



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

P.O. Box 590853  
Houston, TX 77259-0853

Volume 15, Issue No. 4

February 2016

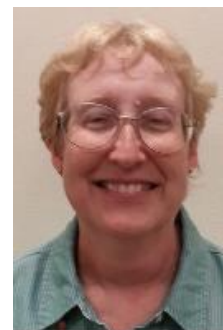
### **Friday, February 26, 2016: *Adoption: Searching For Clues and Potluck Dinner***

*Public Invited. Join us at 6:30pm for dinner.*

**We meet at the University Baptist Church (UBC) in the Chapel, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.  
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059 - [online map](#)).**

Come share food and research, and listen to a program in the Chapel located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor at UBC. Park in the lot nearest to Middlebrook Drive and use the entrance facing that street. The Society will provide drinks. Members are invited to bring an entree, side dish or a salad. Please remember to bring serving utensils. Begin arriving at 6:00pm to set out food dishes. We will begin eating at 6:30 pm and the program starts at 7:00pm.

For our program, Melissa A. Hayes will discuss adoption as we know it today and to think differently about how and where to research to locate our adopted family member. Mrs. Hayes is the Assistant Branch Manager at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Services. Her area of expertise covers Virginia, Kentucky Maryland and colonial era history with 30 plus years of personal genealogical experiences. Her goal is to open up the world of genealogy (family history) to adults and children alike. Melissa has worked in both academic and public libraries developing and implementing numerous story time programs and activities, adult programs and Summer Reading events. Melissa has a B.S. in History Education from Frostburg State College (now Frostburg State University), Maryland and was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services Scholarship to complete her Master's in Library Science with Youth Services Certification from North Texas University. She is a member of the DAR.



Melissa Hayes

**2015-2016 BAGS Yearbook: *Pick up your copy at this meeting.***

#### **WHAT'S INSIDE**

- 2 New Members
- 3 BAGS Event Calendar
- 4 BAGS News
- 5 Education Corner
- 6 Recap January Program, Social Security Applications, Thank You to Supporters
- 7 Newsreels
- 8 Local Events

**Catch the bus to Clayton Library  
Wednesday, March 2  
Details on page 3**

***If you know of someone that needs  
a ride to the meetings, please  
contact Polly Swerdlin***

**DATE Changes for March and May  
meetings. Details on page 3.**

## BAGS Officers 2015-2017



**President**  
Loren Martin

[President@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:President@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### First Vice President

Nick Cimino

[VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### Second Vice President

Kim Zrubek

[VicePresident2@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:VicePresident2@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### Recording Secretary

Vacant

[RecordingSec@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:RecordingSec@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### Corresponding Secretary

Judy Wright

[CorrespondSec@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:CorrespondSec@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### Treasurer

Billy Mayo

[Treasurer@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:Treasurer@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### Registrar

Bob Wegner

[Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org)

## Newsletter Staff

### Editor / Compositor

Kim Zrubek

[newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### Proofreader

Chester Karrick

### Photographer

Bill Mayo, Neil Miserendino

### Distributor

Neil Miserendino

### Web Editors

Polly Swerdlin and Garry Garrett



## Welcome New Members!

**Barbara Bennett from Friendswood** is researching records in Germany, Tennessee, Virginia, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

**Diane Lucas of Alvin** is researching Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee for the surnames Driscoll and McQuarter.

**Norma Marburger from League City** is researching surnames Fuller, Cranston, and Rainwater. She would like training on transferring FamilyTreeMaker to Ancestry.com

**Glenda Stroud of Houston** is looking for help with church records from South Carolina. She is researching Netherlands, Germany, British Isles, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Texas for the surnames Van Zandt, Morgan, Saunders (Sanders), Cade, Stroud, and Carleton.

**Charlotte Wisnewski of Friendswood** is researching Miller in Texas and Ballenger in South Carolina.

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

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 590853, Houston, TX 77259-0853, or [newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)

All rights reserved.

