



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

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September 2014

Friday, September 26, 2014: Gay E. Carter presents “Following Smoke Signals: Using Circumstantial Evidence to Focus Research”

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

**We meet at the University Baptist Church in either the Chapel on the 1st floor or the Great Room on the 2nd floor depending on building renovations.
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Clear Lake City - [online map](#))**

Genealogical research is full of pitfalls and puzzles. When “simply type in a name” isn’t enough, we need to take a careful look at what the sources we find tell us. Come listen to Ms. Carter present a case study approach demonstrating how “circumstantial” evidence can help develop a research strategy.

Gay E. Carter is retired from the Alfred R. Neumann Library, University of Houston-Clear Lake, where she was the reference/documents librarian for 33 years. A graduate of Texas Woman’s University, she was with UHCL since it “opened its doors” in 1974 until May 2013, and holds a Master of Library Science degree.



Gay E. Carter, MLS

Engaged in genealogical research for almost 35 years, she is a member of several genealogical organizations and is an alumna of the Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). At IGHR 2005, she was an instructor in Course 5, Advanced Library Research: Law Libraries & Government Documents. A popular speaker at Houston area genealogical societies, she also has spoken at the Federal Depository Library Conference, the Texas Library Association Conference, the Mississippi Library Association Conference, the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference (Austin, Texas, 2004), Angelo State University Genealogical Workshop, and the Dallas Genealogical Society Spring Symposium. Her genealogical writings include articles on using university libraries for genealogical research in *Family Tree Magazine* and the National Genealogical Society *NewsMagazine* as well as numerous research-oriented articles for Clayton Library Friends and the Houston Genealogical Forum.

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Bus trip to Clayton Library on Tuesday, September 23. Details on page 3.

First *BAGS Journal* issue is available for pickup at this month's meeting.

October is Family History Month

Take a look at genealogy classes, events, and programs taking place in our area during the month, listed on pages 5-7.

Library Display

An exhibit introducing genealogy and BAGS will be on display at the Friendswood Public Library during the month of October.



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Message from the Publicity Chairperson

Bettejean Spatafore



Bettejean
Spatafore

Hello! I am the person who sends out the announcements to the local newspapers about our meetings and SIG classes. I also serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

I became interested in genealogy after learning my Mother had passed away. At the time, I was volunteering as a tour guide at the Banning Museum in Wilmington, CA. I was also a member of their Research Committee and a fellow member did a five-generation pedigree chart which revealed a Patriot in the American Revolutionary War. This set me on the path to join the Daughters of the American Revolution. I knew this would be a challenge for me, as I was always aware that my Mother had her name legally changed when she was about six years of age. I have since been able to verify the name of her birth Father and although both sets of Grandparents have passed away, I have been able to connect with my Mother's first cousins and have learned we have a very rich history, deeply rooted in the birth of this nation. Our ancestors have been here in America long before we declared our Independence!

Besides being a member of BAGS, I serve as the Chaplin of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fraternal of Eagles, Mainland #3199 and I was recently asked to act as the Custodian of the Flags and Regents Page in the Sam Houston Chapter of NSDAR. I consider myself a full time volunteer as I have gotten greater rewards doing volunteer work than any paid job I've ever held!

I enjoy researching all the different branches of my family's tree, especially the Butz/Transue lineage from the Pennsylvania area. I am also looking further into the Crockett line of my family, as Ephraim Crockett is my Patriot ancestor. I have many more names and areas of interest but it would take too much space to list them all!!

Thank You Lewis Jarman!

Lewis has moved to Wichita Kansas to be closer to family. Lewis, we will miss your warm greetings, entertaining sale pitches, and firm leadership in the pledges. Thank you for always being willing to help at a moment's notice.

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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Monthly General Meetings

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

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

November: Annual Holiday Party (Date and Time to be scheduled)

December: No general meeting

Board Meetings

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, September 22 at 6:30pm

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

Board meeting usually not held in November or December.

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

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.



Message from the Registrar

Dear Members,

This is to remind all members that the 2014-2015 year has begun! Membership renewal time has passed, but you can still renew for the new fiscal year! 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 *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.

