



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

Volume 16, Issue No. 2

October 2016

### Friday, October 28, 2016: "Genealogy To Go" presented by Fidel G. Ramirez

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

**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 discover mobile apps and equipment we can use to mobilize our genealogy research. Fidel G. Ramirez is an IT professional with the University of Houston. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management Information Systems and a minor in Spanish. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Clayton Library Friends ([www.claytonlibraryfriends.org](http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org)) as Director of Social Media and Technology. His interest in genealogy started early as a teenager and has been researching his family history for over 20 years.



Fidel G. Ramirez

***Yes we will have a general meeting in November.  
Due to Thanksgiving, the meeting is scheduled for Friday,  
November 18 at 7pm.***

**Congratulations to member and BAGS Journal editor, Melodey Hauch!** The Galveston Historical Foundation awarded Melodey Hauch and Floyd "Lanny" Martin the Sally B. Wallace Historic Preservation Award in the community service category for their booklet, "Pioneer Families of the 1867 Settlement, Texas City, Texas." The booklet covers the six pioneer families of the Settlement and includes several generations of each family and nearly 200 photos provided by the descendants.

#### WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 President's Message
- 3 BAGS Event Calendar
- 4 Cemetery Research, Sanborn Maps
- 5 Good Reads - Genealogical novels
- 6 BAGS News
- 7 Education Corner
- 8 Local Events

**Bus Trip Wednesday, November 16  
see page 3 for details.**

***Can not make the meeting?  
Do not drive at night?***

***Want to discuss mobile options?  
Come to the recap session on  
Saturday, November 12 from 11am to noon  
at the Friendswood Public Library.***

***New Journal Issue is available.  
Pick up your copy at the meeting.***



## **BAGS Officers 2015-2017**

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## *President's Message*



As BAGS is starting the 16th fiscal year, I thought that I would present my 'State of the Society' report. The organization is in very good shape with an outstanding core group of volunteers and wonderful member beneficial activities. BAGS members owe all the officers, the committee chairs and the other faithful volunteers a huge 'thank you' for their accomplishments that have resulted in assisting each of us.

We are fortunate to have award winning publications with this monthly newsletter and our journal that include excellent content, because of the information furnished by all of our members and the outstanding effort of the editors.

The educational opportunities and the joint BAGS involvement with other Houston area organizations have been a very commendable accomplishment. The 'Members Helping Members' programs have been a great success and benefit with the personal interaction between our members. Each month our general meetings have provided interesting educational programs.

We have started active participation with other Houston organizations to provide assistance and support for their programs. The BAGS co-sponsoring of the Joshua Taylor symposium was a tremendous success. We are now working closer with the Clayton Genealogical Library to more actively provide support, in addition to our bi-monthly bus trips. Our publicizing and attendance at other groups' functions has been mutually beneficial for all.

The 2016-2017 fiscal year officially began on September 1st. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so via the Registrar.

In the coming year, the 'State of the Society' will be even better, thanks to our members and new programs.

*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](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)

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# 2016 BAGS Calendar



**Monday, October 24 at 6:30pm: Board Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



**Friday, October 28 at 7:00pm: General Meeting.** Fidel G. 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.



**Saturday, November 12 at 11:00am to noon: Recap session for October 28 meeting.** Intended for members that either missed the October 28 meeting or want to discuss the program's content. Meet at Friendswood Public Library.



**Sunday, November 13 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members** for both beginners and advanced researchers. Meet at Helen Hall Library.



**Monday, November 14 at 6:30pm: Board Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



**Wednesday, November 16 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](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.



**Friday, November 18 at 7:00pm: General Meeting.** Andrew Shaner will present "Research at the National Archives: A Primer".



**Saturday, December 3 at 11:00am to 1:00pm: Annual Holiday Luncheon.** Come enjoy the holiday spirit and a pleasant lunch with friends at the Hope Village Cafe in Friendswood. Members and guests are invited. Lunch is dutch.



**Saturday, December 10 at 11:00am to noon: Recap session for November 18 meeting.** Intended for members that either missed the November 18 meeting or want to discuss the program's content. Meet at Friendswood Public Library.



**Sunday, December 11 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members** for both beginners and advanced researchers. Meet at Helen Hall Library.

## *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



**Wednesday, January 25 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library.**



**Friday, January 27, 2017 at 7:00pm: General Meeting.** Nick Cimino, Professional Genealogical, will discuss the Genealogical Proof Standard.



