



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 15, Issue No. 6

April 2016

Friday, April 29, 2016: Texas Archives Depository Resources

Public Invited. Join us at 6:30pm for socializing. Meeting begins at 7pm

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

The Texas State Library Archives Commission (TSLAC) maintains a Regional Historical Resource Directory System made up of 23 libraries within the state that collects, preserves, and makes available for public use historical records of the local governments of Texas. Come discover where these depositories are located, their diverse record collection, and the procedures for public access.

Alana Inman, manager of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, TX will present this program. The Center (www.tsl.texas.gov/shc) is one of the TSLAC depositories serving as the official regional historical resource depository for ten southeast Texas counties (Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler). Ms. Inman will explain the regional historical resource depository system and how it can provide access to county government records throughout the state. She will also identify other resources available at the Center that are useful for family historians.



Alana Inman

Ms. Inman is currently managing a variety of projects, including a two million dollar renovation of the buildings and grounds that will include a new exhibit on southeast Texas history in an updated museum space; the online cataloging of the Center's books and periodicals; the creation of online databases for map and judicial records collections; and the posting of archival finding aids online. Prior to joining the Sam Houston Center in 2012, Alana worked at the Missouri State Archives for more than eight years. She is a member of the Liberty Rotary Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, Order of the Eastern Star, and several other organizations.

**Catch the bus to Clayton Library
Tuesday, May 10. Details on page 3.**

**Pick up your copy of the March
Journal and the Society Yearbook.**

**DATE Change for the May meeting.
Details on page 3.**

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 President's Message, New Member Welcome
- 3 BAGS Event Calendar
- 4 Mount Hebron Cemetery App by Lisa Smith
- 5 BAGS News, Treasurer's Report
- 6 Surprises in Newspapers by Annette Bowen
- 7 Education Corner
- 8 Local Events



BAGS Officers 2015-2017

President

Loren Martin

President@TxBayAreaGen.org

First Vice President

Nick Cimino

VicePresident@TxBayAreaGen.org

Second Vice President

Kim Zrubek

VicePresident2@TxBayAreaGen.org

Recording Secretary

Vacant

RecordingSec@TxBayAreaGen.org

Corresponding Secretary

Judy Wright

CorrespondSec@TxBayAreaGen.org

Treasurer

Billy Mayo

Treasurer@TxBayAreaGen.org

Registrar

Bob Wegner

Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

Newsletter Staff

Editor / Compositor

Kim Zrubek

newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org

Proofreaders

Chester Karrick

Photographer

Bill Mayo, Neil Miserendino

Distributor

Neil Miserendino

Web Editors

Polly Swerdlin and Garry Garrett

President's Message



I urge all members to take advantage of two excellent benefits of BAGS membership. The first benefit is the 'Members Helping Members' sessions where attendees have a chance to work together assisting each other. These casual meetings provide the opportunity to share, learn and network. There always are new practical genealogy research tips and techniques to learn. The second benefit is the

bus trips to Clayton Library. Let someone else drive while you network with fellow genealogists, visit one of the best genealogical libraries in the nation, and lunch at Cleburne Cafeteria. Voluntary donations are collected for the bus service to support the Harris County Senior Programs. The future dates for these activities are published on the website and in this newsletter on page 3.

Your BAGS Board has asked attendees at the past general meetings to voice their interest in various possibly projects such as 1) creating an updated supplement to the BAGS Cookbook, 2) hosting a service project recording genealogical information for a local cemetery, 3) ordering BAGS branded merchandise for sales, or 4) conducting a seminar or any other project. Thank to everyone who has responded so far. Now the same survey will be emailed out to the membership requesting a response. The Board appreciates the input on directing our future planning so we can make BAGS an even better genealogical organization.

Remember to frequently access our excellent web site, www.TxBayAreaGen.org, for updated messages and information regarding BAGS and its activities.

Loren Martin

Welcome New Member

Ann H. Beardshall from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

She is researching the surnames Ostermayer, Wesendonck, Nidermaier, Hardy, and McClain in Texas, Virginia, and Prussia. She is willing to help members with Mississippi and Virginia research.

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

All rights reserved.

2016 BAGS Calendar



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.



Tuesday, May 10 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library If you want to ride on the bus, please signup by contacting Mary Martin by phone 281-332-2435 or e-mail 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.



Monday, May 16 at 6:30pm: Board Meeting at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



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.



Sunday, June 12 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members for both beginners and advanced researcher. Meet at Helen Hall Library. The next meeting date is Sunday, July 10.