# 2015-2016 BAGS Calendar

---



**Saturday, February 20 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: BAGS Members Only Working Session** for both beginners and advanced researcher. Meet in rooms EB202 and EB203 at the University Baptist Church located at 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059. Bring your devices and research. Free WiFi is available in the church. If you would like to serve as a mentor, please contact Nick Cimino, Education Chair. Seating limited.



**Monday, February 22 at 6:30pm: Board Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



**Friday, February 26 at 7:00pm: General Meeting and Potluck Dinner** at the University Baptist Church in the Chapel. Dinner starts at 6:30pm. Program: Melissa Hayes from the Clayton Library presents *Adoption: Searching for Clues*



**Wednesday, March 2 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library**



**Monday, March 14 at 6:30pm: Board Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend. **(DATE CHANGE due to Easter weekend)**



**Friday, March 18 at 7:00pm: General Meeting and Book Swap** at the University Baptist Church in the Chapel. Socializing starts at 6:30pm. **(DATE CHANGE due to Easter weekend)** Program: Kim Zrubek from the Friendswood Library presents *Chronicling America: Free Online Historic American Newspapers*



**Monday, April 25 at 6:30pm: Board Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



**Friday, April 29 at 7:00pm: General Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in the Chapel. Socializing starts at 6:30pm. Program: Alana Inman, Manager at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center will discuss the depositories diversity, record collections, and public access.

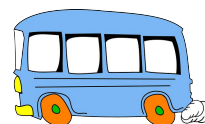


**Wednesday, May 10 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library**



**Friday, May 20 at 7:00pm: General Meeting and Potluck Dinner** at the University Baptist Church in the Chapel. Dinner starts at 6:30pm. **(DATE CHANGE due to Memorial weekend)** Program: Kevin Klaus from the Texas General Land Office will discuss early Germans in Texas.

## Bus Tips to Clayton Library Details



Sixteen people participated in the January bus ride to Clayton library and donated \$35 to the Harris County Senior Citizens Program. New dates have been scheduled:

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

**Wednesday, July 6, 2016**

**Tuesday, September 20, 2016**

If you want to participate in one of the future bus trips, please signup by contacting Mary Martin by phone 281-332-2435 or e-mail [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). This resource is provided by the Harris County Senior Program. A minimum of nine people must sign up per the county regulations. Catch the bus by 9:15am in front of the parking lot at the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center (16511 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062). The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.

**Bylaw Change Proposed:** The following revision to the Society's by-laws was recommended by the Board and presented at the January meeting. Members will vote on this change at the February meeting.

Article IV, Section C, Item 4: "To be included in the Yearbook, annual dues must be paid by the September General Meeting. Any member who has not renewed by ~~October~~ December 31 shall be removed from the membership roll."

**BAGS Cookbook Supplement:** Blessed with many new members, the Board is considering the idea to collect and publish a set of additional recipes from members and their families as a supplement to the existing BAGS Cookbook. If you like the idea, please let one of the Board members know.

**Society Service Project:** *Are you interested in participating in the survey of a small local cemetery and then publishing their cemetery records online?* Please share with a Board member your interest in this project.

## A BIG THANK YOU to the following members:

- ★ Julianne Blanford volunteered to help with Hospitality
- ★ Deborah Gammon and Oletia Teas volunteered to assist the County Coordinator, Mary Martin, with organizing research bus trips.
- ★ New member Barbara Bennett has agreed to help with the newsletter.

**I Can Help: Want Ads** Please consider assisting in these particular areas. Contact any Board member or the related committee chairman.

- ✓ **Recording Secretary** – record actions by monthly Board and membership meetings.
- ✓ **Scrapbooker** – add photos and appropriate items to BAGS scrapbook.
- ✓ **Articles** on family history, research, or interesting discovery to be published in the *BAGS Journal*. Your entries do not need to be related to Texas but can be about ancestors anywhere in the world. Email your information to Melodey Hauch, *Journal* Editor at [journal@txbayareagen.org](mailto:journal@txbayareagen.org)



## Our thoughts and prayers go out to



BAGS life members Bob, Betty and their families. Bob's father Robert Long Wegner, Sr. has passed at the age of 91. He was a retired Colonel, U.S. Army; Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners; and UTA professor living in Arlington, Texas. He had been a member of BAGS visiting our area often and always eager to discuss genealogy, history and research.

