



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

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August 2014

Friday, August 29, 2014: Annual "Show and Tell" Program and BBQ Potluck Dinner

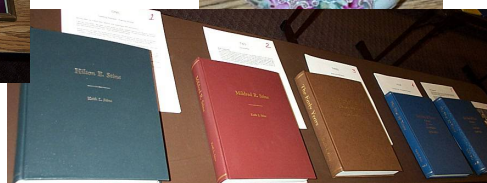
Public Invited. Join us at 6:30pm for dinner.

**We meet at the University Baptist Church (UBC) in the Chapel, 1st 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 and display memorabilia. Eating will begin at 6:30 pm and the program will start at 7:00 pm. The photos show the types of treasures shared during past Show & Tell programs.



Dinner!



WHAT'S INSIDE

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(insert) Membership Form for new and renewing members

It's Membership renewal time!

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

**Pickup the first *BAGS Journal* issue
in September 2014.**

**Checkout the new dates for bus trips to Clayton
Library. The dates are listed on page 6.**



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Message from the President

Shirley Lindquist



SHIRLEY
LINDQUIST

Shirley was unable to provide a message for this month's newsletter due to an illness. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

New Website Look!

Polly Swerdlin has reorganized and updated the look of the BAGS website. Check it out at www.TxBayAreaGen.org

Request for Volunteers:

We need a for a volunteer to serve as the backup to our Recording Secretary, Deborah Gammon. This person would be responsible for recording the minutes of either board or general meetings when Deborah is unable to attend.

We are also looking for an assistant to help Melodey Hauch publish the *BAGS Journal*.

Thank You To:

Gary Garrett for agreeing to help Polly with the website.

Polly Swerdlin for agreeing to serve as the BAGS Welcoming person at the general meetings.

Polly for organizing and installing a BAGS exhibit for display at the Freeman Library in September and at the Friendswood Library in October.

Members' Volunteering Research Assistance:

Mike McCown can help with DNA testing and analysis.

Deborah McDowell can help with French translation.

Nick Cimino and **Neil Miserendino** can help with Italian research.

Polly Swerdlin can help with FamilySearch Indexing.

David Zwahr can help tracing lineage groups (DAR, SAR, UDC, DRT). He visits Clayton Library most Wednesday evenings.

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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July Program Recap – Widow & Divorce Records

Thank you to Melissa Hayes for discussing tips on discovering clues to the existnaces of additional marriages from information found on common record resources. Remember divorces were common before 1900.

Ancestry.com

She mentioned the “U.S., Civil War and Later Wars Index to Remarried Widow Pension Applications, 1860-1934” collection available in *Ancestry.com* which consists of a card index to pension claims made by widows of veterans of the Civil War and later wars. The cards typically include the name of the claimant, name of the soldier, military unit, the widow’s certificate number, date of the claim/filing, and remarks. [The following text is from “About U.S., Civil War and Later Wars Index to Remarried Widow Pension Applications, 1860-1934” published by *Ancestry.com* on their search page <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2402&enc=1>]

Changes in Pension Regulation

Normally pensions were revoked when a deceased veteran’s widow remarried, but a March 3, 1901, act allowed a widow who lost her pension to remarriage to start collecting a pension again if she were widowed again following the later marriage or in cases when the later marriage ended in a divorce that was not the widow’s fault.

Beginning May 1, 1920, remarried widows of veterans who had served at least 90 days in the Civil War and were honorably discharged or died in service were eligible for a pension. In cases where the veteran served less than 90 days, if he died of a disability incurred in service, the widow would also qualify. The index cards of widows who filed under this statute typically marked have "Act of May 1, 1920" stamped in the remarks field.

Even if you don’t think your ancestors met the criteria for a pension, collections like this one are worth consulting. Many widows were not familiar with the intricacies of obtaining a pension and may have applied anyway.

Next Steps

Just because an application is referenced in this index does not necessarily mean that the widow obtained a pension. Once you’ve located a widow in this collection, your next step should be to obtain the pension file. Because the claimant had to prove she met all of the requirements, pension files are typically very rich in family history details and will reveal whether the claim was approved or denied. Files can include 100 pages or more. Some pension files are available on www.Fold3.com. If you’re unable to locate the pension file online, you can [order a copy of the pension file](#) from the National Archives and Records Administration (www.archives.gov). [However, check with the Clayton Library first]

FamilySearch.org

FamilySearch.org maintains a similar collection called “U.S., Remarried Widows Index to Pension Applications, 1887-1942” which consists of two card indexes to widows who had applied for a pension renewal. The first covers service between 1812-1860 and is NARA microfilm publication M1784. The second covers service in the Civil War and later and is NARA microfilm publication M1785. Both indexes are part of RG 15 Records of the Veterans Administration. The files are located at the National Archives. When browsing the list of all published collections within *FamilySearch.org*, the following widow pension collections are found:

[Florida, Confederate Veterans and Widows Pension Applications, 1885-1955](#)

[Mississippi, Confederate Veterans and Widows Pension Applications, 1900-1974](#)

[North Carolina, Confederate Soldiers and Widows Pension Applications, 1885-1953](#)

[Tennessee, Confederate Pension Applications, Soldiers and Widows, 1891-1965](#)

[United States Census of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, 1890](#)

[United States Civil War Widows and Other Dependents Pension Files, 1861-1934](#)

[United States Navy Widows' Certificates, 1861-1910](#)

Continued on page 4.