Monday, June 20 at 6:30pm: Board Meeting at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



Friday, June 24 at 7:00pm: General Meeting at the University Baptist Church in the Chapel. Socializing starts at 6:30pm. Program: Bill Buckner, West Waco Library & Genealogy Center Division Manager, will discuss Digital Public Library of America genealogy resources.



Wednesday, July 6 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library



Sunday, July 10 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members for both beginners and advanced researcher. Meet at Helen Hall Library. The next meeting date is Sunday, August 14.



Friday, July 29 at 7:00pm: General Meeting at the University Baptist Church in the Chapel. Helen Mooty, BAGS member and retired Director of the Galveston County Museum, will discuss her experience working with PBS Genealogy Roadshow in researching and recording her story.



Sunday, August 14 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members for both beginners and advanced researcher. Meet at Helen Hall Library.



Friday, August 26 at 7:00pm: Annual Show & Tell with Potluck Dinner. General Meeting at the University Baptist Church in the Chapel. Share a brief family story about a treasured item, important family event, or research discovery.



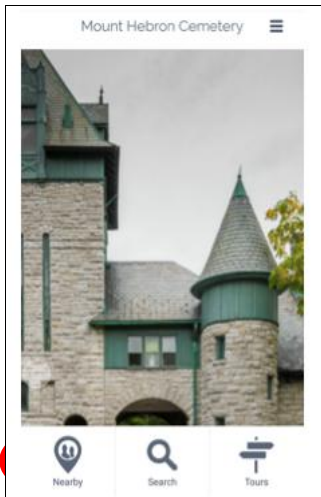
Tuesday, September 20 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library



Friday, September 30 at 7:00pm: General Meeting. Kathleen Maca, BAGS member and author of *Galveston's Broadway Cemeteries*, will discuss her research process and resources used to uncover the personal stories behind the gravestones.

Mount Hebron Cemetery App by Lisa Smith

[editor note: BAGS member Lisa Smith recently moved to Virginia and began attending Shenandoah Valley Genealogical Society where she discovered cemeteries creating mobile apps to make their records more accessible.]

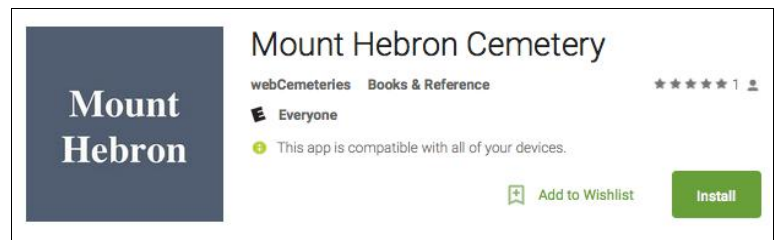


Mount Hebron (www.mthebroncemetery.org) is one of Shenandoah Valley's most beautiful and historic cemeteries, located in downtown Winchester, Virginia. It is the resting place of both the ordinary and the famous. Many Civil and Revolutionary War veterans are buried here.

The cemetery, in conjunction with www.webcemeteries.com, has created a free mobile app that integrates burial records with photos, maps, and videos. Search the records of those interred or entombed, virtually tour the cemetery with videos and photos of notable people, landmarks, and burial sites. View living memorials, photos, videos, and condolences shared by family and friends.

Use this mobile app at home and in the cemetery. The Mount Hebron app can be downloaded to any Android or iOS mobile device.

At home, open the app, choose search, and enter a person's name. All graves sharing that name will be listed. Choose an entry to view the person's information sheet, then tap the Map icon to view the grave location. Tap the Video icon to see the narrated YouTube video.



Many narrations are also transcribed below the icons. For example, enter the surname Kurtz. Both Adam and Lucy Fitzhugh Kurtz are listed. Tap on Lucy's name and view her headstone, tap the Video icon to listen to a short biography documenting her achievements in the Daughters of the American Revolution.



If you are actually in the cemetery, open the mobile app and touch "Nearby" to view grave sites within 200 feet of your GPS location (you must have GPS enabled on your mobile phone). Tap a blue 'pin' to view information about that grave marker including the person's name, birth and death dates, and grave's section and space location.

At home or in the cemetery, you can select various 'tours' to find interesting people interred in the cemetery. Mount Hebron currently has four tours available: Civil War (Confederate Stonewall Cemetery section), Places of Interest, Revolutionary War (Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery section), and Winchester Notables (18th - 21st century). When you select a tour, you will see a map and a list of people that are featured in that tour. Lucy Kurtz, noted above, is found in the Winchester Notables Tour.

