



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

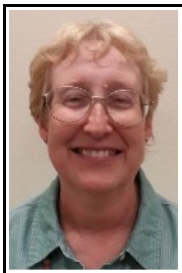
Volume 13, Issue No. 11

July 2014

Friday, June 25, 2014: Melissa A. Hayes presents "Second Wives Club"

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](#))**



MELISSA A.
HAYES

"Second Wives Club" presentation explores the resources that will confirm a second marriage for female ancestors, even if you know for a "fact" your ancestor only married once. Or so you thought!

Melissa A. Hayes is the Assistant Branch Manager at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Services. Her area of expertise covers Virginia, Kentucky Maryland and colonial era history with 30 plus years of personal genealogical experiences. Her goal is to open up the world of genealogy (family history) to adults and children alike. Melissa has worked in both academic and public libraries developing and implementing numerous story time programs and activities, adult programs and Summer Reading events. Melissa has B.S. in History Education from Frostburg State College (now

Frostburg State University), Maryland and was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services Scholarship to complete her Master's in Library Science with Youth Services Certification from North Texas University. She is a member of the DAR.

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(insert) BAGS Membership Form

Any news to share?

Send information to the editor

newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

A BAGS group is going to FGS Conference in San Antonio this August. *Want to join us?* Conference details on page 7.

Interested in carpooling to the general meetings? Contact Polly Swerdlin

October general meeting date has changed from October 31 to Friday, October 24. Meeting schedule on page 5.

It's Membership renewal time!

The 2014-2015 Society year begins September 1. Details on page 4.



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

Web Editor

Polly Swerdlin

Message from Member Services

Pauline (Polly) Marye Swerdlin



**POLLY
SWERDLIN**

I am your contact for Member Services which includes assembling the New Member Packets, matching rides to meetings, and coordinating classes or SIGs. I have also begun serving as the BAGS Web Editor, which includes redesigning the website plus bringing everyone's contributions together for our window into the world.

I was raised in Wellsville New York, a town small enough that I could walk from home at the edge of town to Main Street and the library, to spend several quiet personal hours reading. The majority of my working career was here in Houston with Southwestern Bell Telephone as a switching technician where I learned several machine "languages", worked daily customer orders, trouble-shot faulty equipment and was responsible for safety and supplies.

My interests besides BAGS include volunteering at Armand Bayou Nature Center, enlisting my poodle-terrier as a therapy dog with Faithful Friends, and working with BARK9 and the local counties to develop fenced off-leash dog parks. My husband and I are members of the NASA related Scuba club Lunar fins and have made several trips to the Caribbean, Hawaii and one to Indonesia. We love driving to national or state parks for hiking and marveling at our country's natural beauty. One of the reasons I am taking on the website is I have enjoyed working on www.bark9.com, www.lunarfins.com and www.tgccdiving.org.

Besides helping FamilySearch index the 1940 census (which was a hoot), I recently helped proofread a couple cemetery listings in Potter County, PA where my Mom grew up and I spent many summers. I hope the originator will invite me to continue as she finishes other cemeteries so I can ensure my family's plot is transcribed correctly.

My foray into genealogy was inspired by my Dad's sister who had already co-written two books: one for Marye back to France, another for Doremus back to Holland, and then topped it off with a supplement to the original Marye book. She and a cousin did all that before personal computers and the Internet. Now with RootsMagic and FamilySearch I'm attempting to follow up with my mother's side (Baker, Presho, Carr, Cobb, and Schoonover) from Pennsylvania back to England; and my husband's family (Swerdlin, Swelling, Aronow, Smolkin) from New York and Virginia back to Lithuania Russia.

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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June Program Recap

Thank you to Nick Cimino for discussing African-American research at last month's general meeting. Nick has done a wonderful job organizing and presenting programs to BAGS members and special interest groups covering Italian, United Kingdom and Ireland, and African-American research. He will provide more detail instruction on African-American research techniques and resources in three programs held at the Friendswood Public Library on Thursday August 7, September 4, and October 2 at 10:30am. Nick maintains an online blog "Ancestor Puzzles" (<http://ancestorpuzzles.blogspot.com>) where he has published a series of articles entitled "The Slaves That Freed Themselves."

