



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 14, Issue No. 3

November 2014



Members and guests are invited to the
BAGS Annual Holiday Party
at Hope Village Cafe in Friendswood on
Saturday, November 15 from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Come enjoy the holiday spirit and a pleasant lunch with friends.

The lunch is dutch.

A special ham plate with vegetables will be offered as well as the regular menu ([view menu online](#)).

Food orders will be taken between 11:00am and noon.

You are welcome to come even if you did not RSVP.



This event benefits The Foundation for Hope Village (www.hope-village.com).

The Hope Village Cafe is located at 4541 FM 2351, Friendswood, TX
(a map is provided [online](#) and on page 6)

Entrance to the Cafe is located on FM 2351 between
Clear Brook High School and the Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Meet Our Registrar Assistant
- 3 News and Book Review for *The Lost Ancestor*
- 4 Last month's program recap, WWI record resources
- 5 Local Events
- 6 Map to Hope Village Cafe for luncheon

BAGS will have a display at the Clear Lake Freeman Library from November 10 to December 31. Contact Polly Swerdlin if you have any old fashion holiday decorations you are willing to loan. Details on page 3.

There is not a meeting in December. Look for details for the January kick-off party and general meeting details in the December newsletter.



BAGS Officers 2013-2015

President

Shirley Lindquist

President@TxBayAreaGen.org

First Vice President

Melodey Hauch

VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org

Second Vice President

Kim Zrubek

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 Editors

Polly Swerdlin and Garry Garrett

Message from the Registrar's Assistant

Betty Wegner



Betty Wegner

I was born in Brentwood, a south suburb of Pittsburgh, Pa. I went to Catholic school and was the youngest of 4 kids until my brother, John Andrew, was born 14 years after me! One of my claims to fame is that I was voted Queen of the U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt Aircraft Carrier by the sailors and officers when I was 19. When I married at 25 I had not lived anywhere else except Pittsburgh. I spent the next twenty years raising 3 kids and living all over the South in

such towns as Ashville, N.C., Charlotte, N.C., Memphis, TN and Farmers Branch, TX.

I finally ended up in the Houston area when my first, and deceased, husband was transferred here in 1974. We lived in El Lago on a Cul-de-sac that butted up to Taylor Lake. It was a wonderful time for us and our kids who attended Clear Lake schools. I remained active in my faith and was a founding member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church. I started to work at Foleys in the Cosmetic Dept. for Estee Lauder and Clinique and later was promoted to the Fragrances Bar at Alameda Mall. I did a little modeling in Pittsburgh and was a greeter/promoter at many trade shows. At the same time, I was a facilitator for the Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol. I married Bob Wegner after my first husband died of alcoholism. His son and my three kids, who are all married now, remain the focus of our lives with two grandkids.

I became interested in genealogy through my husband, Bob, your BAGS Registrar. My genealogy walls are both, my paternal and maternal grandfathers, one from Germany and the other from Scotland. I am happy to be a part of BAGS and contribute as the Assistant Registrar. I look forward to meeting all of you in 2015. Happy Thanksgiving!

***October and November New
Members will be announced in
the December Newsletter.***

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

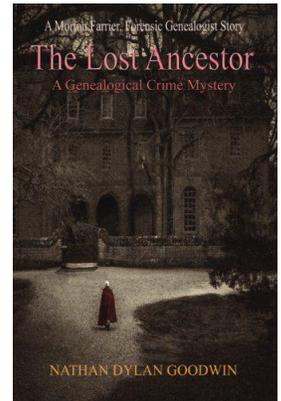
All rights reserved.

Book review by member Annette Bowen

Many of us feel like someone is trying to keep us from finding our ancestors, but I hope none of us has faced the threat of murder to prevent the disclosure of a secret! *The Lost Ancestor* is the second in Nathan Dylan Goodwyn's Morton Farrier, Forensic Genealogist mysteries. In the January 2014 Newsletter Barbara Moore reviewed Goodwyn's first novel in this series, *Hiding The Past*.

In *The Lost Ancestor*, Ray Mercer is an elderly man dying of cancer. He hires Morton to find out what happened to his great-aunt Mary, twin sister of his grandmother who had raised him. In 1911 Mary had gone with her sister, Edith, who was applying for the position of third housemaid at Blackfriars, a large Edwardian estate. Instead Mary was offered the job and accepted it. Shortly before her eighteenth birthday, only a few months after taking the position, Mary vanished with only one trace, a brief letter to her parents, saying she had run away to Scotland. Ray had searched without success for marriage, passport, and death records. We follow Morton as he visits archives, tracks down and interviews descendants of other servants who worked with Mary, and checks web sites and vital records, despite receiving threats. Simultaneously the author shows us what was happening at Blackfriars during Mary's service there. If you enjoy the PBS shows *Downton Abbey* and *Upstairs Downstairs* and like mysteries, you will enjoy this book.

The book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Member News

- Most Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Clayton Library, BAGS member David Zwahr is willing to help you with applications to join a lineage society such as Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution.
- Because of the 50th anniversary for Freeman Library on November 8, our display will be from November 10 to December 31. Polly Swerdlin wants to make the display festive and has asked for loans of holiday decorations (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years etc) that are vintage in order to draw attention to the display on genealogy. You can also loan your genealogy research and artifacts for the display. Call or email Polly to contribute (281-814-4606, pmswerdlin@gmail.com).
- Polly Swerdlin's husband has a hobby of researching on the Internet for "lost monies." He found money for some members by using the yearbook as a guide: Carrington, Cox, Davenport, Lejsal, Lava, Kastetter, Heuermann, Finger, Stewart, Stafford, Ryman, Pell, Payne, McDowell, Marshall, and Yerby. And that was just for Texas money. The sites he used were: www.missingmoney.com and www.unclaimed.org They can also be used to find money in states where you or your loved ones might have lived previously. Good Luck!
- Digital audio recording of the 2014 FGS Conference sessions are available to members. You will need a USB drive with at least 1.2 GB of space available. Contact Polly Swerdlin to obtain a copy of the recordings for you to play on a computer.
- Thank you to members Polly Swerdlin, Bob Wegner, Loren Martin, Bettejean Spatafore, and Kim Zrubek for serving on the Ad Hoc committee to explore ideas to grow and engage the Society's membership. A final report was submitted in October containing recommended actions. A new committee called "BAGS Members First Campaign" has been formed to coordinate the initiation of these actions across existing committees. If you would like to join Kim, Bob Wegner, Loren Martin, Judy Wright in this effort, contact Kim Zrubek