**Friday, February 24, 2017 at 7:00pm: General Meeting.** Former Astronaut Retired USAF Colonel Jerry L Ross discusses his experience with transcribing, researching, and organizing the Harriet Dillabaugh's diaries to create his recently published book The Diaries of Harriet "Hattie" Dillabaugh 1889-1940.



**Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library.**



**Tuesday, March 17, 2017 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library.**

## Last Month's Program – Kathleen Maca presented *Digging Up Clues In The Cemetery*

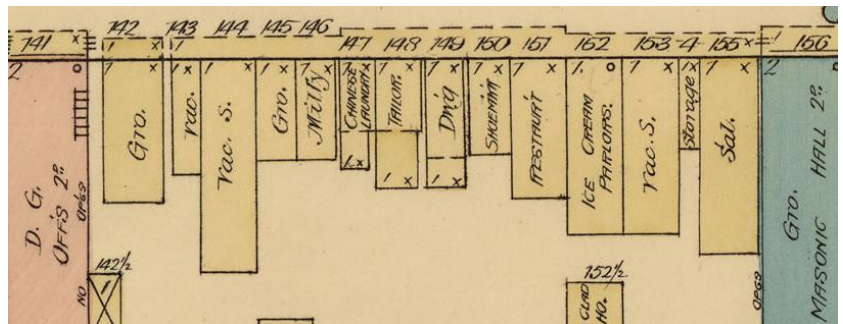
Thank you Kathleen for sharing tips and tricks for researching and visiting cemeteries! She discussed a number of surprising sources for research information. To help interpret the carved images you may find in the cemetery, Kathleen recommended the book *Stories in stone : a field guide to cemetery symbolism and iconography* by Douglas Keister, an illustrated 288 page book covering meanings of images found on grave stones, mausoleums, tombs, sarcophaguses, and stone sentinels.

Kathleen Maca invited everyone to participate in the **Galveston Broadway Cemetery Cleanup Project on Saturday, November 12 from 8am to noon**. There are plenty of jobs available for volunteers of all ages such as picking up trash, sweeping, cleaning headstones, and making repairs. A mapping project will allow volunteers to help us gather the names and dates of the headstones in the Evergreen Cemetery. Start at the sign-in table located at the 43rd Street entrance of the cemetery. There is no need to sign up in advance. All ages are welcome. Children under 12 should have adult supervision. If you would like to clean headstones, training will be provided mid-morning.

In the recap session held Saturday, October 15, Bob Wegner shared with members some of the information Kathleen presented. Bob also prepared a list of cemetery related articles that were published in past *BAGS Quarterly* and *Journals*. These include “Historic Texas Cemetery Designation” by Bill Mayo, “Genealogy In A Cemetery” by Deborah C. Gammon, and transcriptions from Mount Olivet, Crowder, Arcadia Evergreen, Texas City Memorial, Beguin-Opitz, and Serbian Orthodox cemeteries. Kathleen's program handout and Bob's article list are available on the BAGS website, click on “Members Page” and then click on “Archived Meeting Handouts.”

## Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Collection

During last month's program, Kathleen mentioned using the Sanborn maps to determine the existence, location, and names of old cemeteries, graveyards, churches. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map collection consists of a uniform series of large-scale maps, dating from 1867 to the present and depicting the commercial, industrial, and residential sections of some twelve thousand cities and towns in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These maps document the street names and addresses, property boundaries, building/land use and may provide a glimpse into the environment in which your ancestor lived. *Found your ancestor in a city directory?* See if you can locate the address on one of these maps. *Know the city/town your ancestor lived in?* These maps can help you identify what churches, societies, and cemeteries existed at that time in that location. Access to digitized images of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps requires a subscription. Generally, a state library or archive will purchase a license to offer access to Sanborn maps for their specific state. First, go to Library of Congress [www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps](http://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps) and drill down by location on the left (state, county, and city) to determine if maps exist for the place and time period you are researching. These entries do not provide the digital map images. Second, use Google to locate digital map images. For example, from the Library of Congress I found several maps were created for Salt Lick, Bath County, Kentucky in 1908, 1914, 1920, and 1927. Using Google, I entered the search terms: **Kentucky digital sanborn**. The third search result listed “Kentuckiana Digital Library Home” (<http://Athena.uky.edu>) showed Sanborn Maps in the summary – pay dirt! Clicking on the link, I was pleased to find free access from home to the Kentucky Sanborn maps as well as books, journals, manuscripts, newspapers, and oral histories. Note: a message on the page stated all content had been moved to Kentucky Digital Library (<http://kdl.kyvl.org>). However, for now the collections are in both places. From home you can access the Texas Sanborn maps at [www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/texas.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/texas.html)



Portion of “downtown” Salt Lick, Bath Co, Kentucky, 1908

## The Spyglass File – A Book Review by Annette Bowen

*The Spyglass File* is Nathan Dylan Goodwin's fourth book in the Morton Farrier, Forensic Genealogist, series of Genealogical Crime Mysteries. Mr. Goodwin's books combine genealogy, history and mystery.

