



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

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May 2016

Friday, May 20, 2016: *Finding German Ancestors* and Potluck Dinner

Public Invited. Join us at 6:30pm for dinner. 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](#)).**

Come share food and research, and listen to a program. 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 the program, Kevin Klaus, Information Specialist at the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records, will discuss the German Texas immigration movement of the 1840's under the Adelsverein and how to use the German Collection at the Texas General Land Office. His program includes tips to search for German ancestors who may have arrived anywhere in North America in the 19th and 20th century. Klaus will also share a short case study using various resources and land records regarding the life and story of Pastor Adolph Fuchs from Mecklenburg, Germany.



Kevin Klaus

Kevin Klaus has a background in Anthropology, Archaeology, and Public History from the University of New Mexico, and is currently working on his certification to become a certified genealogist. Over the last 14 years he has served as one of the lead researchers in the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records Program Area. During his time at the Land Office he has searched the early Court of Claims files, German Collection and archival collection to learn more about the history of Texas and discover the amazing collection of personal letters of early soldiers and pioneers who helped settle our great state. Over the past 30 years Mr. Klaus has collected and researched his own family, using government records, letters, photographs, family Bible information, and stories.

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**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.**

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



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President's Message



Each of us have heard family stories about our ancestors that sometimes describe the 'facts' a little different than our research uncovers. One story that I recently saw proved that there definitely are two sides to an event or a person's biography.

The published family book told the very interesting and uplifting story about a maternal great-great-uncle, John Thomas. The book stated "He was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets, and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad company. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1889, John Thomas suddenly passed away during an important civic function, held in his honor, when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

A family researcher traveled to Montana to try and discover more details about this great-great-uncle. What he found-out was that John Thomas was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in 1889. One photograph was found of him that showed him standing on the gallows. On the back was written "He was a horse thief, sent to the Territorial Prison in 1885, escaped in 1887, robbed the Northern Pacific six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889."

The one truth that I found regarding this story is that all 'facts' must be documented in reliable sources.

Good luck to each of you in your detective work with census and other government records and with reliable published volumes. Carefully log all sources for your information.

Loren Martin

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

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2016 BAGS Calendar



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 researchers. 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 researchers. 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.



(NEW) Saturday, August 6 at Rice University: Joshua Taylor (host on PBS Genealogy Roadshow) hosted by Clayton Library Friends and BAGS.

Taylor will present 4 programs. See page 5.

Sunday, August 14 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members for both beginners and advanced researchers. 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.



Friday, October 28 at 7:00pm: General Meeting. Fidel Ramirez, Social Media and Technology Director for Clayton Library Friends, will present "Genealogy To Go" discussing the mobile apps and equipment

we can use to mobilize our genealogy research.



Season 3
Genealogy Roadshow
begins on Tuesday, May 17
at 7:00pm on PBS Channel 8

The episode shown on Tuesday, May 31 will showcase Houston and includes BAGS member Helen Mooty's family history. Helen will discuss this experience and the research results with BAGS at the July 29 general meeting.

Episode Schedule: May 17 – Albuquerque; May 24 – Miami; May 31 – Houston; June 14 – Boston; June 21 – Providence; and June 28 – Los Angeles.

Genealogy Roadshow personnel were in Houston on Sunday, November 22, 2015 to film the Houston episode at Clayton Library, Julia Ideson Library and the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. Over 500 people attended. Thanks to all volunteers who helped make that event such a success. Genealogy Roadshow's goal was to film the stories and mysteries of selected genealogists from the area as well as for local organizations to promote their organizations and to assist and encourage area genealogists to pursue their family history quests. The broadcast will be a wonderful opportunity for national recognition and appreciation for what BAGS and other Houston groups do to promote genealogy. Tune in to watch and participants might see yourself on television.



Resources at State Archives

Each US State has a state level archive that collects and preserves city, county and state government records for public research. The records can include birth, marriage, divorce, death, state and scholastic censuses, military, civil and criminal court records, wills, probates, taxes, land abstracts and deeds, voter registrations, occupational licenses registry, naturalization, mark and brand registrations, newspapers, and city directories. Start with the National Archives' published list at www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/state-archives.html to locate archive contact and website information for the U.S. State you are researching. On the state archives' website, look for "researchers," "archives," or "reference" links to locate information on their record collections.

Are you researching Texas ancestors? Start with the state's "Archives & Reference" page at www.tsl.texas.gov/arc. From there, access the "Online Collections," "Genealogy," or click on "Archives & Manuscripts" and then "Descriptive Guides" to learn more about all the physical and digital collections available. At the April meeting, Alana Inman explained the Regional Historical Resource Depository (RHRD) System which is somewhat unique to Texas. There are 24 depositories located throughout the state that collect and preserve historical government documents from surrounding counties. These depositories are public accessible. If you are researching a specific Texas county, find the RHRD responsible for your county of interest using the "Contacts and Counties Housed" page www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/local/depositories.html also view an index to the county records available on microfilm which can be requested through inter-library loan at www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/local/index.html



TEXAS STATE LIBRARY
AND
ARCHIVES COMMISSION

THANK YOU NEIL!