The family of BAGS member Kay Vivian Van Cleave of Houston who passed on September 28, 2015. She had joined the Society in July 2015. BAGS was just recently notified of her death. Her obituary was published in *Houston Chronicle* on October 1, 2015 and is available online at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?n=kay-van-cleave&pid=175978444](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?n=kay-van-cleave&pid=175978444)



Education Committee: Nick Cimino (chair), Annette Bowen, Lori Cole, and Beth Marshall

### Members Only Workshop

**Saturday, February 20 from 2pm to 4pm**

at University Baptist Church on the second floor  
above the Chapel, rooms EB202 and EB203.

### RootsTech 2016

The annual RootsTech conference hosted by FamilySearch.org was held earlier this month in Salt Lake City, Utah. A video archive is published online at [www.rootstech.org/video2](http://www.rootstech.org/video2) for about 20 of the presentations. Checkout the videos for the presentations:

- *Scottish Genealogy – Finding People* by Dr. Bruce Durie (RT0620) The handout is available at [www.rootstech.org/bc/content/pdfs/syllabus-2016/rt-1000/RT0620-handout1.pdf?lang=eng](http://www.rootstech.org/bc/content/pdfs/syllabus-2016/rt-1000/RT0620-handout1.pdf?lang=eng)
- *5 Steps to Identify a Family Photo* by Maureen Taylor (GS1532)
- *Proven Methodology for Using Google for Genealogy* by Lisa Louise Cooke (GS2345)
- *Best Websites and Apps for Finding Local History* by Amy Crow (RT2390)
- *Virtual Family Reunions* by Joseph Richardson (GS2623)
- *Cemetery Crowdsourcing* by Michael Cassara (RT2791)

Handouts for some of the presentations are posted online and organized by class number at [www.rootstech.org/about/syllabus?lang=eng](http://www.rootstech.org/about/syllabus?lang=eng). You can discover the class number by searching the conference schedule by topic (e.g. Scottish, Apps) at

<https://rootstech2016.smarteventcloud.com/connect/search.wv>. For example the “Scottish Genealogy – Finding People” class number is RT0620. The handout is found under the category RootsTech (0000 – 1000). In this class, Dr. Durie shared the tip that only on the Scottish 1841 census, ages greater than 15 were often rounded down to the nearest 5 years. Meaning the age 45 recorded on the census actually means the person could be any age between 45 and 49. A person listed age 20 could be any age between 20 and 24. Also most of the Scottish records include the mother’s maiden name except for censuses.

RootsTech 2017 will be held on February 8-11, 2017 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

### Online Radio Program

Every Thursday evening at 8pm Central time, Bernice Bennett hosts a genealogy radio program featuring experts who share research stories, advice, and strategies for national, state, and local resources. Listener call-in and write-in questions are addressed. The program is broadcasted live but all shows are archived and can be viewed for free on the Blog Talk Radio website [www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett). Learn new resources and techniques by listening to the show. Sharon Battiste Gillins of Galveston, TX, who presented African-American research programs at Clayton Library this month, was featured twice on this show. Discover the wealth of information that is available in the **Freedman’s Bureau Labor Contracts** by listening to Sharon’s interview during the December 12, 2013 archived show

[www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett/2013/12/06/freedmens-bureau-records-with-sharon-batiste-gillins](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett/2013/12/06/freedmens-bureau-records-with-sharon-batiste-gillins)

Sharon also discussed the genealogical value of **incarceration records** at local, state, and federal penal institutions during the October 3, 2014 show

[www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett/2014/10/03/searching-records-of-incarceration-with-sharon-batiste-gillins](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett/2014/10/03/searching-records-of-incarceration-with-sharon-batiste-gillins)



## Recap January Program – Modern Military Research

Thank you Irene Walters for presenting an informative program on strategy, resources and records available for relatives involved in war or military actions since 1898. Her handout is posted on the BAGS website, click on **Members Page**, enter password, and click on **Archived Meeting Handouts**. Irene stressed that the National Archives maintains the service



Kim Zrubek and Irene Walters

records for people who were discharged from the military more than 62 years ago. The National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO maintains the service records for discharges occurring less than 62 years. Also person can receive a discharge for each war or military action or war for which they were involved.