Nick has also agreed to organize a mentoring program for BAGS members to get guidance on their current research. The first mentoring sessions are to be held before the general meeting in September. See related article below. Thank you Nick for all you are doing to support BAGS!

Mentoring Sessions

Need some ideas or guidance on how to proceed with your current research? Mentoring sessions will be offered prior to the September general meeting. During the July and August general meetings, sign up for one of the 15-minute mentoring appointments offered on Friday, September 26 at 6:00pm, 6:15pm, and 6:30pm. Also, if you would like to mentor people who are beginning genealogy research, please contact Nick Cimino at ncimino@hotmail.com. Training will be provided!

Members' Surnames

Below are surnames some of our members are researching. *Any names look familiar?* Maybe you will find someone with similar research interests!

David Zwahr & Jon Zwahr - Zwahr, Budewig, Callen, Lillard, Cesinger, Schilhab, Quitta, Callen, Hoffses, Childers, Cry, Conn, Coussons, and Polk

Delores & Edwin White - White, Massey, Brasher, and Hollingsworth

Ralph Weiss – Weiss and White

Bob & Betty Wegner - Roth, McGuirk, Reilly, Wegner, Kreiter, Parmley, Long, and Bakos

Shirley Weaver - Kane, Kerwin, Barry, O'Barry, and Hart

Bobbie & Gene Volentine – Foster, Ruddell, and Willey

Jane Thompson – Sellers, Lewis, and Clark

Oletia Teas – Teas, Lowther, Booker, Smith, Walker, and Hart

Laurel & Keith Stine – Rickbeil, Moritz, Maxwell, and Carver

Janice Stewart - Mackey, Keyes, Leathergood, Stoval (Stoual), Leatherwood, Todd, and Stewart

Carolyn Stafford – Bellamy, Stafford, Stovall, & Meador

Bettejean Spatafore - Butts, Pendergrass, Whittaker, and Crockett

Welcome New Members!

Dorothea Patricia "Dottie" (Hawpt) Dineen of Houston

Darleen Grandison of League City is researching the surnames Cheatham, Davis, Grandison, and Montgomery.

Thomas R. "Rick" Hill and wife Susan D. (Smith) Hill of League City is researching the surnames Hill, Lousfrod, Samuels, Stewberg, Carter, and McDaniel and would like help getting started researching.

Dr. William Henry King III of Dickinson is researching surname King and would like help with researching slave narratives, slave trade, and slave owners.

Laura R. McKensie of Dickinson

Judy Wright of Friendswood is researching the surname Leonard and would like help with organization.

Please give a hearty welcome and introduce yourself to each of these people at the next meeting.

Language Translation Tool

Is your online research taking you to websites published in a foreign language? Some websites do offer a link at the top of the page to translate the written content into English. An alternative solution is to install the free Google Chrome web browser to do your online foreign research (chrome.google.com). The Google Chrome browser offers a translate button just below the address bar which when clicked will convert the text on the website to English. This should expand the world of available websites for you to research. An online help page is available at <https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/173424?hl=en>



Hurricane Preparedness

Gulf coast residents with special health care needs or lack of transportation if and when an evacuation is announced, should register in advance for assisted transportation. This includes people that are disabled, medically fragile, do not have a vehicle, or do not have family or friends to rely on for help to evacuate. Do not wait until a storm is in the Gulf to register for assistance. If you or anyone you know needs evacuation assistance in the case of an emergency, **call 211 (or 877-541-7905** if you get a busy tone for 211) to register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) program. Registration is voluntary and free of charge. All information collected by STEAR is confidential and is not available to the public. The 211 STEAR registry now requires annual registration. If you registered last year, you must register again this year. **Hurricane Preparedness tips online:**

Ready Houston website: www.readyhouston.tx.gov

Texas Division of Emergency Management website:

www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/ThreatAwareness/weather_aware_hurricane.htm

Red cross website: www.redcross.org

FEMA website: www.ready.gov

Membership Renewal

Dear Members,

It's that time of year again! Membership renewal time! During the months of July and August, we will be renewing memberships for the 2014-2015 year, which runs September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015. The renewal rates have not changed from last year—a single membership is \$20; a family membership is \$25; and there is a \$5 fee if you want the BAGS *Journal* 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 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.