WebCemeteries has created searchable websites and mobile apps for cemeteries in over 20 states. Some of the cemeteries that offer the mobile app include *Historic Oakwood Cemetery* in Raleigh, N.C., *West Laurel Hill* and *Laurel Hill Cemeteries* Philadelphia, PA, *Beth El Synagogue*, Omaha, NE, *Santa Rosa Catholic Cemeteries*, CA. In your mobile device app store, search "WebCemeteries" to get a more complete list of available cemetery apps. Also view the list on a computer by clicking on this link

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/developer?id=webCemeteries&hl=en> Some of the cemeteries that include a burial records search interface by WebCemeteries include *Cave Hill Cemetery* in Louisville, KY (www.cavehillcemetery.com), *Arlington Cemetery* in Drexel, PA (www.arlingtoncemetery.us), *Hollywood Cemetery* in Richmond, VA (www.hollywoodcemetery.org), and *Hope Cemetery* in Kutztown, PA (www.hopcecemetery.com).

Have fun searching for your relative and learning about the history of Shenandoah Valley!

BAGS News

Recording Secretary Needed

We are still looking for a member that will serve as the Recording Secretary to capture the actions made at monthly Board and membership meetings. If you are interested, contact a Board member.

Memorial Service

The memorial service for Robert "Bob" L. Wegner, Sr. (father of BAGS Registrar Bob Wegner, Jr.) will be conducted on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM in the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church with Reverend Bruce Beisner officiating. The church is located at 17503 El Camino Real, Houston, TX 77058. There will be a small reception following the service in Cockrell Hall located at the church.

BAG\$ Report for March 2016 by Bill Mayo, Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance Brought Forward 29 February 2016	\$6,354.33
December Deposits	\$109.00
December Expenditures	<u>\$340.70</u>
Balance on 31 March 2016	\$6,122.63

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

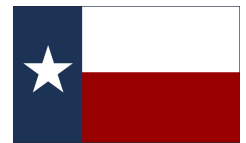
Value on 31 March 2016	\$3,731.79
------------------------	------------

Thursday, April 21, 2016 was San Jacinto Day



The first official flag, the "National Standard of Texas," was passed by the Congress of the republic and approved by President Sam Houston on December 10, 1836 and served as the national flag until January 25, 1839.

The Texas Congress adopted the Lone Star Flag in January 1839.



[From "Flags of Texas" article in Texas Handbook of Texas
<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/msf01>]

Recap March Program – *Chronicling America*

At the March meeting, Kim Zrubek reviewed the free digitized newspaper resource *Chronicling America* (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>) supported by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program handout is available on the BAGS website's Members page. *Chronicling America* is only one of many free online sources for digitized newspapers that you can research from home. Many are accessible through public and university libraries, historical societies, and state archives. Use the Google search engine to locate sources by entering terms that include the town, the state, and "digitized newspapers."

Interested in searching the *19th Century U. S. Newspapers Digital Archive* (1847-1897 which includes *Galveston Daily News*, 1874-1897) or the *Dallas Morning News Historical Archive* (1885-1897) from home? You need a Houston Public Library card. From home, access the Houston Public Library website (<http://houstonlibrary.org>), click on **Research** and then click on **Newspapers** (under Popular Research Resources). Click on the Newspaper of interest and enter your library card number.

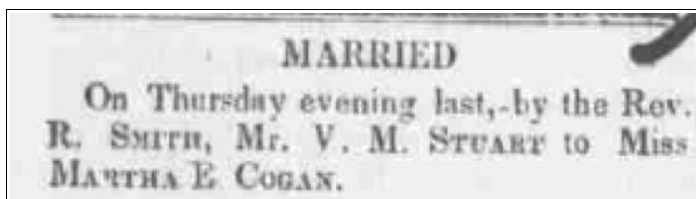
Do you have a Rosenberg Library card? You can access the **United States Newspaper Archives (1753-2016)** which include historic Galveston newspapers published from 1838 to 2015 from home. First, go to the Rosenberg Library website's online databases page: www.rosenberg-library.org/elibrary/topical.html and scroll down to click on "Galveston County Daily News – Historical" and enter your library card number. This brings you into *United States Newspaper Archives* where you can search across the US, or pick a state and/or city to narrow your search. For access to the Galveston newspapers, scroll down to click on Texas and then click on Galveston. Enter a person's name or other keywords for a place or event.

