



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 14, Issue No. 7

March 2015

Friday, March 27, 2015: Jeannette Piecznski presents "A Harvest of Land Is a Bounty of Records"

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

We meet at the University Baptist Church in the Great Room on the 2nd floor
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Clear Lake City - [online map](#)).



Jeannette Piecznski

There are many key factors to understand when researching US land records. Knowing what to look for and where to find it is only the beginning. Being familiar with land records, you will find a gold mine of information from mother's maiden name to probate records. This discussion will include an overview of the types of records available for research, interesting websites and how to interpret records and surveys.

Jeannette Piecznski is a professional genealogist, lecturer and author. She is webmaster of LoneStar Genealogy (<http://lonestargenealogy.com>) and author for Demand Media, PeopleSmart and Archives.com. She began the slogan "Don't Mess With The Living In Texas", to help genealogists understand the importance to protect living relative's personal information. Her research was used in the historical fiction novel entitled

"Magnolia City" by Duncan W. Alderson covering oil drilling and the Allen family in Houston during the 1920s. She recently worked on the movie "Union Bound", released November 2015, as one of the historical consultants and designed the ladies costumes. Jeannette actively serves as an expert witness in Texas probate courts. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, and the Genealogical Speakers Guild.

Research Bus Trip to Clayton

Tuesday, March 10 from 9am to 4pm.
Additional trip dates are listed in page 6.

Special Interest Groups

Programs and research assistance.
Dates and topics on page 3 and 5.

A new issue of the *Journal* will be available at the March general meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: All day seminar with Trevia Wooster Beverly on Saturday, July 11
Program details next month.

BAGS Website has a new look.
Details on page 6.

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Welcome New Members!

Sharon Drick of Seabrook, TX

Sharon is researching surnames Hester and Calkins.

Kristi Ferguson of Friendswood, TX

Kristi is looking for assistance in finding Irish and Scottish ancestors.

Wanda Rose Rivers and James Theo Rivers of Houston, TX

Wanda and James are researching surnames Flowers, Austin, Peak, and Winterbauer.

Andrew John Shaner of Houston, TX

Andrew is interested in researching early German and Pennsylvania records.

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

We offer our condolences to

The family of BAGS charter member Mary Ellen Springer Pearson who passed on February 9, 2015. Her obituary was published in the *Houston Chronicle* on February 11 and is available [online](#). Mary was an active supporter in many local genealogy and lineage societies. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.



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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BAGS Event Calendar

General Meeting Programs

We meet the last Friday of the month at 7:00pm. Come at 6:30pm to enjoy coffee and socializing. The public is invited. These meetings are held at the University Baptist Church (UBC) located at 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059 (Clear Lake City).

Friday, March 27 at 7:00pm: Jeannette Piecznski will present "A Harvest of Land Is a Bounty of Records"

Friday, April 24 at 7:00pm: Daniel Sample will present "Family-History Research: World War I Records"

Friday, May 29 at 7:00pm: Gale French will present "Self-Publishing Your Family History"

Friday, June 26 at 7:00pm: Family Tree DNA, Houston will discuss DNA testing

Saturday, July 11 from 9am to 4pm. Seminar and research session free to BAGS members. Two programs presented by Trevia Beverly Wooster.

Friday, July 31 at 7:00pm: Nancy Bronte Matheny will present "Great-Grandpa was no Rockefeller!: Solutions to finding your blue-collar ancestor's colorful backstory in the USA"

Friday, August 28: Annual Show & Tell

Board Meetings

The Board meets 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 on the second floor in room EB205 (use the stairs near the Chapel entrance).

Monday, March 23 at 6:30pm

Monday, April 20 at 6:30pm

Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30pm

Monday, June 22 at 6:30pm

Monday, July 27 at 6:30pm

Monday, August 24 at 6:30pm

Board meeting usually not held in November or December.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SIGs are free programs available to members and the public. They are a series of monthly classes focused on a specific topic of interest. The classes consist of a presentation and research mentoring. Bring any family information (names, dates, places) you have on paper or device. WiFi available. We will help get you started.

Beginning Genealogy Research SIG

Just starting? Stuck? Or need encouragement or inspiration? Come discover for the first time or refresh your memory on research resources and techniques. Come with an ancestry chart and family group sheets containing some family information and we will start from there. Don't know what these are? These classes are held at the Friendswood Public Library on:

Thursday, March 19 at 2:00pm: *Genealogy Tips & Tricks : finding ancestors by not searching the known information* presented by Irene Walters

Thursday, April 9 at 2:00pm: *Using newspapers to flesh out your genealogy* presented by Irene Walters

Saturday, May 30 at 1:00pm: *An overview of FamilySearch.org* presented by Nick Cimino

Ethnicity Focused Research SIG

Have German ancestors in your tree? BAGS members Nick Cimino and Bob Wegner will discuss resources and immigration history to use in your research. Bring your family information. These classes are held at the Friendswood Public Library on:

Saturday, March 21 at 1:00pm: Finding German hometown of emigrant ancestor.