HeritageQuest (continuation from Widows & Divorces, page 3)

Through your local public library, access *HeritageQuest* U.S. Serial Set. This is a portion of the Congressional record covering memorials, petitions, and private relief actions requested by individuals and groups. Petitions for divorce were handled at the Federal and State level. Search this set to find an ancestor requesting aid or assistance, reimbursement, or petitioning a political action (e.g. divorces, immigration, war aid reimbursement).

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

Congratulations to Melodey Hauch for Winning Historic Preservation Award!

BAGS member Melodey Hauch was just announced as co-winner of Galveston Historical Foundation's 2014 Sally B. Wallace Awards for historic preservation. The Magnolia Cemetery Research Project started in 2006 when Lanny Martin and Melodey Hauch first visited the cemetery. Using Lanny's photos of the tombstones, Melodey created a spreadsheet with around 100 burials. Over the years, the two researchers worked to add the names of persons buried in the cemetery using Texas death certificates online and newspaper obituaries. Their latest count is 582 burials with 444 unmarked graves. During the last two years Melodey expanded the spreadsheet into a book entitled *Here They Rest: Discovering Unmarked Burials at Magnolia Cemetery of League City*. The book includes a history of the land and the African-American community in the Dickinson-League City area where most of the deceased lived as well as sections on the extended family members Melodey was able to connect through her research. Another section contains information on the cemetery's 42 known military burials. The names of the parents and spouses of the deceased and their places of birth, death and residence were also included when available on death certificates. The book includes a full name index with over 1500 names, many photos of the people and their tombstones, and a map of the inscribed tombstones.

The 2014 awards will be presented at a reception on Saturday, August 23, from 4 pm- 6pm, at the 1861 Custom House (502 20th Street, Galveston, TX). Admission is \$15 per person or \$100 for a reserved table for eight (8). The reception will include a short program, light hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine. For more information or to make reservations to the awards ceremony and reception, contact Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF) headquarters at 409-765-7834.

The late Sally B. Wallace was one of the driving forces behind Galveston Island's preservation movement and a pivotal figure in saving the antebellum Ashton Villa from demolition. The awards given in her honor by GHF recognize outstanding projects and craftspeople involving the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of Galveston County's historic buildings and neighborhoods.

New Congressional Bill

While tracking the progress of her VA request for two WWI markers for veterans interred in Fairfiew Cemetery, Deborah Gammon spotted a new bill "Honor Those Who Served Act of 2014" introduced to Congress and now referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for consideration. This bill requests an amendment to Title 38, United States Code, to expand who is eligible to request headstones or markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The update would allow veterans service agencies, military researchers, historians or genealogists to request a free headstone or marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs for a veteran's grave. Read the bill's text, send Congress comments, and keep watch on this bill's progress online at <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/s2700>

Surnames

Ancestry.com has published several articles about the meanings of surnames. Access to these articles is free and available to all without a subscription or *Ancestry.com* login. Neil Miserindino suggested the article "There Are 7 Types of English Surnames - Which One Is Yours?" which explains that English surnames are based off either an occupation, personal characteristic, geographical location or feature, estate, patronymic, matronymic, ancestral, or patronage. See all of the surname articles at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/category/surnames>

Members' Surnames

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

Geri Smith – Rosenburg, Barlow, and Madery

Paula Sinning - Scott, Earp, Henderson, Hoskins, Miller, Cartwright, Johnson, and Locke

Carolyn Shipman - Dann, Hopkins, Pritchett, Courtright, Richey, Ashton, Jones, and Shipman. Carolyn would like help with Jones, Courtright, and Shipman.

Denise & Brad Scarborough - Scarborough, Meeker, Wilson

Mary Samford - Blackwell, Scott, Townsend, Hartline, Ater, Keller, Clayberg, Adkisson, McKaughan, Greenwood, and Harris. Mary can help those researching surname Betts.

Betty Ryman - Monk, Grant, Ryman, Teal, Sideck, Crumpler; names in LA, TX

Bettie & Bill Robinett - Robinett, Fallin, Larison

Shirley Robbins - Van Vlierden, Snyder, Wisneski, Weishaupt, Petruski, and Long

Sheila Ray - Adams, Wilson, Dickson, Dunn, Seale, and Hall. Sheila would like some help with organization.

Nancy Pell - Shaw, Atwood, Allen, and Abbott.

Mary Pearson - Springer, Ivy, Stepp, Dickens, Fuller, and Maxey. Mary would like help with researching Smith and Brooks.

Members' Requesting for Assistance

Ralph Weiss needs help researching German ancestors.

Bob Wegner needs help locating ancestor origin towns in Ireland and Germany.

Larry Higgs, Doug Payne, Bobbye Volentine, and Shirley Weaver would like assistance on beginning their genealogy research.

