



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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

Volume 17, Issue No. 5

February 2018

**Friday, February 16, 2017 at 7:00pm**

### ***The Genealogy of Hidden Figures* presented by Nick Cimino**

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

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



Nick Cimino

BAGS President Nick Cimino presents "The Genealogy of Hidden Figures," exploring family history of three female African-American mathematicians (Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan) who worked at the NASA Langley Center in Virginia and were featured in the highly-acclaimed book *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly (2016). Catch a free viewing of the 2017 Academy and Golden Globe nominated movie *Hidden Figures* on Friday, February 23 at 10:15 in the Clear Lake City-County Freeman Branch Library Training Lab located at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062. This film is rated PG and lasts 127 minutes.

Nick Cimino is a professional genealogist, family history educator and blogger. He conducts research in North America, Italy, United Kingdom, and Ireland and specializes in families of European, African American, and Hispanic ancestry. His blog

[www.AncestorPuzzles.com](http://www.AncestorPuzzles.com) features articles on family history and online genealogy research techniques. He has served as Vice President and Education Chairman for BAGS.

### **The March meeting date and location has changed:**

**Thursday, March 29 at 7pm at Red River Bar-B-Que in League City:** Member Gale French will discuss using free online resource GEDMatch.com to analyze and compare your Autosomal DNA test results against other people from many different fee-based generic genealogy testing companies (e.g. AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage DNA, 23andme). The restaurant is located at **1911 E Main St Suite B, League City, TX 77573** – [online map](#).

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

- 2 Welcome New Members
- 3 BAGS Event Calendar
- 4 BAGS Education Corner
- 5 January Recap, Researching Tips For Revolutionary War Service
- 6 BAGS News, In Memoriam
- 7 Local Events

**Need a ride? Contact Amanda Pearson**

**Members Helping Members Session  
and recap of the January meeting  
Saturday, February 10 at 2pm  
in Friendswood Library**

## **BAGS Officers 2017-2019**



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



★ **Sheila Criswell**

★ **Julie Hayes from Pearland.** Julie would like assistance with analysing DNA test results to help locate her birth father. She is researching surnames Heatherly, Duncan, Quick, and Doise.

★ **Becky Huss-Keeler and Terry Keeler from Houston.** Becky needs help researching Cooney and Husslin in Germany. Terry needs help researching Keeler and Fishel. Terry is researching family in Nebraska, England, and Denmark. Becky is researching family in Pennsylvania, Germany, Belgium, England, and Holland.

★ **Janelle Gantenbein Kister from Houston.** She is researching family in Texas, Alabama, Germany, Switzerland, and England with the surnames Gantebein, Miller, Rucker, Shelton, and Kister.

★ **Thomas "Tom" J. Latson, Jr. of Houston.** He is researching surnames Latson, Driggers, McLeskey, Davis, and Hanna

★ **Steven "Steve" Joseph Manis Sr. and Chaille Sandra Manis of League City.** They are researching surnames Manis, Friedrich, Iselt, and Noack in Texas, South Carolina, Germany, and Prussia.

★ **Scott Merkle** husband to member Diane Merkle.

★ **Candace Scheresky from Pearland.** She is researching family in the Midwest, England, Germany, and USSR.

★ **Pamela and Kerry Welch from Friendswood.** Pamela needs help finding her Kerry Welch's ancestors in the census.

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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# 2018 BAGS Calendar

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## General Meetings

### **Saturday, February 10 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Friendswood Public Library:**

Recap Session for January meeting and “Members Helping Members” research working session. For members that have taken either Ancestry or FamilyTreeDNA tests. Let's look at how to view the match lists, view pedigree charts, upload pedigree chart, and communicate with identified relatives. Consider bringing your mobile device or laptop to view your test results.

### **Friday, February 16 at 7pm in UBC:**

Nick Cimino presents “The Genealogy of Hidden Figures,” exploring family history of three female African-American mathematicians (Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan) who worked at the NASA Langley Center in Virginia.



### **Saturday, March 10 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Friendswood Public Library:** “Members Helping Members” research working session.

### **Thursday, March 29 at 7:00pm at Red River Bar-B-Que:**

BAGS member Gale French will discuss using online resource *GEDMatch.com* to supplement your genetic genealogy DNA tests.



### **Sunday, April 15 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Helen Hall Library in League City:** “Members Helping Members” research working session.

**Friday, April 27 at 7:00pm in UBC:** BAGS and DAR member Alice Braud-Jones discusses using the Daughters of the American Revolution Library online database for research. ([www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)).

### **Sunday, May 20 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Helen Hall Library in League City:** “Members Helping Members” research working session.

**Friday, May 25 at 7:00pm in UBC:** Andrew Lee presents “Family Treasures: From Microfilm to Hyperspace.” Learn ways to search digitized

microfilm records that have not been indexed without having to examine every image one by one.