I want to recognize those members who have renewed and supported the society with an additional contribution: Polly Swerdin, Contributor; Barbara Larsen, Patron; Betty and Bob Wegner, Patrons. The society is grateful for your generous support.

For those members who need to still renew, please fill out a new 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 September 25, 2014 meeting.

Bob Wegner, BAGS Registrar

[Editor note: As of July 31, 2014, BAGS had 168 members represented by 93 family memberships and 74 single memberships.]

Free Sample

Irish Roots Magazine is dedicated entirely to Irish ancestral research, celebrating Irish ancestry, heritage, culture and traditions! The June 2014, 2nd quarter issue is available as a free digital download (37.1 MB, 32 pages). Access this free sample issue at <https://gumroad.com/l/Kdls/Back%20copy%20offer%2090> Access additional digital issues for a fee at: <https://gumroad.com/irishrootsmagazine> The free issue includes:

- Military Service Pensions Collection & Cumann na mBan Records
- Tracing Your Co. Galway Ancestors.
- The Children's Employment Commission - An Extraordinary Source.
- Surnames of Munster - Examining And Understanding The Most Popular Surnames Of This Province.
- US Civil War Military Records And Our Irish Ancestors.
- Irish Ancestors In Australasia - This Issue Looks At Irish Australian Outback Workers.

August 2014 FGS Conference

At least 13 BAGS members attended this conference in San Antonio. They had a great time! The Society has purchased a copy of the audio recordings available for most of the sessions presented during the conference. Included is a permission letter so the content can be replayed to the Society's membership. Look for some of the Society's 2015 programming to include this material.

Members' Surnames

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

Doug Payne – Payne, Bryant, Bennett, Wasly, and Hammond

Rosemary Parks - Dreyfus, Maas, Huffer, and Strange

Shirley Gardner and Howard Ostmann - Connor, Bauserman, and Orndorf

Mary Olsen - Thornton, Houston, Collier, Olsen, Skinner, and Read

Barbara Moore - Blizzard, McClellan, Fowler, Crowder, Brown, Nichols, Murray, Turner, and Loggins

Neil Miserendino - Bellini, Copensky, Colvin, and Giaconia

Tina Medlin-Chatham and her mother Walena Medlin - Mueller, Lenaburg, Medlin, and Dunaway

Deborah and William McDowell - Cam, Harrison, Conrad, Turner, Crump, Holliday, Harper, and Spain

Randy McDaniel - McDaniel, Eckart, Harrison, Nichols, Richardson, Stanley, McGehee, McCracken, Isom, Nottingham, and Edwards

Members' Requesting for Assistance

Rosemary Parks would like help identifying Jules Dreyfus's wife's maiden name. She can help others with Huffer and Strange surnames.

Mary Olsen would like help locating where James H. Houston was born, possibly in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Tina Medlin-Chatham and her mother Walena Medlin would like help with German research

Deborah McDowell would like help with painting authentication.

Sandra Martin needs help with Perkins surname.

Jinny and Russ Mason need help with the Buck surname.

Beth Marshall needs help finding Straight surname origin in England and tribal membership of Great Grandmother in New York.

Family History Month – Local Area Events & Classes

Houston Genealogical Forum presents David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (free seminar)

Saturday, October 4 from 10:00am to 3:00pm (doors open at 9:00am) at Bayland Park Community Center located at 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. More information at www.hgftx.org

Lambert will be discussing:

- New England Colonial Records 1620-1800
- New England Colonial Military Records Prior to 1775
- Sources for the Great Migration to New England 1620-1650
- Virtual Tour of the NEHGS website and resources

Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist and Genealogist to Speak in Houston.

“American Family Histories: Lost, Forgotten, Found”

**presented by Nick Kotz,
a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist
and genealogist.**

Thursday, October 30 from 10:30am to noon in the Carriage House at Clayton Library located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston. This is a **free lecture** sponsored by the Clayton Library Friends (www.claytonlibraryfriends.org).

Kotz's lecture argues that family histories are an essential element for people to understand and appreciate American History. Every genealogist has wondered about the importance and validity of a family story or lore that has been passed down for generations.