Neil Miserendino is moving to Florida. We wish him all the best! As a Charter Member of this Society, Neil has actively supported BAGS activities each year. We appreciate his service as President, Vice President, Registrar, Publicity Chairman, Email Coordinator, cemetery transcriber, photographer and general assistance when needed.



I Can Help: Want Ads

- ✓ **Recording Secretary and Assistant** to capture actions at the Board and general meetings.
- ✓ **Scrapbooker** to assist Tammy Frey, Historian
- ✓ **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

Clayton Library Friends and BAGS Joint Symposium Saturday, August 6 at Rice University (SAVE THE DATE) Featuring Joshua Taylor, host of PBS Genealogy Roadshow

BAGS is a co-sponsor for this symposium by providing volunteers to assist in program preparation and onsite assistance during the program. Job tasks include advertising, assemble registration bags, help with registration, lunch distribution, and general direction assistance. BAGS will organize a carpool for members to attend that day. Please consider volunteering to help make this event a success. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS professional genealogist will present four programs:

Finding the Roots of Your Family Legends: Just because Great Aunt Mable said your ancestor was from Scotland, doesn't mean that she was. Learn how to uncover the truth behind family legends and stories, and how to integrate them into your personal writing and research.

State and Local Government Repositories for Family History: Learn how to access the vast numbers of records placed online at state and local government websites during this hands-on workshop. Participants will be able to pick their "favorite state" and conduct a full search for treasures hiding under a ".gov" domain. (Bring your laptop.)

Successful Searching Online: Clustering for Genealogists: Effective Internet searching cannot be complete without clustering. Learn how to limit your search engine results to websites that will be beneficial to you without having to scroll through thousands of results! Strong emphasis is put on learning and using "Yippy," and other search engines.

Putting it Together: A Case Study: Follow a family from the early 1800s to the early 1900s as they migrated from Pennsylvania to Idaho. Watch as records from the home (family bibles and letters) are combined with newspapers, tax records, census records, cemetery records, family files, and other records to compile the family.

Early registration prices for attendance are \$45.00 for members and \$55.00 non-members. After July 5, the price will be \$55.00 members and \$65.00 non members. Lunch options will be available for pre-order (salad or sandwich from Picnic). Parking at Rice University will be at attendees' expense.

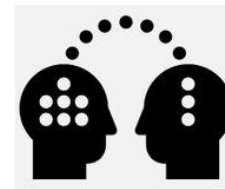
BAGS Education Corner

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.**

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.



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

Using Timelines to Plot Out Your Ancestor's Life

This article published in the *FamilySearch* blog (January 22, 2016) discusses the timelines available within FamilySearch.org Trees, Ancestry.com Trees, and other resources to provide a visual view of a person's life which will help focus research tasks and provide historical context which can often explain an ancestor's movement, occupation, or behavior. The article is accessible online at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/timelines-plot-ancestors-life>

Free access for Texas residents to Texas records on Ancestry.com

Good news for people who are interested in Texas records and do not subscribe to Ancestry.com. The following data collections are included in this free access:

- Alabama, Texas and Virginia, Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958
- Texas, Prison Employee Ledgers, 1861-1938
- Texas, Muster Roll Index Cards, 1838-1900
- Texas, Wills and Probate Records, 1833-1974
- Texas, Convict and Conduct Registers, 1875-1945
- Texas, Court of Criminal Appeal Indexes, 1892-1947
- Texas, Capitol Building Payroll, 1882-1888
- Texas, Memorials and Petitions, 1834-1929
- Texas, Bonds and Oaths of Office, 1846-1920
- Texas, Index Card Collections, 1800-1900
- Texas, Voter Registration Lists, 1867-1869
- Nacogdoches, Texas, Spanish and Mexican Government Records, 1729-1836
- Texas, Land Title Abstracts, 1700-2008 (original records held by the Texas General Land Office)



Thanks to Annette Bowen for discovering this after the April BAGS program. To access these free records, start at the webpage www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/ancestry, scroll down to the bottom, and enter your Texas ZIP code. Complete instructions are posted on this page. Choose "Create A Free Account" (not "Start a Free Trial") and enter a name, email address, and password. Then you can view any of the data collections listed above at anytime by signing into your free account at Ancestry.com. Some Ancestry.com searches may lead you to records outside the free Texas material, at which point you may be prompted to set up a paid account. If you choose not to do so, you may return to the results of your previous search. People that already have an Ancestry.com subscription have access to these records.

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.

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.

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.



Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

August 31 – September 3 in Springfield, Illinois

This conference has 160 sessions, 72 expert speakers from around the world, 10 luncheons with speakers, 7 workshops, 2 interactive seminars, and an exhibit hall. Daily tracks include strong programming on the topics of U.S. Midwest (regional track), the United Kingdom (British Isles and Commonwealth track), and continental European research (ethnic track). Details posted online at www.fgsconference.org. A few printed conference schedules were mailed to the Society. If you want one, contact Kim Zrubek.



Annual Texas State Genealogical (TxSGS) Family History Conference

October 28-30, 2016 in Dallas, Texas
Features Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL
(www.legalgenealogist.com) and Cyndi Ingle
(www.CyndisList.com).