## Social Security Applications

During the January meeting, member David Zwahr recommended looking in the Social Security Applications Index collection available in Ancestry.com when you cannot find a death certificate for a person born in the 1900s. This collection represents more than 49 million people. The records include date and place of birth, father's name, and mother's maiden name. Access this collection in **Ancestry.com** by clicking on **Search** and then **Card Catalog**. In the Title search box, enter the terms **social security**. In the results, click on the collection titled **U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007**. The records in this collection are just a transcribed index of the original applications. You can obtain a copy of the person's original full Social Security application (called a SS-5) for a fee through the Social Security Administration (SSA). The application (and possibly index) includes details on changes made to the applicant's application record, including name changes or information on claims that were recorded. The most common types of claims noted include: Original SSN (when the original application was submitted to obtain a SSN), Life Claim (when a claim was made for disability or retirement benefits), Death Claim (when a claim was made by a surviving family member for death or survivor benefits), and Duplicate SSN (usually used when an application was made to replace a SS card, it may also indicate a change in SSN or that more than one SSN was assigned).

The current fee for ordering a SS-5 is USD \$27 per record when the Social Security Number is known, and USD \$29 when the number is unknown or incorrect. You are charged the fee even if the SSA is unable to locate any information on the person. Order either online and pay with a credit card at

<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp> or by postal mail a check and the SSA-711 form "Request for Deceased Individual's Social Security Record" found online at <https://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-711.pdf>

## Thanks to Our Generous Supporters!

We want to recognize and to express our deep appreciation to those members who showed their support for BAGS in the 2015-2016 Society year by making an additional donation along with their membership fee.

**Thank you! Your support makes a difference!**

### Lifetime

Loren Martin  
Bob Wegner

### Patron

Deborah Cole  
Wally Davenport  
Resa Hennings  
Barbara Larsen  
Jeanine Lawrence

### Benefactor

Lisa Smith

### Contributor

Lori Cole  
Bonnie Conrad  
Betty Dunquez  
Bill Mayo  
Laura McKensie  
Neil Miserendino  
Glenda Stroud  
Polly Swerdlin  
Kathie Chaffee  
Judy Wright

## Fun trivia shared by Bill Mayo: The Song *God Bless America*



Irving Berlin originally wrote the song in 1918 as the finale to an all-soldier revue called *Yip, Yip, Yaphank*, but he later dropped it. In 1938, Berlin revised the music as a “peace song” in response to the escalating conflict in Europe. The song was first performed by Kate Smith during her radio show on November 10, 1938, the eve of the first official celebration of Armistice Day (now Veteran’s Day). You can watch Kate’s performance online on YouTube at

[www.youtube.com/embed/TnQDW-NMaRs?rel=0](http://www.youtube.com/embed/TnQDW-NMaRs?rel=0)

All royalties collected for any performance of the song in commercial contexts goes to the God Bless America Fund (created by Berlin in 1940) through which the funds are donated to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts (now focused on the scouts in the greater New York City area). The song will remain under copyright until the year 2034.

## Historic Newsreel Sources

**Universal Newsreel** was produced from 1929 to 1967, released twice a week, and shown before a feature film or in a dedicated newsreel theater. Each issue contained six or seven short stories, usually one to two minutes in length, covering world events, politics, sports, fashion, and whatever else might entertain the movie audience. Universal City Studios gifted Universal Newsreel to the American people, put the newsreels into the public domain, and gave film materials to the National Archives in 1976.



Surviving materials from the entire collection are available at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. View these newsreels online at

[https://archive.org/details/universal\\_newsreels&tab=collection](https://archive.org/details/universal_newsreels&tab=collection) and sort by the published date or choose a topic.