**Friday, June 29 at 7:00pm in UBC:** Irene Walters from Clayton Library presents “Fáilte (welcome) – to your Irish ancestry!”

**Friday, July 27 at 7:00pm:** Mary Anthony Startz discusses The Cuban Papers, a treasure of Spanish colonial documents from the 16th, 17th and early 18th century.

**Friday, August 31 at 6:30pm:** Show & Tell with Potluck Dinner. Share a brief story of a family item, event, or research discovery with the group.

**Friday, September 28 at 7:00pm:** Sue Yerby will discuss “Digitizing Your Own Family Records” (e.g. certificates, photos and documents).

**Friday, October 26 at 7:00pm:** Gay Carter will presents “Kick-Start Your Enthusiasm: Genealogy Education on the Web.” Learn about the abundance of educational podcasts, webinars, and conference presentations that are available from the comfort of your home on your favorite computer.

**Friday, November 30 at 7:00pm:** Program to be announced.

**No Meeting in December.**



## Board Meetings

Held at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.

**Monday, February 12 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, March 26 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, April 23 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, May 21 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, June 25 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, July 23 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, August 27 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, September 24 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, October 22 at 6:30pm**

**Monday, November 26 at 6:30pm**

**No Meeting in December**



Kim Zrubek  
Education Chair

## Members Helping Members and General Meeting Recap Sessions

### Dates and Locations

**Saturday, February 10 at 2pm at in Friendswood Public Library**

**Saturday, March 10 at 2pm in Friendswood Public Library**  
(located at 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood – [online map](#))

**Sunday, April 15 at 2pm in Helen Hall Library Boardroom** (located at 100 W. Walker, League City which is on Hwy 3 one light south of FM 518 – [online map](#))

**Sunday, May 20 at 2pm in Helen Hall Library Boardroom**

**June in Friendswood Public Library (Date TBD)**

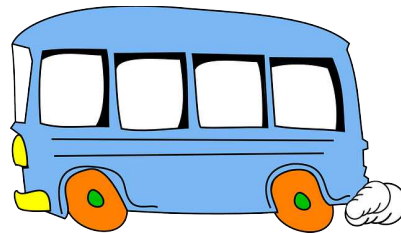
**July in Friendswood Public Library (Date TBD)**

**August in Freeman Library (Date TBD)**

**September in Freeman Library (Date TBD)**

**Members Helping Members research sessions are dedicated research time for YOU. BYOR – Bring Your Own Research and work with others to discover your elusive ancestors.** Bring your laptop or mobile device. Free public WiFi is available inside the library. DNA Help Desk available at the sessions!

**The General Meeting Recap sessions** are designed to share with members the announcements, speaker presentation information and handouts from the last general meeting.



## Research Bus Trips

### Dates and Destinations:

**Tuesday, April 10 to Clayton Library**

**Wednesday, May 16 to George Memorial Library**

**Wednesday, July 18 to TBD**

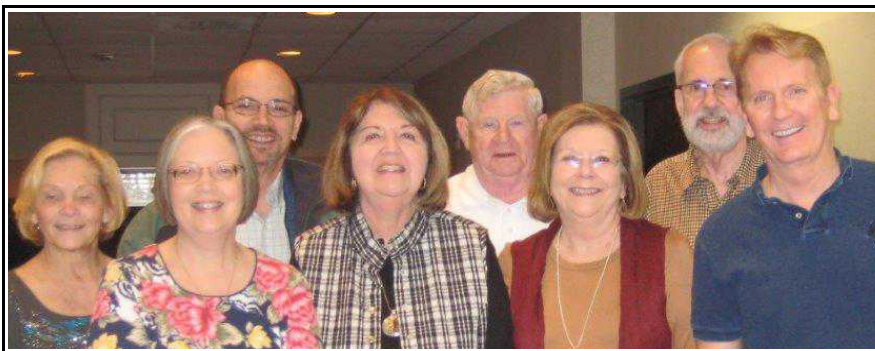
**Tuesday, September 25 to TBD**

For the January trip, ten people caught the bus to the Clayton Library. **If you want to participate in a bus trip, please signup by contacting Deborah Gammon by phone 832-425-9319 or e-mail [gammondc@gmail.com](mailto:gammondc@gmail.com)** This free resource is provided by the Harris County Senior Program. A minimum of nine people must sign up per the county regulations. Board 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 ([online map](#)). The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.



## Swabbed and Found January Program Recap

Frank Billingsley, Chief Meteorologist at KPRC Channel 2 in Houston, gave a very engaging talk about his research to discover his birth parents and make contact with them. He was adopted at the age of 4 months. His book *Swabbed and Found* explains the research steps and connections he made along the way. DNA testing with several companies helped make his first family connection. He encourages adoptees to stick with the research but cautions when you do get a conclusion, it may or may not be a good conclusion. Check out his book from a local library or purchase it from Amazon.com. We had a wonderful attendance for this meeting, 61 members and 65 visitors!