Bob Wegner, BAGS Registrar

BAGS Event Calendar & Committee News

Monthly General Meetings

Generally, 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, 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 24 at 7:00pm: (Date change)
Program TBD

November: Annual Holiday Party

December: No general meeting

Board Meetings

Generally, the 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.

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 you to Linda Carrington for serving as the Webmaster, maintaining the BAGS website since October 2008. Thank you to Polly Swerdlin for volunteering to serve as our new Web Editor.

Thank you Deborah Cole for serving as our registrar and *Quarterly* Editor during this year. Thank you to Bob Wegner for assuming the role of Registrar several months ago. Thank you to Melodey Hauch for serving as the interim *Quarterly/Journal* editor.

If you are interested in serving as the journal editor, please contact Shirley Lindquist or Melodey Hauch.

Research Trips at Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

The bus leaves for Clayton on
Tuesday, September 23



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.

BAG\$ Report for June 2014 Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward 5/31/2014	\$4,218.09
Income	\$141.00
Expenses	-\$551.23
Balance on hand 6/30/2014	\$3,807.86
CD Balance	\$3,669.18

Local Area Events & Classes

Courthouse Records Day

Saturday, July 26 at 10:30am in the Carriage House meeting room at Clayton Library. Reservations are required, please call the library at 832-393-2600. John Sellers will provide the following presentations:

10:30am - "Learning Where Your Ancestors Played, Prayed, Lived, and Died"; 11:45am - "Researching Your Ancestor's Plot of Dirt: The Adventures of Courthouse Land Research"; 2:00pm - "With or Without a Will, There is a Way!"; and 3:15pm - "What Do You Mean It Burned?"

Quick Start your Genealogy

Saturday, August 2 at 1:30pm in the Guest House at Clayton Library. Reservations are required, please call the library at 832-393-2600. This is an overview of genealogical research tools: effective use of the Houston Public Library catalog, Ancestry Library Edition, FamilySearch, and ordering microprint from Salt Lake City.

Beginning Genealogy & African-American Research – Three Sessions

Thursday, August 7, September 4, and October 2 at 10:30am at the Friendswood Public Library (416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood) These sessions are free and the public is invited.

Nick Cimino will provide instruction on how to begin researching your family's ancestry with an emphasis on African-American ancestors. The August session will cover getting started with your living family's knowledge, checklists, charting, timelines, interviewing, and African-American surnames. The September session will work through a case study on how to use 19th and 20th Century census, vital records, and military records. Attendees are encouraged to bring family information or memorabilia for show & tell at this program. The October session will cover African-American history and genealogy in Texas, sources for Texas vital records, and genealogy records of special value to African-Americans.

"New Avenues in Genetic Genealogy"

Saturday, August 9 at 10:30am (registration begins at 10:15am) in the Carriage House meeting room at the Clayton Library. Program is presented by Jeremy Balkin, representing Family Tree DNA, based in Houston. DNA testing for the purposes of genealogy has allowed people to understand more clearly where they came from, who they are related to, and what their overall ethnic makeup is. It has connected the entire world as one large genealogical community. Mr Balkin will help explain, in layman's terms, what "getting tested" involves, how the science behind the testing works, and how you can discover your ancestry more clearly through a simple cheek swab.

FamilySearch Family Trees

Monday, August 18 at 10:30am at the Friendswood Public Library. An introduction to Family Trees, a free online resource for storing, publishing, and sharing your family history on the FamilySearch.org website. The discussion will include features, security, privacy, collaboration, and tips.

"Hearing Heritage: Oral History, Genealogy, and Local History" presented by Dr. Stephen Sloan

Saturday, September 6, 2014 from 10:00am to noon at Bayland Community Center located at 6400 Bissonnet, Houston (between Hillcroft and Beechnut). This presentation will offer tips and approaches on how to effectively use oral history to document the history of families and communities. Much of the discussion will focus on strategies of project design and interviewing. Dr. Stephen Sloan is an Associate Professor of History and Director of the Institute of Oral History at Baylor University. He specializes in United States Post 1945, Public History, Environmental History, and the history of the American West. Program sponsored by Houston Genealogical Forum (www.HGFTX.org).



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_RegistrationBooklet_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).