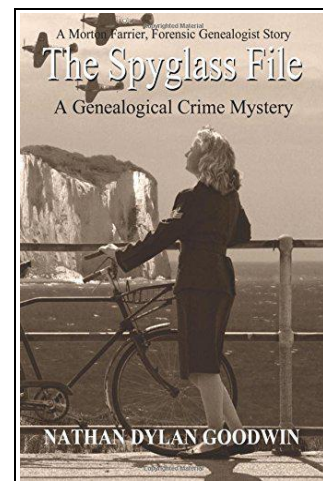
*The Spyglass File* tells the story of Elsie Finch, who married a young soldier two weeks before Great Britain declared war on Germany in what we now call World War II. Within weeks of their marriage Elsie's husband left for France, and she soon got a telegram telling her that he was missing and presumed dead. Elsie, to escape the loneliness and boredom at home, decided to enlist in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). When her interviewers discovered that Elsie was fluent in German, she was assigned to a group that monitored transmissions of German pilots to determine where they were heading during bombing raids over Britain.

Jump to the present. A lady named Barbara, while working on her family genealogy, could find no record of her own birth in the registers. Someone suggested she should check the adoption registers. She was shocked to discover that she had been adopted. Her mother was Elsie Finch, a married lady, but her father was not Elsie's husband. Her father was a deceased pilot named William Smith. After Barbara had come to a brick wall in her own research, she turned to Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist, to see what he could discover about Elsie's role during the war and anything about William Smith, an extremely common name.

Because Morton, too, had discovered as an adult that he was adopted, he agreed to help Barbara. As usual Morton's investigation disturbed people who feared that he would discover their past crimes. In an exchange with his police officer fiancé he asked, "Would you believe me if I said I'd been threatened *again*?" She answered, "Your job's more dangerous than mine! Is this *normal* in genealogy?"

According to Dick Eastman's blog, Forensic Genealogy "usually means to research ancestry by means of standard records AND MORE." Forensic genealogists think differently, looking for clues in non-standard records to add to family history. (<https://blog.eogn.com/2014/06/15/forensic-genealogy-explained>) Mr. Goodwin lets us follow Morton as he searches for information, plugging the fictional characters into actual records. Perhaps he will inspire you to look at different kinds of resources to fill out your own family history.

The books are available on Amazon.com. The author's website is [www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com) I have all four books in this series. If you'd like to borrow one of them, contact me at [annette.bowen@gmail.com](mailto:annette.bowen@gmail.com)



## A short list of other authors that write genealogical mystery novels.

- **Rett MacPherson** writes Torie O'Shea mystery series set in Missouri, start with *Family of Skeletons*.
- **Patricia Sprinkle's** series Family Tree mysteries set in Georgia, start with *Death on the Family Tree*.
- **Fay Sampson** writes Suzie Fewings mysteries set in Great Britain in 1600s, start with *In The Blood*.
- **Steve Robinson's** Jefferson Tayte genealogical crime novel series that takes place in England and Washington D.C., start with *In The Blood*. (Yes *In The Blood* is correct. Titles are not copyrighted and therefore can be reused)



## *Welcome New and Renewing Members!*

**New members Erma Cox and Bob Doughty of Pearland** need help researching Erma's family in Ireland and Utah with surnames Draper and Brady

**New member Debra Hill of Seabrook** is researching family in South Carolina, Italy, England, Ireland, and Netherlands.

**New member Janet Jones of Houston** is beginning her family research and would like some help with surnames Chandler in Tennessee and Arkansas, Harris in Mississippi, Adler in Texas, and Maas in Texas.

**New member Betty Martin of Houston** needs help researching surnames Lotter and Egan.

**Renewing member Ralph Weiss of Dayton** (just moved from Baytown) would like help with researching Weiss family in Pennsylvania and Germany.