October Program Recap

In place of the scheduled program, BAGS members shared their family experiences that occurred during or as a result of World War I. Dottie Dineen shared photos of her father and his running track medals earned while stationed in France during the war. Dorsey Kastetter read from the University of Montpellier Yearbook where her father attended in Montpellier, France after the war. Jane Ebrom discussed several souvenir items her father acquired while fighting in the trenches. Larry Higgs father served in both WWI and WWII. Beth Marshall has her grandfather's WWI discharge papers. Several members discussed what family life was like after their fathers returned from the war. Others discussed specific war duties, the trench environment, and the war's effects on later confrontations. Thank you all that shared information that evening which includes Dottie, Dorsey, Jane, Larry, and Beth as well as Deborah Gammon, Michael Hart, Chester Karrick, Barbara Moore, Polly Swerdlin, Oletia Teas, and David Zwahr. Kevin Burke, October's scheduled speaker, suffered an injury at work the day of the program which prevented him from attending the meeting. The Society wishes him a speedy recovery. He has agreed to present his program *Who Was The Doughboy?* at a later date. Below are several online sources for WWI record information:

On *Cyndi's List* (directory of online resources), choose "W" in the directory listing at the bottom of the home page. Then choose "World War I" category. The direct link is <http://www.cyndislist.com/ww1> That evening we looked at resources found under the "Records: Military, Pension, Burial, and Casualties" category.

On *FamilySearch.org* search records page, choose "Browse All Published Collections" and look for "World War I." The direct link is <http://familysearch.org/search/collection/list> Click on the collection of interest and then enter a surname. You will be searching only within that specific record collection. These are the collections currently available and all provide access to images of the original records.

- California, San Francisco, World War I Enemy Alien Registration Affidavits, 1918.
- United Kingdom, World War I Service Records 1914-1920
- United Kingdom, World War I Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Records, 1917-1920.
- United States Index to Naturalizations of World War I Soldiers, 1918
- United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918

On *Ancestry.com* under the Search menu, choose Military. On the Military page, look on the right side for a "More help" box and click on "World War I" inside the box. The direct link is <http://www.ancestry.com/cs/us/worldwar1records> Then enter a surname and the results will be pulled from a number of interesting collections relating to WWI.

If you know a veteran that is willing to be interviewed about his or her military experiences, contact Deborah Gammon. Her DAR Chapter is participating in the **Veterans History Project** to help conduct interviews with veterans that live in the Houston area. This project is hosted by the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans (WWI to present Iraq conflicts). In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories. To date, the Veterans History Project comprises over 68,000 individual collections that are available to researchers and the general public at the Library of Congress. Of that number, more than 7,000 are digitized and are accessible online through the project's website www.loc.gov/vets



The October 2014 issue of the *Clayton Town Crier* online newsletter published by Clayton Library contains the article "World War I Research, More Than Draft Registration Cards!" explains how to locate record of an ancestor's service and possible contributions. Click on this link to access the October 2014 issue online <http://www.libraryaware.com/1224/NewsletterIssues/ViewIssue/6b8d6fdc-eac9-4e19-bdf2-19cc0a19f442>

Local Programs and Events



Happy Thanksgiving!

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. Library website is www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton

Library Orientation

Saturday, November 15 from 10:30 to 11:45am
also

Saturday, December 20 from 10:30 to 11:45am

Learn about the vast resources and how to efficiently utilize genealogical research materials housed at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.

Quick Start Your Genealogy!

Saturday, November 29 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

Overview of genealogical research tools: the library catalog, *Ancestry.com* Library Edition, *FamilySearch.org*, and microprint from Salt Lake City.

Genealogy Basics Boot Camp

Saturday, December 6 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

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.

Free Online Resources

Thursday, November 13 at 10:30am at the Friendswood Public Library (416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood). Learn how to use *HeritageQuest* and *WorldVitalRecords*, free online resources you can access from home.

“How to Research Virginia Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants”

Saturday December 6, 2014 from 10:00am to noon at Bayland Community Center located at 6400 Bissonnet, Houston (between Hillcroft and Beechnut). The program presenter is Lloyd Bockstruck, retired Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section Supervisor and author of numerous books. Houston Genealogical Forum (www.HGFTX.org) is sponsoring this program. Come early for refreshments and socializing (9:00-10:00am). Visitors are welcome.



Connect.**Explore**.REFRESH

Federation of Genealogical Societies

February 11-14, 2015

Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration is now open for the FGS 2015 national conference. This event puts the FGS and RootsTech conferences under one roof at the Salt Palace Convention Center (SPCC). Attend only FGS or add-on a full RootsTech pass for an additional \$39. Register now at <http://www.fgsconference.org>

BAGS Annual Holiday Party

**Saturday, November 15
from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
in the Hope Village Cafe**

**Located at 4541 FM 2351,
Friendswood, TX**

**Entrance is located on
FM 2351 between Clear Brook High
School and the Lord of Life Lutheran
Church.**