Surprises in Newspapers by Annette Bowen

Since I didn't get interested in family history until most of my older relatives had died, I had nobody to tell me stories of my ancestor's lives. I discovered that newspaper articles could fill in details that are available nowhere else, especially for those who lived in small towns. The major problem with using newspapers has been that they don't have indexes. I have spent hours going through newspapers on microfilm, but unless I have a good idea of the date of an event, such as a marriage or a death, it takes more time than I usually have to spend in archives or libraries.

Now we are fortunate to have many old newspapers online. After Kim's program at March BAGS meeting on the *Chronicling America Historic American Newspapers* site, I revisited it to see what I could find. Much to my delight, I found that it now includes the Southern Telegraph from the now "ghost town" of Rodney, Mississippi, where my ancestors lived in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Using the Advanced Search and the box "with the phrase" I plugged in various names and name variations (first & last names, middle & last names, initials & surname, etc.) In the March 18, 1836 newspaper, I found the marriage announcement for my great-great-grandparents.

I had already found this on microfilm, but then came the surprise. All I knew about V. M. Stuart were his birth, marriage and death dates from my great-grandmother's Bible, and that he was named in the wills of both of his parents. He died in 1849 when my great-grandmother was only 7 years old. My search brought up several ads showing that he had been a merchant in Rodney. On February 26, 1836 was the following ad, informing the public that he and S. A. Cochran intended to operate a mercantile business in Rodney. The August 2, 1836 newspaper announced the dissolution of the partnership between V. M. Stuart and S. A. Cochran and the formation of a new firm, Stuart and Smith, owned by V. M. Stuart and V. B. Smith. It isn't much, but it added one more piece to the puzzle.



NOTICE.


THE UNDERSIGNED having purchased the entire stock of Goods formerly owned by John Payne, respectfully inform the public that they have associated themselves together, with the intention of transacting the mercantile business in this place, under the firm of

Stuart & Cochran,


The stock now on hand, is large and well selected,—consisting in part of
Silks; plain and figured Gros de Naples; fancy Chalis; Merinos; Calicoes; Bombazettes; Circassians; Cambricks; plain and figured Gingham;—together with a large assortment of bleached and brown Cottons; Lowel do.; Super bed Blankets; heavy French do.; Hosiery; Ladies' and Gents. gloves; Shoes and Boots; russet Brogans, &c. &c.

—ALSO—

Hardware, Queensware, and Cutlery.



GROCERIES
CONSISTING OF



Tea, Coffee, Sugar, &c.

SALT, CANDLES, &c. &c.

They invite the citizens of Rodney and its vicinity to give them a call; and by constant attention to business, they hope to obtain a fair proportion of the public patronage.

V. M. STUART.
S. A. COCHRAN.

Rodney, Dec. 13, 1835. 45—tf.

Dissolution.

The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, was this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business will hereafter be conducted under the name and style of **STUART and SMITH**, who stands charged with the settlement of the former firm.

V. M. STUART.
S. A. COCHRAN.

Rodney, July 21, 1836 24—tf

NEW FIRM.

THE subscribers having entered into partnership for the purpose of transacting the mercantile business under the firm of **STUART and SMITH**, respectfully inform their friends and the public that they have on hand and will continue to keep a general assortment of **MERCHANDISE, PRODUCE, GROCERIES &c.** They hope to merit a share of public patronage by attention to business.

V. M. STUART.
V. B. SMITH.

Rodney, July 21, 1836 24—tf

JUST RECEIVED a choice lot of **KENTUCKY JANES, LINSEY and SOCKS.**

STUART & SMITH.

Rodney, July 21 1836 24—3ts

Newspapers are continually being added to this site. If you don't find your ancestors now, try again in a few weeks or months.

BAGS Education Corner

Members Helping Members Sessions New Dates and Location!

**No meeting in May. Next dates are:
Sunday, June 12, July 10, and August 14
from 2:00 to 4:00pm at**

**Helen Hall Library, 100 W. Walker, League City which
is on Hwy 3 one light south of FM 518.**



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

Spend some quality time researching with friends, in groups or one-on-one. Ask questions and share ideas. Bring your laptop or mobile device. Free WiFi connection is available inside the library.