**Renewing members Joan and Gustav Homann of Houston** would like help with researching Germany, Argentina, and US using the surnames Gorham, Tufro, and Cabrera.

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

## **Membership Has Its Privileges!**

- ★ **As a member, you have access to research assistance. Come to the “Member Helping Member” sessions where you can discuss and explore research strategies, tactics, plans, and solutions to help locate your family members.**
- ★ **As a member, you have access to recap sessions to discuss and explore information and online resources introduced in the previous general meeting's program. Missed a general meeting? This is your chance to receive the benefit of the Society and presentation information.**
- ★ **As a member, you have access to online archives of Society's surname lists, member's five-generation charts, Quarterlies, Journals, yearbooks, and speaker handouts.**
- ★ **As a member, you receive a yearbook that will help you connect and network with fellow Society members.**

If you have not already renewed, please consider doing so at any of the Society gatherings before December 31, 2016. The renewal rates remain the same — a single membership is \$20; a family membership is \$25; and there is a \$5 fee, if you want the BAGS Journal and Yearbook mailed to you. New this year, BAGS has a Square device to accept credit and debit card payments!

## **BIG Thank YOU to ....**



**All members that renewed or just recently joined.**

**Amanda Pearson** has agreed to serve as the Member Services Chair. Contact her if you need a ride to a meeting.

**Bob Wegner** for synthesizing and leading the recap session for the September general meeting content.

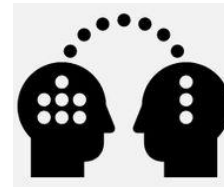
## **BAGS Education Corner**

### **Members Helping Members Sessions**

**Sunday, November 13 and December 11**

**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. Details on information shared during previous sessions are posted on the BAGS website under “Workshops.”

**Nick Cimino, Professional Genealogist, is willing to mentor members interested in working towards professional genealogist certification.**



### **General Meeting Recap Sessions For Members**

*Missed the general meeting?*

*Do not like to drive at night to attend the general meetings*

*Want to discuss the presentation content in more detail?*



These sessions are designed to share with members the announcements, speaker presentation information and handouts from the last general meeting. These sessions are held at the Friendswood Public Library located at 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood from 11:00am to noon. No reservation needed. Just come.

**Saturday, November 12 from 11am to noon**

**Covers information presented at October 28 general meeting.**

**Saturday, December 10 from 11am to noon**

**Covers information presented at November 18 general meeting.**

## Local Events

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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 where noted. Call the library at 832-393-2600 to make a reservation. Clayton Library website: [www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton](http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton)

### **Ofrendas del Día de los Muertos - Day of the Dead Altars Reception** Wednesday, October 19 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

A reception for the exhibit *Ofrendas del Día de los Muertos - Day of the Dead Altars*, on exhibit from October 4th through November 4th. Light refreshments will be served. No reservations required.

### **Library Book Sale**

Thursday, October 20 from 10:30am to 5:30pm and Friday, October 21 10:30am to 6:00pm

All books will be \$10. Included will be compiled family histories, cemetery indexes, county histories, indexes to land records, etc. - all materials that are used in the pursuit of family history! These books are duplicates of books found in the main library genealogy collection. Checks and cash will be accepted. No reservations required.

### **HistoryGeo: Historical Maps Revealed** Saturday, October 22 from 10:30am to 3:00pm

Two sessions covering the tools First Landowner, Place-Finder, and Metes and Bounds Mapper.

### **Out of the Cloud: Preparing for your Research Trip and the Clayton Library** Saturday, October 29 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm

*Found everything you can on the internet on your family? Ready to hit the road? Make the best of Family History Month by coming to this session to learn how to make the most effective use of your time "on location". Included will be an overview of the Clayton Library.*



### **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](http://www.legalgenealogist.com)) and Cyndi Ingle ([www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com)). Access registration, program schedule, and speaker list at [www.txsgs.org/conference](http://www.txsgs.org/conference)

### **Houston Genealogical Forum hosts Diahan Southard, lecturer and author of Your DNA Guide**

Saturday, November 5 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at Bayland Community Center located on 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, TX 77074

In three sessions Diahan Southard will describe the basics of DNA testing and the three main kinds of DNA used in genealogy. She'll also teach you how to start using the results of your autosomal DNA tests to further your genealogy research and use a case study to show how DNA testing can help you better understand your past. For more information, access the HGF website <http://hgftx.org>