**British Movietone** also offers an online newsreel archive, spanning the period 1895 to 1986 capturing many of the world’s news events, celebrities, sports, music, social history, science, lifestyle and quirky happenings. Access the videos on YouTube at

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCHq777\\_waKMJw6SZdABmyaA/videos](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHq777_waKMJw6SZdABmyaA/videos) You can learn more about AP Archive and British Movietone at [www.aparchive.com/HowWeWork](http://www.aparchive.com/HowWeWork)

The research guide published by the **Museum of the Moving Image Source** lists additional online historical film collections including archival film of American life at the turn of the 19th century, San Francisco 1906 fire, reenacting the Spanish-American War, Soviet Estonia in the 1950s, the raid on Dieppe, France on August 19, 1942, and the independence struggles in India and Pakistan. Access these archives at [www.movingimagesource.us/research/guide/132](http://www.movingimagesource.us/research/guide/132)

## 5-Gen Information

Throughout the year, send your partially completed or updated 5-generation charts (pedigree charts) to Garry Garrett. These charts are used to communicate family connections among members. View the current list of charts by accessing the BAGS website ([www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org)), click **Members Page**, enter password, and then click on **Members 5 Generation Charts**. The list is organized by surname. For females, they appear under their maiden name with their current surname listed in quotes. Ask the registrar for the password to access the **Members Page**.



## Local Events

---

### **From Post to Pre-Civil War: The African American Experience in Records on Saturday, February 20**

In honor of African American History Month, Clayton Library is offering a series of classes presented by Clayton Library staff members Rodney Sam and Franklin Smith. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. The library is located at 5300 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77004

#### **10:30am to 11:30am: First Louisiana Guard: The Life of a Free Man of Color in a Southern Union Regiment**

This program will show how the life of Casimir Sam, who served in the Civil War, can be reconstructed through the use of military records.

#### **11:45am to 12:45pm: Researching Pre-Civil War Slave Ancestors - Identifying the Slaveholder**

Learn tips and strategies for identifying the slaveholder using post-Civil War records and information. Use the surname and location approach with the 1870 community to narrow down the potential slaveholder candidates.

#### **2:00pm to 4:00pm: Library Orientation**

### **Texas Heritage Day at Clayton Library on Saturday, March 5**

Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600.

#### **10:30am to 11:30am: Connecting Texas African American Ancestors to Slaveholders: Sources, Tips and Search Strategies**

Learn to utilize Texas's rich and unique sources with standard sources to link your ancestors to slaveholder candidates.

#### **11:45am to 12:45pm: Researching Your Texas German Ancestor**

Elizabeth "Liz" Nitschke Hicks, genealogy editor for the German-Texan Heritage Society, will discuss German emigration contracts, declaration and naturalization records, church records, colonization records, published resources, and manuscript resources.

#### **1:30pm to 2:30pm: Texas Resources**

This class will focus on a few of the vast historical resources available for researching your Texas ancestors. We will discuss resources available at Clayton Library, both in-house and through online databases, and from other institutions, such as the Texas State Library, Texas General Land Office, and records held at the county level.

### **WWII USS Houston Survivors of Sunda Strait**

**Wednesday, February 24 at 7pm at the Friendswood Public Library.** Come learn about the *USS Houston* and its crew, the military events leading up to and during the Sunda Strait Battle, and the survivors' experiences as prisoners building a railroad from Burma to Thailand.

### **Free Family History Conference**

**Saturday, February 27 from 8am to 4pm** in the Summerwood Stake Center located at 14350 North Sam Houston Parkway, 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. Open to all teenagers through adults of any skill level. Bring a lunch or go out to eat. Participate in 6 hours of live classes, 5 one-on-one lab sessions. Access the complete schedule, course list, and registration online at <http://houstonfamilysearch.com/summerwood>

### **Houston Genealogical Form**

**Saturday, March 5 from 10am to 3pm** Michael D. Lacopo, DVM will speak on the Swiss German immigration to America and include the Anabaptists, the Amish, and the Mennonites who were of Swiss origin and who immigrated to America in two large waves. Program held at the Bayland Community Center. More information and registration is online at <http://hgftx.org/event/hgf-program-to-be-determined-5>