



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

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December 2014

*To You And Your Family,  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



*Annual Holiday Party, November 2014*  
*More pictures on page 4.*

**The regular general  
meetings resume in  
January 2015.**

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***Welcome New Member!***

**Stephanie Wegner of Dallas, TX**

Stephanie is Betty and Bob Wegner's niece.

***As we celebrate this season let's remember  
to count our blessings!***



We'll look forward to 2015  
for good health and gratitude!

Happy Holidays,  
President Shirley Lindquist, the  
Board, and Chairmen

Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Chairmen

County Coordinator	Mary Martin
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Dropbox	Bill Mayo
Pedigree Charts	Eleanor Caldwell
Historian	Lynn Finger
Hospitality	Leslee Fehlman
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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:

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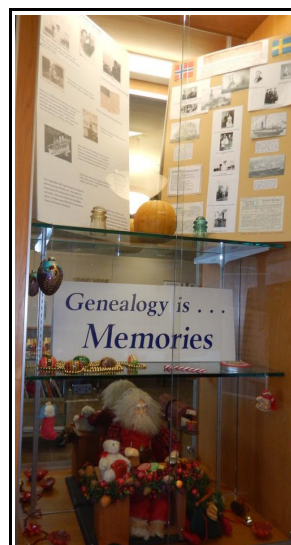
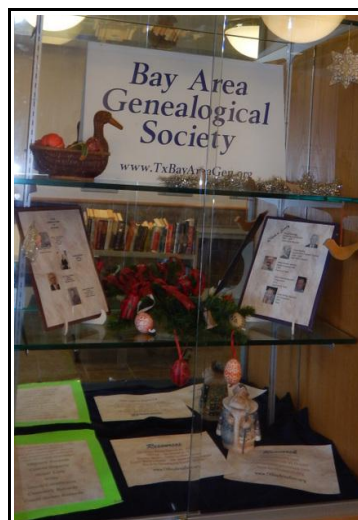
## WANTED...Assistance

Please consider helping us in one of the following areas:

- Telephone Chairman and committee to help notify members of events
- Welcoming Chairman and committee to maintain name tags and serve as greeters
- Facebook page administrator – BAGS would like to have a Facebook presence
- Research Assistants and logistics support at different venues for Education Committee events.

Interested? Contact Polly Swerdlin or Nick Cimino.

**BAGS holiday festive display at the Freeman Memorial Library during December.**  
*Thank you Polly Swerdlin for organizing the exhibit and thank you to everyone that contributed items.*



## 2014 TSGS Writing Award Recipient

Melodey Hauch, BAGS 1st VP and Journal Editor, received a 1st place writing award from the Texas State Genealogical Society for her book *Here They Rest: Discovering Unmarked Burials at Magnolia Cemetery of League City, Texas*, published in 2014. The award was given in the Category 1 Books by Non-Professional / References and the Society receives \$200 for the award.

*Congratulations and good job Melodey!!!*

*Members and guests enjoying friendship and food at the Hope Village Cafe during Holiday Party.*



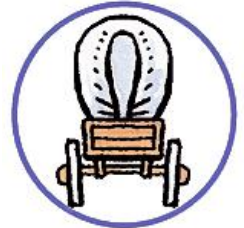
Photos Top Down, Left to Right,

1) Shirley Lindquist, Leslee Fehlman, & Melodey Hauch; 2) Oletia Teas & Barbara Moore; 3) Jinny & Russ Mason, Mike McCown, & Loren Martin; 4) Howard & Jane Ebrom; 5) Eleanor Caldwell, Ann Fogelman, Jo Ann & Chester Karrick, & Annette Bowen

## Historical Fiction: an entertaining family research tool

*Interested in understanding what life was like back then?* Reading historical fiction is one way to gain a better understanding of an ancestor's culture, lifestyle, daily routine, politics, and the impact of historical events. In this genre, an imaginary story is constructed around real historical events (e.g. wars, immigration, migration, enslavement, and economic challenges) or feature a specific location during an authentic time period (e.g. Jamestown during the Colonial period, London during Victorian time). These novels can be found in a library catalog by searching "historical fiction" in the subject field (include the quotes around the two words). Add additional words (e.g. "civil war", 1812) outside of the quotes to narrow down the book list to a specific event, location, or time period (e.g. "historical fiction" Scotland).

If you have Swedish, French, or Bohemian ancestors that settled in Nebraska after 1860, consider reading *O Pioneers!* and *My Antonia* both written by Willa Cather, a second-generation immigrant homesteader (1873-1947). The Federal Homestead Act of 1862, which promised 160 acres to anyone who settled the land, encouraged thousands of pioneers to move into the region. Cather's classic fiction relates the immigrants' harsh experiences and struggles to improve their lives and transform the American frontier.



Speaking of Nebraska....*Did you know?*

The Omaha Public Library has published a list of resources (digitized collections, societies, libraries, and websites) for researching Nebraska records. Access the information online using this link <http://omahalibrary.v1.libguides.com/content.php?pid=95140&sid=832031>

The W. Dale Clark Library is the repository for the original member records (1881-1999) of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, Valley of Omaha, Orient of Nebraska. An alphabetical index to member applications is available in the Nebraska Reference department on the third floor. (Call the library at 402-444-4800 to look up an ancestor name in the book *Index of Vital Records From the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, Valley of Omaha, Orient of Nebraska, 1881-1999*). The records themselves are restricted, but can be viewed upon request at the 3rd floor desk.

Moving westward....*Have any ancestors located in the north during the Klondike and Alaska Gold Rushes (1896-1914)?*

Consider reading *The Golden Volcano* by Jules Verne (1828-1905). This book relates the routes and travel hardships that caused thousands of people to lose their lives before reaching the Klondike region.



There are a number of genealogy resources available online to search for relatives that may have either supported or participated in the gold rush. Start with the National Park Service website on the Klondike Gold Rush accessible at <http://www.nps.gov/klgo/historyculture/stampedergenealogy.htm> The towns Dawson, Skagway and Dyea were major stops along the trip. This website connects you to databases of people that arrived at these cities. The link to the "Klondike Gold Rush Historical Database" is incorrect. Use this link to access that information: <http://historylink.org/Index.cfm?DisplayPage=klondike/index.cfm> then select one of the items under "Select a database to search" section to continue your research.

The Alaska State Library offers a compiled list of online resource resources on their website "Finding Your Gold Rush Relative" <http://library.alaska.gov/hist/parham.html>