Saturday, April 18 at 1:00pm: German church and civil records.

Saturday, May 16 at 1:00pm: German script, German vocabulary, and free research training videos.

Recommendations for solving immigration puzzles

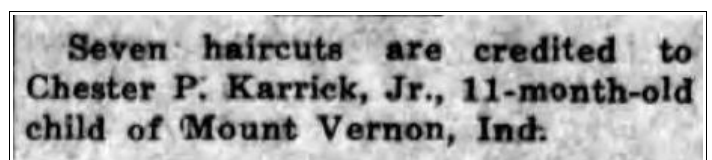
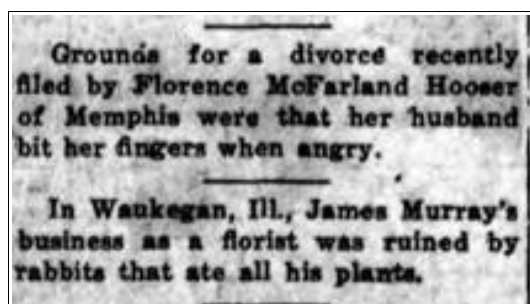
- Look at US church archives. Immigrants often arrived with letters from the home church granting permission to join a similar church in the new country. Depending on the church denomination, they could be called “letters of transfer” or “certificates of removal.”
- Try searching Canadian passenger lists. Stepping on the dock in Canada could be cheaper and a way to avoid inspections. Consult the FamilySearch Wiki page “Canada Emigration and Immigration” https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Canada_Emigration_and_Immigration to discover the immigration waves and record collections available.
- Prior to 1820, search shipping news sections in old newspapers published in the port towns such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. First- and second-class passengers arrivals were announced in this fashion.
- Civil War and WWI draft records include place of birth.
- Stuck? Try looking at the online Library of Congress “Immigrant Arrivals: A Guide To Published Sources” http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/immigrant/lists.html. The referenced books may be accessible from Clayton Library, Family History Center microfilm loan, or Inter-library loan.
- In *Ancestry.com*, use these steps to focus your search on records at a specific port.
 1. On *Ancestry.com* main page, hover the computer mouse over the “Search” menu at the top. A menu will appear, click on “Card Catalog.”
 2. On the next page, enter search terms in the Keyword(s) field, that include “passenger” and a port name. For example, interested in the port of New Orleans? Enter the search terms: **passenger New Orleans**
 3. The results are four record collections of people arriving in New Orleans. Three of the collections have passenger lists prior to 1820. Click on one of the collections (e.g. “New Orleans, Passenger Lists, 1813-1963”) and on the next page, enter an ancestor’s name to search for that person just within that specific collection.

[Information was pulled from “Best of the Best” article published in *Family Tree Magazine*, February 2015 issue, pages 21-22.]

Newspaper Filler

While, searching online digitized newspaper sources, my father came across a short newspaper article about his “accomplishment” as a newborn. We were

surprised to find the same article was published in several newspapers across the country: Saint Paris, Ohio; Wellsboro, Pennsylvania; Bedford, Pennsylvania; and Wellington, Texas. Due to the article’s brevity and novelty, it was a good candidate for page content filler, always appearing at the end of a column or page. I am not sure how filler information was communicated between newspapers but the articles are entertaining and informative. Maybe one of your relatives is recorded in this way.



Here are two other entries that appeared along with Dad’s noteworthy event.

Have German Roots?

Attend the BAGS German research lecture & working sessions

Part of a continuing Ethnicity Focused Research Special Interest Group and lead by BAGS members Nick Cimino and Bob Wegner, these classes are held at the Friendswood Public Library located at 416 S. Friendswood Drive on:

Saturday, March 21 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm: Finding German hometown of emigrant ancestor.

Saturday, April 18 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm: Discuss German church and civil records.

Saturday, May 16 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm: Review German script, German vocabulary, and free research training videos.

**Bring your research on paper or device! Free WiFi available for personal mobile devices.
Library will provide a few laptops for research.**

If you cannot make the SIG meetings, use the FamilySearch Wiki as a reference to begin or continue your research.

German Research Guide: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany_Genealogy

German Word List: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Word_List

Take a trip to the Clayton Library. During the February presentation, Nick Cimino recommended the following print resources which can be accessed at the Clayton Library.

