



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

Volume 14, Issue No. 8

April 2015

### Friday, April 24, 2015: Daniel Sample presents "Family-History Research: World War I 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](#)).



Daniel Sample

Daniel Sample is the manager of the Genealogy and Local History Department in the George Memorial Library located at 1001 Golfview Drive, Richmond, TX 77469 ([www.fortbend.lib.tx.us/branches/gm.html](http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us/branches/gm.html))

This program includes how to trace family history using World War I military records such as draft-registration cards, service records, and pension-application files. Find out how and where to obtain copies of compiled service records and pensions for U.S. soldiers. Learn about the George Memorial Library's World War I and other holdings and online resources such as *Ancestry.com*, *Family Search*, and *Fold3* for WWI information.

Daniel Sample grew up in Fort Worth, Texas. In 1996, he earned his Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas in Denton. He worked for the Houston Public Library system beginning in 1997. In 2005, he joined the Fort Bend County Libraries and worked for George Memorial and some of the branches before becoming head of the Genealogy & Local History Department in 2010.

**Pick up your copy of the *Journal* and *Society Yearbook* at this month's general meeting.**

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#### Special Interest Groups

Programs and research assistance.  
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**SAVE THE DATE:** All day seminar with Trevia Wooster Beverly on Saturday, July 11  
Program details sent separately.



## **BAGS Officers 2013-2015**

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## ***Welcome New Members!***

### **Norm and Kathie Chaffee and Michelle Krueger of Pasadena**

They are new to genealogy research and want to research surnames Hunt, Anderson, Bloomfield, and Patrick.

### **Signe Hawley of Houston**

Signe is researching Nelson, Hanson, Gustafson, Dierks.

### **Rebecca and Richard Herder of Friendswood**

### **Phyllis Nygren of Houston**

Phyllis is looking for help in researching immigration records.

### **Cheryl and Denise Willis of Houston**

They would like assistance with finding German ancestors' hometown and researching the Kuretsch, Lessman, Willis, Dunlap surnames.

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

## ***Our thoughts and prayers go out to***

BAGS member Glora de Valcourt and family. Her husband C. Charles "Charlie" de Valcourt passed on April 1, 2015. His obituary is available [online](#).

BAGS member Bettie Robinett and family. Her husband and William L. "Bill" Robinett passed on April 6, 2015. His obituary is available [online](#).



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](mailto: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, 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:** TBD

**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).

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. **Check the website and next newsletter for a schedule of additional programs and research opportunities.**

### Ethnicity Focused Research SIG

**Saturday, May 16 at 2:00pm:** Nick Cimino will discuss German script, German vocabulary, and free research training videos. Program will be held in the Friendswood Activity Building located at 416 Morningside Drive, Friendswood.

### Beginning Genealogy Research SIG

**Saturday, May 30 at 2:00pm:** *An overview of FamilySearch.org* held in the Friendswood Activity Building located at 416 Morningside Drive, Friendswood.

Nick Cimino will discuss the different free features available for research on the FamilySearch.org website. 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? We can help.

### Research Trips at Clayton Library

**Mary Martin, County Coordinator**

**Scheduled Trip Dates:**

**Wednesday, July 15**

**Thursday, September 17**



If you want to go, please sign up by calling Mary Martin at 281-332-2435 or e-mail her at [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto: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. The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.



## Free online genealogy training that includes tips, advice, and resources

*Genealogy Do-Over* offered by GeneaBloggers which actually began Friday, April 3 but you can catch up. Access each week's course information at

[www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-dooover-cycle-2-schedule-topics](http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-dooover-cycle-2-schedule-topics)

No registration or enrollment required. *Genealogy Do-Over* weekly schedule and topics:

**Week 1: 3-9 April 2015**

Setting Previous Research Aside  
Preparing to Research  
Establishing Base Practices and Guidelines

**Week 2: 10-16 April 2015**

Setting Research Goals  
Conducting Self Interview  
Conducting Family Interviews

**Week 3: 17-23 April 2015**

Tracking and Conducting Research

**Week 4: 24-30 April 2015**

Managing Projects and Tasks  
Tracking Searches

**Week 5: 1-7 May 2015**

Building a Research Toolbox  
Citing Sources

**Week 6: 8-14 May 2015**

Evaluating Evidence  
Reviewing Online Education Options

**Week 7: 15-21 May 2015**

Reviewing Genealogy Database Software

Digitizing Photos and Documents

**Week 8: 22-28 May 2015**

Conducting Collateral Research  
Reviewing Offline Education Options

**Week 9: 29 May-4 June 2015**

Conducting Cluster Research  
Organizing Research Materials – Documents and Photos

