 at 7:00 pm Great
Room (2nd Floor) UBC Socializing
begins at 6:30 pm