Nancy Pell is looking for some help with joining the DAR and Mayflower Societies.

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, August 29 at 7:00pm: Annual Show & Tell with BBQ Potluck Dinner. Dinner starts at 6:30pm.

Friday, September 26 at 7:00pm: Gay Carter, retired UHCL Government Documents Librarian, will present "Following Smoke Signals: Using Circumstantial Evidence to Focus Research"

Friday, October 24 at 7:00pm: (Date change) Kevin Burke presents U.S. Doughboy 1917-1919.

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, August 25 at 6:30pm

Monday, September 22 at 6:30pm

Monday, October 20 at 6:30pm (Date Change)

Board meeting usually not held in November or December.

Membership

Bob Wegner, Registrar

BAGS has a total of 168 memberships consisting of 93 families, 74 individuals, and one library. A total of 35 new memberships have been received this year representing 16 families and 19 individuals.

Research Trips at Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator

The bus leaves for Clayton on

Tuesday, September 23

Wednesday, November 5

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Tuesday, March 10, 2015



Ten people caught the bus to Clayton on July 9.

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 July 2014

Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward 6/30/2014	\$3,807.86
Income	\$900.75
Expenses	-\$205.50
Balance on hand 7/31/2014	\$4,503.11
CD Balance	\$3,669.18

Local Area Events & Classes

FamGen: Make It a Family Affair

Saturday, August 30 at 10:30am in the Guest House meeting room at Clayton Library. Reservations are required, please call the library at 832-393-2600. Topics discussed will include storytelling, interviewing, video making, family group sheet scrapbook, and picture pedigree charts. Expect hands on instruction and active demonstration. All ages welcome with adult supervision!

Genealogy Basics Boot Camp

Saturday, September 6 at 1:00pm in the Guest House meeting room at Clayton Library. Reservations are required, please call the library at 832-393-2600. 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.

Beginning Genealogy & African-American Research – Two Sessions

Thursday, 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 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.

“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. 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). Come early for refreshments and socializing (9:00-10:00). Visitors are welcome. From 9:00 - 9:45am, Nick will lead a Special Interest Group discussing “African American History and Research in Texas.” He will cover the history of slavery in Texas, record sources for African American genealogy and a case study of an African-American family tree. All members are welcome to join us for dutch treat lunch after the meeting at Pappa's BBQ located at 7007 SW Freeway.

1940 Sears Building Open House and Neon Lighting Celebration

Saturday, September 13 at 2228 Broadway, Galveston. Hosted by the Galveston Historical Foundation. For more information, call 409-750-1908.

Blog: Catch local genealogical event information in the *Gulf Coast Genealogy* blog published by Amy Coffin at www.gulfcoastgen.com

3rd Annual Genealogy Symposium
Featuring John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.
Saturday, October 18, from 9:30am to 4:30pm
(Registration opens at 9:00am)
in the Meeting Room at George Memorial Library
located at 1001 Golfview in Richmond, TX.



Nationally known genealogist and lecturer John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., will share his knowledge, experience, and insight on a variety of topics designed to help family-history buffs explore different avenues of genealogical research.

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 "George Memorial Library," and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library's Local History and Genealogy Department at **281-341-2608**.

The first lecture, "U.S. Passenger Arrival Records, 1820-1930s: Sources and Strategies for Challenging Cases," will begin at 9:30 am. Dr. Colletta will provide an overview of sources for finding arrival records of 19th- and 20th-century immigrants to America. He will also discuss a variety of alternative sources and methods for overcoming obstacles such as variant spellings of names, conflicting arrival dates, confusion of ship names, various ports of departure and arrival, and missing passenger manifests.

At 11:00 am, Dr. Colletta will present "U.S. Military Pension and Bounty Land Records, 1776-ca. 1916." Learn how military-pension and bounty-land files in the National Archives differ from military-service records. Dr. Colletta will discuss the basic information needed to start a search for an ancestor's file, and where to find that information. He will then outline a step-by-step procedure for locating, identifying, and retrieving a particular file, using resources such as websites, National Archives indexes, and other search tools.

The final lecture of the day, "Principles of Good Writing and Good Storytelling," will begin at 3:30 pm. This lecture will demonstrate how to take known information about an ancestor's life and combine it with details from the period to create an engaging true story that will hook a reader's interest. Specific examples will show how to incorporate archaic expressions and period quotations; utilize literary techniques to describe the setting, action, characters, and theme; and remain historically accurate by using qualifiers such as "probably," "perhaps," and "evidently."

Dr. Colletta has written a "murder-mystery-family-history" with details from his own family history -- *Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath* -- which recounts the story of his great-great-grandfather, Joe Ring, who moved his family from Buffalo, NY, to Rolling Fork, MS, after the Civil War. When Ring's country store burned to the ground with five unfortunate victims sleeping upstairs, the incident was investigated as mass murder, robbery and arson.

The genealogy symposium is presented with the generous support of the Friends of George Memorial Library. Proceeds from the Friends of the Library book sales and annual membership dues help to underwrite the costs of special programming and various cultural and educational events at the library.