His latest book, *The Harness Maker's Dream: Nathan Kallison and the Rise of South Texas* will be available for sale and signing at the end of the lecture. His book tells the epic story of how his Russian-Jewish grandfather, at age 17, escaped from the Czar's marauding Cossacks in 1890 to seek a better life in America. His journey took him from a Ukrainian shtetl to a Chicago ghetto, and then on to San Antonio in 1899 to open a one-room saddlery, which he grew into the largest farm and ranch supply business in the Southwest.

**Introduction to Writing Your Family History
Wednesday, September 24 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Clayton Library**

Ever wanted to write your family history? Join others that want to do the same for fun, discussion, and creativity! Class limit of 15, reservations required. Please call 832-393-2600.

Beginning Genealogy & African-American Research

Thursday, October 2 at 10:30am at the Friendswood Public Library (416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood). Nick Cimino will cover African- American history and genealogy in Texas, sources for Texas vital records, and genealogy records of special value to African-Americans.

Becoming a Spacewalker: My Journey to the Stars

Saturday, October 11 at 3:00pm at the Friendswood Public Library. This program is for all ages. Astronaut Jerry Ross will speak about his new children's book which is a version of Ross's book *Spacewalker: My Journey in Space and Faith as NASA's Record-Setting Frequent Flyer*. Colonel Ross is a veteran of seven US Space Shuttle missions and holds an individual world record for the most spaceflights flown. Ross is an Indiana native, a graduate of Purdue University, a retired United States Air Force officer, and a former astronaut who retired from NASA in 2012.

***Galveston's Historic Downtown and Strand District* Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00pm**

at the Friendswood Public Library. Author Denise Alexander, Director of Heritage Programs for the Galveston Historical Foundation, will present information found in her book. The Strand, the National Historic Landmark District, includes buildings classified as Greek Revival, Italianate, and Victorian style--sometimes with traces of vernacular building traditions that date to the 1850s. Historic images found within this book illustrate the development of the Strand and surrounding streets, including Mechanic, Market, and Postoffice.

Family History Month – Clayton Library Programs

The following free programs are offered to adults and teens in the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston. All events require reservations except for the orientation. Call the library at 832-393-2600 to make a reservation (www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton).

Gathering History: Start the Conversation with Toys presented by staff member Mel Hayes
Saturday, October 4 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm
Family stories and painless interviews can revolve around a simple toy. This class discusses how to start the conversation using some of our most cherished keepsakes.

A Potpourri of Tex/Mex Resources presented by staff member Julia Ramirez
Tuesday, October 7 from 10:30am to 11:30am
This presentation will discuss connecting some of Clayton's Texas/Mexico collections with other sources; ranging from films, Internet, and CDs, to databases.

Convicts to the Colonies presented by staff member Sue Kaufman
Wednesday, October 8 from 7:30pm to 8:30pm
A major form of criminal punishment observed by Britain was to transport convicts to the colonies across the sea. Records and sources are discussed.

Freedmen's Bureau Records presented by staff member Franklin Smith
Friday, October 10 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm
An overview of the agency's history, purpose, records, and type of documents found in each record group. This presentation provides an explanation of the sources, and guidance on how to use the records to achieve the most productive results.

Medical Genealogy: Defining Obscure Medical Terms Used by Our Ancestors presented by staff member Irene Walters
Saturday, October 11 at 1:00pm
Come and learn about some of the diseases our ancestors faced and where to find out what the medical terms you see in obituaries or death certificates mean.

Overview of the Microfilm Special Collections presented by staff member Steven Bychowski
Wednesday, October 15 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm
Join us for a discussion and brief overview of the

many unique collections stored in the "Special Collections" microfilm cabinets.

Clayton Library Orientation
Saturday, October 18 from 10:30am to 11:45am
Learn about the vast resources and how to efficiently utilize genealogical research materials housed at the library. No reservations needed.

Cemetery Removal: Where did it go? How can I find it? Presented by Mel Hayes
Wednesday, October 22 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm
We will discuss strategies to find out where the grave was moved, and what you can do to document your findings.

Louisiana Death Records: Where to locate them presented by staff member Becky Grimes
Thursday, October 23 at 1:00pm
This presentation will discuss both the resources Clayton has on-site for Louisiana death records, as well as online avenues that are made available on this subject through the Houston Public Library's databases.