**Week 10: 5-11 June 2015**

Reviewing DNA Testing Options  
Organizing Research Materials – Digital

**Week 11: 12-18 June 2015**

Reviewing Social Media Options  
Building a Research Network

**Week 12: 19-25 June 2015**

Sharing Research  
Reviewing Research Travel Options

**Week 13: 26 June-2 July 2015**

Securing Research Data  
Reviewing the Journey

**RootsMOOC (Massive Open Online Courses)** is a self-paced basic introductory course, designed primarily to inspire newcomers to genealogy to dive in and begin telling and preserving their families' stories. Join the experts at State Library of North Carolina as they take us through some of the best sources and strategies for conducting an organized and efficient search for your family's history both online and in libraries and archives near you. This course is for anyone who has an interest in telling their family's story. There is no experience necessary, no cost to participate, and no required textbook. The course began March 23 but you can still enroll and participate. Enroll and begin participating at

<https://www.canvas.net/browse/reynoldslibrary/courses/intro-to-genealogy>

A module is released every two weeks.

March 23: Introduction & Orientation  
April 6: Getting Started & Staying Organized  
April 20: Wrangling the US Census  
May 4: State and Local Resources  
May 18: Online Sources & Strategies

Full press release from State Library of North Carolina:

<http://statelibrarync.org/news/2015/02/announcing-rootsmooc-free-online-genealogy-course/>

## Galveston Immigration and Naturalization Records – Free online

Immigration and naturalization records are now maintained by the Federal Government. However, from the late 1860's until the 1950's, immigration issues were handled by the State District Courts. The Galveston County District Clerk's Office has digitized and published online the Galveston Declarations of Intention, Petitions for Citizenship, Petitions for Naturalization, and Certificates of Arrival. These records contain over 500,000 informational references for immigrants from 61 countries. There is no charge to access these records but you do need to create an account to view them. The preview images include a "Galveston Preview" watermark across the page. There is a nominal charge to print the documents. Access these records from home at <http://gcdcimmigrationrecords.galvestoncountytexas.gov/search.php>

## Resources to Help You Dig Deeper?

**ArchiveGrid** (<http://archivegrid.org>) helps researchers looking for primary source materials held in archives, libraries, museums and historical societies. This resource includes over four million records describing historical documents, personal papers, family histories, and more held by over 1,000 different archival institutions. In search box located in the upper right corner, enter a surname or a full name in quotes. Use AND, OR, NOT, and parentheses to include additional search terms that may include a U.S. State. Switch to the summary tab to select options that will filter the search results. Also on the main page, search by state or zip code to discover participating archival institutions in the area of your research interest.

**Internet Genealogy**, issue February 2015, pages 20-24 is an interesting article "Yesterday's Weather for Today's Genealogist" explains how to access past weather record information to supplement your family history. Researching weather conditions could help explain prevailing family diseases or deaths.

The following are suggestions published in the *Clayton Town Crier* April 2015 issue, an online newsletter published by the Clayton Library:

**LibWeb** ([www.lib-web.org](http://www.lib-web.org)) lists the websites and contact information for public, academic, state, national or regional libraries located worldwide.

**Directory of Historical Societies in the United States** ([www.daddezio.com/society/hill](http://www.daddezio.com/society/hill)) lists the name and contact information for societies in each state.

If you do not find a local library or historical society through these websites, try doing a Google search for your town or county and the words "public library" or "historical society."

The April *Clayton Town Crier* also includes articles on German research of the beginner, intermediate, and advanced level resources and Audiencia de México finding aids. Access this newsletter issue at <http://www.libraryaware.com/1224/NewsletterIssues/ViewIssue/6bfceec6-c763-4aef-9f7c-508fab2047e2>

## Free Language Learning Courses

Mango is a free online language learning tool that offers many courses that includes European and Asian languages. Now Mango offers a Cherokee language course in partnership with the Cherokee Nation and the Tulsa City-County Library. The course consists of 10 lessons that introduce the basics of greetings, gratitude, goodbyes, and getting to know someone. Cherokee is distinct in that it's a polysynthetic language, which means that Cherokee words are made up of smaller parts that have their own meaning. Moreover, as these parts join, their pronunciation changes and makes them less easily discerned, adding to the magic of the language. Access Mango for free from home through a local public library's website. You will need a library card! Call Kim at the Friendswood Library (281-482-7135) for help in accessing this resource.