- *German Immigrants In American Church Records* by Roger P. Minert (call# 973.0431 G373 USA)
- *Researching in Germany: a handbook for your visit to the homeland of your ancestors* by Roger P. Minert (call# M664 GERMAN)
- *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents* by Roger P. Minert (call# M664 GERMAN)
- Place Name Indexes – A series for each German State e.g. Rhineland, Posen, West Prussia, Bavaria, etc. by Roger P. Minert (call# M664 GERMAN)
- *Spelling Variations in German Names: solving family history problems through applications of German and English phonetics* by Roger P. Minert (call# M664 GERMAN)
- *Germans to America and the Hamburg Passenger Lists* by Roger P. Minert (call# 325.243 M664 USA)
- *German Research Companion* by Roger P. Minert (call# R556 GERMAN)
- *How To Read And Understand Meyers Orts.....: Meyers geographical and commercial gazetteer of the German Empire* by Wendy Uncapher (call# M996 GERMAN)
- *How To Read German Church Records Without Knowing Much German* by Arta Johnson (call# J66 GERMAN)
- *If I Can, You Can Decipher Germanic Records* by Edna Bentz (call# B478 GERMAN)
- *A Genealogical Handbook of German Terminology And Grammar* by Ronald Walker (call# W184 GERMAN 1)
- *German For Genealogy: A Translator's Handbook* by John W. Heisey (call# H473 GERMAN)
- *Family Tree German Genealogy Guide: How to Trace your Germanic Ancestry in Europe* by James M. Beidler (call# B422 GERMAN)

Also visit with Liz Hicks, German-Texan Heritage Society (www.germantexans.org), in the Clayton Library on the 3rd Saturday each month from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the microprint desk.



BAGS website got a facelift thanks to the efforts of Polly Swerdlin and Garry Garnett. The new look with the same address www.TxBayAreaGen.org. The site is built and maintained using WordPress and hosted by DreamHost for free to non-profit organizations. Use the search field to locate site content based on specific key terms. The latest events, dates, and times are posted under the menus Meetings, Trips, and Workshops. If you get an error accessing the website, contact Polly Swerdlin or Kim Zrubek to assist in correcting the problem.

Research Trips at Clayton Library

Mary Martin, County Coordinator



Scheduled Trip Dates:

Tuesday, March 10
Thursday, April 16
Wednesday, July 15
Thursday, September 17

BAG\$ Report for January 2015

Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward 12/31/2014	\$4,860.66
Income	\$140.00
Expenses	-\$191.00
Balance on hand 1/31/2015	\$4,809.66
CD Balance	\$3,700.35

If you want to go, please signup by calling Mary Martin at 281-332-2435 or e-mail her at lmartin497@aol.com. Nine people must sign up or the trip will be canceled. Please consider using this resource provided by Harris County.

Meet at 9:00am in the parking lot of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane. The county bus departs at 9:15am and will arrive back at 4:00pm.

The current schedule is always available on the BAGS website www.TxBayAreaGen.org Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings.

Local Programs and Events

Clayton Library Programming

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

Genealogy Basics Boot Camp

Saturday, March 7 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Focuses on starting genealogical research by examining basic tools and research strategies. Learn about different materials available and how they lead to other sources.

Grandma was a WAC, Aunt June was a WAVE and Sister Mary was a WASP: Women in the Military during WWI and WWII

Saturday, March 14 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Learn of resources to help you locate evidence of your female relative's military service.

Library Orientation

Saturday, March 21 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.

Texas Resources

Saturday, March 28 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm

This class focuses on a few of the vast historical resources available for researching your Texas ancestors. Sources discussed are Clayton in-house materials and online databases, Texas State Library, Texas General Land Office, and country records.

"Genealogy in Your Jammies"

Saturday, April 4 from 11:00am to 4:00pm

Sue Yerby (LDS and BAGS member) will discuss the different free features available online at www.FamilySearch.org

11am: Family Tree and Memories
1pm: Search Records, Catalog and Books
2:15pm: Wiki
3:30pm Indexing and Learning Center

United Daughters of the Confederacy®, Texas Division, Fort Virginia Point Chapter 2539, Texas City, Texas

Meet Wednesday, March 25 at 10:00am in the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church located at 4613 Highway 3, Dickinson. Member Frances Foreman will present a program on the death of President Lincoln. Member Nancy O'Massey will present our Historian General's program, "Off to War Johnny Reb." Guests and prospective members are always welcome. For more information please contact our President Mary Glenn at 409-938-1503 or email her at mwg914@aol.com.



Free Family Search Conference

Saturday, April 25 from 8am to 2pm in the Summerwood Stake located at 14350 North Sam Houston Parkway E., Houston.

This is an opportunity for you to learn the skills to get started capturing and preserving your family history or to further the research that has already been completed.

Participate in 3 hours of live classes (9am to noon) and optional 2 hours of open lab (noon to 2pm). Classes for all skill levels are offered. Youth and Spanish classes are offered. Bring a lunch or go out to eat. **Registration will end April 18!** Access the complete schedule, course list, and registration online at

<http://houstonfamilysearch.com/2015-conferences>

At this conference, Member Nick Cimino will be presenting two classes: Italian Research at 9am and "Citing and Organizing Sources: Methods and techniques to keep track of where you found all those great records" at 11:20am at this conference.

The German-Texan Heritage Society (www.germantexans.org) annual conference in Austin, TX on September 4-5, 2015.

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REMINDER

Next General Meeting is
Friday, March 27 at 7:00 pm
in University Baptist Church
Socializing begins at 6:30 pm