Authenticity in Genealogical Research presented by staff member Clinton Drake
Friday, October 24 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm
This presentation will explore several source formats and types and discuss the methodology behind determining a source to be reliable, or how to identify the most reliable source available for a specific query.

Old and the New Day: Research Strategies with Michael Leclerc, Mocavo's chief genealogist
Saturday, October 25 from 10:30am to 4:00pm
Please join us for a full day of presentations, ranging from Finding Your Family in Canada; Reading and Understanding Old Documents; Sources for New England Research, and a discussion of Mocavo.

Cemetery Symbolism presented by staff member Melissa Meadows
Friday, October 31 at 1:00pm
This talk discusses the ways in which ancestors marked their final resting places to indicate various accomplishments in life, through death. Topics will include iconography, recurrent themes, and symbols of organizations.

Additional programming is listed on page 7.

3rd Annual Genealogy After Dark

Friday, October 17 from 1:00pm to 11:00pm

In celebration of October as Family History Month, the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research / Houston Public Library will be sponsoring the “3rd Annual Genealogy After Dark” event at the Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, TX 77004. This event is free and open to any members of the public who have an interest in genealogy. Various webinars will be offered throughout the afternoon and evening. Clayton Library will be open to registered attendees for research until 11:00pm.

12:00pm-1:30pm: FamilySearch.org Live: Search Strategies, Tools and Tips presented by Robert Lawrence Kehrer, Sr. Product Manager, Search Technologies

This live demonstration uses real research scenarios. Join expert Robert Kehrer as he shares his research strategies and experience in using FamilySearch.org website tools to find records and then link those sources to the Family Tree.

1:45pm-2:50pm: Genealogical and Historic Records Available at the Texas Military Forces Museum presented by Lisa Sharik, Director

This program will provide information on the records which are available for research at the Texas Military Forces Museum and from Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. The material spans from 1910 to the present day and includes everything from WWI service records to material from the deployment of our Texas troops in the Global War on Terror.

3:00pm-3:50pm: Building the West Texas Digital Archives presented by Edward J. Smith, Executive Director Abilene Library Consortium

The West Texas Digital Archives is a collaborative project run by the Abilene Library Consortium containing more than 50,000 digital items from many organizations across the region. ALC Executive Director Eddy Smith will highlight the Archives and discuss some of the experiences in building a large-scale, collaborative digital project.

4:00pm-4:50pm: Using Evernote for your Genealogical Research presented by Melissa Meadows, Programming and Outreach Librarian at Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Houston Public Library

This presentation will highlight the importance of embracing emergent technology to genealogists of all experience levels. It will include a walkthrough of Evernote, as well as a discussion of the various ways in which the organizational platform can benefit anyone with their family history. Please feel free to bring your devices with Internet access enabled.

6:00pm-7:20pm: Fundamentals for Beginning Genealogy Research presented by William D. Buckner, Manager Genealogy Center

This class covers the basic concepts, skills, search strategies and resources needed to become a proficient family history researcher. Join us as we walk through the process of recording what you already know, getting organized, collecting information, and evaluating the information you find for additional clues about your ancestors. Learn to use some of the more common records of ‘genealogical value’ – vital, cemetery, obituaries, census and immigration records.

7:30pm-8:20pm: Five Civilized Tribe Indian Research presented by Aaron Holt, Archives Technician Fort Worth Regional Archives NARA

Learn how to research the Dawes Final Rolls. This program will touch on aspects of researching for Indians and Indian records utilizing the US Census and Indian Rolls within the National Archives at Fort Worth.

8:30pm-9:20pm: Think Like a Historian to Expand Your Research presented by Sara Gredler, Genealogist/Historian/Architectural Historian

Thinking like a historian puts your ancestors in their historic, social, and community context. Sara Gredler explores the resources available to expand the “big picture” of your ancestors’ lives along with their location.

9:30pm-10:30pm: DNA – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly presented by Jim Wright

Discussion will include what DNA results you can and can’t expect from an Ancestry DNA test (Autosomal test) with or without an Ancestry tree. Mr. Wright will use actual online Ancestry trees and DNA test results for the discussion.

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.