## Denise Levenick Seminar

**Saturday, May 2 from 10:00am to 2:30pm in the Bayland Community Center located at 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.** The Houston Genealogical Forum is sponsoring this free all-day seminar featuring Denise Levenick, author of *The Family Curator* website ([www.thefamilycurator.com](http://www.thefamilycurator.com)). Levenick will discuss the following topics:

- **The paper-less genealogist** - Simple strategies to break the paper habit, file less paper, and organize what you keep. Learn the best scanner for your needs, basic scanner settings for genealogists, file-naming for easy retrieval, and baby steps to help you move toward managing less paper.
- **Caring for keepsakes: Top 10 family treasures** – Learn how to care for the Top Ten Family Treasures from photographs to furniture, from love letters to lockets, clocks, and Bibles. Learn to identify common hazards such as silverfish, mold, acid migration, and how to set up a simple Home Archive to safely store your heirlooms.
- **Paper or plastic? Preserving keepsakes** – Bring your questions to this hands-on workshop and learn best practices for preserving your family keepsakes. Try out storage options; select the best containers for your artifacts; hands-on practice practice making archival enclosures.

Register and order lunch online at <http://hgftx.org/event/hgf-program-denise-levenick-2>

## Free Hispanic Genealogy Workshop

**Saturday, May 9 from 9:00am to 5:30pm in West Waco Library & Genealogy Center located at 5301 Bosque Blvd., Suite 275, Waco, TX.**

Explore church and civil records in Mexico/Latin America. Discover Spanish naming customs and migration patterns from Spanish colonies. Learn about the holdings of the Catholic Archives of Texas and see what the Spanish Collection at the Texas General Land Office has to offer. If you plan to attend, please email or call Bill Buckner, West Waco Genealogy Center Manager at [billb@wacotx.gov](mailto:billb@wacotx.gov) and 254-750-5945. Speakers/topics at this workshop include:

**Art Martinez de Vara** - El Noreste - The Founder's Effect in Genealogical Studies of Northeastern Mexico and South Texas; and, Understanding Historical Spanish Naming Customs for the English-Speaking Genealogist

**Dr. José Adrián Barragán, GLO Spanish Translator** - Genealogical Resources at the Texas General Land Office

**Dr. Marian J. Barber** - Using Catholic Archives to Explore Your Family's Heritage

**William D. Buckner** - Overview of Texas Hispanic Sources for Genealogical Research

## 2nd Annual Genealogypalooza

**Saturday, May 30 from 8am to 5pm at the Texas General Land Office Headquarters, 1700 N. Congress Ave, Austin, TX**

This genealogy workshop brings together experts from across Texas to discuss various topics important to genealogy researchers today, and the tools that are available to make for the most successful genealogical research experience. Speakers are John Sellers, Charlie Gardes, Tonia Wood, Kevin Klaus, Dr. José Barragán, and James Harkins. Access agenda, hotel, fee, and speaker information online through the Texas General Land Office's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/txglo/posts/458818480941309>



## 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](http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton)**

#### Quickstart

**Saturday, May 2 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm**

Overview of genealogical research tools: HPL Catalog, Ancestry Library Edition, FamilySearch, and ordering microprint from Salt Lake City.

#### Library Orientation

**Saturday, May 16 at 10:30am**

Learn about the vast resources and how to efficiently utilize genealogical research materials housed at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. No reservations needed, meet at the Information Desk in the library. Adults/Teens.

#### Court Day: Genealogy and Legal Records

**Saturday, May 30 from 10:30am to 12:45pm**

A pair of classes presented by Clayton Library staff members Franklin Smith and Sue Kaufman on using court records in your genealogical research.

##### **10:15am to 11:30am: Courting the Courts: Understanding the Court Systems and Court House Research**

Learn the history of the court system, how to use the courthouse and the records you might find there. Tips and strategies for assisting beginning researchers in courthouse research. This class will be presented by Franklin Smith.

##### **11:45am to 12:45pm: Using Criminal Records in Family History Research**

Experience these specialized records including prison and court documents which give information about not only black sheep family members, but also those involved in all aspects of the process and in the results of the criminal activity. This class will be presented by Sue Kaufman.

### Global Family Reunion

**Saturday, June 6 from 10:30am to 4:30pm**

Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research is proud to be a satellite location for the Global Family Reunion, hosted by author A.J. Jacobs. It is billed as “the largest, most inclusive, most fascinating family reunion in history.” We will be hosting a live-stream of the New York event, so that local attendees can watch the amazing lineup of speakers and performers, including PBS host Henry Louis Gates, comedian Nick Kroll and genealogist D. Joshua Taylor.

### Genealogy Basics Boot Camp

**Saturday, June 13 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

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.

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**REMINDER**

Next General Meeting is  
Friday, April 24 at 7:00 pm  
in University Baptist Church  
Socializing begins at 6:30 pm