On Sunday, April 10 a group met at Helen Hall and exchanged research ideas, resources, and goals. Topics discussed ranged from newspaper resources for Wisconsin and Louisiana, finding divorce information in the newspaper and courthouse, colonial marriage and divorce, and record sources for Norway, Sweden and Wisconsin. A couple of specific tips shared:

- Amanda Pearson recommends *Genealogy Bank* for New Orleans newspapers and the local LDS Family History Center for *Newspapers.com* access (also available in any Houston Public Library branch and remotely through Rosenberg Library in Galveston).
- Electronic copies of Florida death certificates can be ordered online for \$5. The FamilySearch Research Wiki article “How to Find Florida Death Records” explains what information is available from 1877 to present (https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Florida_Death_Records).
- Louisiana marriage and death records older than 50 years and birth records older than 100 years can be ordered online for \$5, online index search is available at www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/Pages/OnlinePublicVitalRecordsIndex.aspx.
- Annette Bowen found some useful information at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison, WI. Their website www.nagcnl.org contains good information that anybody can use. The website for the Digital Archives of Norway is <http://arkivverket.no/Digitalarkivet> It includes transcribed databases and census records as well as the scanned original church records, written in Norwegian using Gothic script. Install and use the Google Chrome web browser to view the web pages in English.

TxSGS Conference proposal deadline May 15, 2016

Would you like to share your genealogy knowledge with others? TSGS is now accepting presentation proposals for this 2016 conference. The areas of interest may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Basic genealogical topics (How-To, or Getting Started)
- Methodology and problem-solving techniques
- Ethnic research topics (African-American, German-Texan, Czech-Texan, etc.)
- Adoptee challenges
- DNA
- Researching in record groups (land records, probate records, etc.)
- Texas- and Southern-focused research

Speakers who wish to submit lecture proposals should follow the published guidelines at the TxSGS Call for Presentations web page www.txsgs.org/conference/call-for-presentations. Presenter requirements, compensation details, and a timeline are referenced there as well. The annual Texas State Genealogical (TxSGS) Family History Conference will be held October 28-30, 2016 in Dallas, Texas and will feature Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL (www.legalgenealogist.com) and Cyndi Ingle (www.CyndiList.com).

Local Events

Clayton Library Programs

The library is located at 5300 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77004. For more information or reservation, call the library at 832-393-2600.

Personal Archiving Day – Preservation Tips for Family Historians

Saturday, April 30

It's Preservation Week April 24 -30th! Learn how to preserve your family treasures. Reservations required.

10:30am – 11:15am: Preservation Tips for Family Historians

Learn best practices and tips for storage and handling of family documents and photos. This program will be presented by Archivist Jennifer Sessa of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

11:30am – noon: Why Digital Preservation is Important for You & Digital Preservation for Individuals and Small Groups

Watch two short recorded webinars on the basics of digital preservation and how to get started.

12:15pm – 2:15pm: Photo Scanner Demonstration

Sign up for a twenty minute demonstration of our new photo scanner and learn how to use it to digitize your family photos and documents.

Remembering Your Ancestor's Military Service **Saturday, May 7**

Learn to uncover the details of your ancestor's military service. Bring your lunch and learn all day. Reservations required.

10:30am – 11:30am: Unusual Military Records for Genealogical Research

Most military record research is focused on service records and pension records. This session discovers more unusual sources such as Soldier and Sailors Homes, Artificial Limbs documents, and others. This program will be presented by Clayton Library Manager Sue Kaufman.

11:30am to noon: Military Research at the National Archives

From three recorded webinars learn about the pension records, regular service records, and volunteer service records held by the National Archives. Discover the information these records contain and how to access them.

1:00pm to 2:00pm: Modern Military Research or, How to Find Your 20th Century Military Relative

This session focuses on records of the men and women who have served in the modern United States military. We discuss records of military service from the Spanish-American War through today. This program will be presented by Clayton Library staff member Irene B. Walters.

A Taste of History: Guest of Honor is President Theodore Roosevelt portrayed by Tom Jackson.

Saturday, April 30 at 6:00pm in the Second Baytown Church Fellowship Hall located at 6227 North Main Street, Baytown. Reservations required by April 22. Tickets \$32 (includes dinner of chicken fried chicken w/cream gravy, mashed buttered potatoes, seasoned green beans, salad, rolls, dessert, iced tea, and coffee). Tickets may also be purchased online at www.baytownhistory.org under "Calendar of Events". Casual or patriotic attire. Proceeds benefit operational expenses at the Republic of Texas Plaza Park. For more info, email info@baytownhistory.org

Save the Date!

Free RootsTech Family Discovery Day

Saturday, September 17 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at 1802 Gunwale, Clear Lake City hosted by the League City Latter-day Saints.