(L-R) Terri Myers, Teresa Rundell, Nick Cimino, Melodey Hauch, Bill Mayo, Susie Ganch, George Porterfield, Frank Billingsley

## Researching Tips for American Revolutionary War Service

BAGS member Liz Strassner is also a member of the local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Captain Gilbreth Falls-Absolom Hooper Chapter. She shared the following tips for those researching ancestors that provided service to the American Revolution War effort.

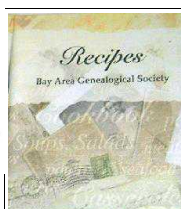
- American Revolutionary War Pensions were only for those who served long periods of time for Continental Line, rather than state militias, and lived long enough to collect.
- Militia duty could last just a few days or a couple of months. Look in different places for their service, mostly state held muster rolls.
- For someone who was not in the military, look for jury duty, public office, surveyor, "Committee of Safety" or something similar (code for rebellion), supply tax, paid for replacement in military.
- Debbie Duay and her husband Ted created a website *Debbie Duay's Lineage Research Corner* which provides a list of resources (including links) on the "Sources of Service" page ([www.learnwebskills.com/lineage/hidden2.htm](http://www.learnwebskills.com/lineage/hidden2.htm)) that could be used to prove service to the American Revolution War effort. The list is broken up by State/Territory and at the bottom are resources for French Patriots and French Canadian Patriots. Some of these resources are part of *Ancestry.com*, *Fold3.com*, and *FamilySearch.org*.

Amanda Pearson, BAGS Member Services chair, is a member of the same DAR chapter and works with Liz and others to research lineage applications. Amanda has had four patriots approved! Some of her research has lead to inter-library loaned books containing colonial and Revolutionary families, and specific state/county public land claims. Her latest proven patriot was John Ward, a private. According to his pension he joined up in North Carolina. After his enlistment time was up, he moved to South Carolina and joined up again. When he was an old man, he moved to Alabama with most of his adult children and that is where he died.

- ★ Registrar Bob Wegner reported BAGS has 174 members at the February 12, 2018 Board meeting.
- ★ During the month of March, BAGS will sponsor a genealogy exhibit in foyer display at the Freeman Library in Clear Lake City. If you have any family items you would like put on display, please contact Polly Swerdlin.
- ★ New *BAGS Journal* issue will be available at the April general meeting.

Available at the general meeting for a donation at the general meetings:

Laptop Brief Bags (\$25)  
USB drives (\$10)  
Cookbooks (\$10)  
Pens (\$1)



### BAG\$ Report by Bill Mayo, Treasurer CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on 31 December 2017	\$5,926.93
Deposits	\$316.45
Expenditures	<u>\$105.50</u>
Balance on 31 January 2018	\$6,137.88

### CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Value on 31 January 2018	\$3,826.33
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## In Memoriam



BAGS member **Hubert Joseph Brasseaux** passed away on Wednesday, December 6. Both Shirley and Hubert enjoyed genealogy research and growing/showing orchids. He was interred at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster, Texas. His obituary was published in the *Houston Chronicle* on December 17, 2017 and online at [www.crowderfuneralhome.com/obituaries/hubert-joseph-brasseaux](http://www.crowderfuneralhome.com/obituaries/hubert-joseph-brasseaux) Prayers go out to his wife Shirley and their family.

**Pauline DeBonis**, wife of BAGS member Joseph DeBonis, passed December 11, 2017. Her obituary was published in *Newsday* on December 16, 2017 and online at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsday/obituary.aspx?pid=187544415](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsday/obituary.aspx?pid=187544415) Our prayers go out to Joe and their families.



**Emily Anne Croom** passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2018. Emily was a genealogist researcher, teacher, speaker, and author of several history and "how to" research books including *Unpuzzling Your Past*, *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists*, and *The Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook*. She presented programs to BAGS several times. Her obituary was published in the *Houston Chronicle* on January 28, 2018 and online at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?pid=187986255](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?pid=187986255) Our prayers go out to her husband Robert Shelby and their family.

# Local Events

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## Clayton Library

The following free programs are offered to adults and teens in the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston. Clayton Library website: [www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton](http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton)

### **Fáilte (Welcome), to Your Irish Ancestry!** **Saturday, March 10 from 10:30am - noon**

Clayton Staff member Irene Walters explores some 21st century methods of finding and understanding the records created by your Irish ancestors: Civil registration, census, and church records in Eire and Northern Ireland. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600.

### **Using DNA to Topple Brick Walls** **Saturday, March 31 from 10:30 – 11:30am**

Clayton Staff member Rodney Sam for a case study of how combining a paper trail with DNA results led to a previously unknown ancestor and confirmed relationships. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600.

### **Food and Family – Memories on our Taste Buds**

#### **Thursday, April 26 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

Food plays an important part in family history. Traditions and memories are created and passed down around the dining room table. Staff from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and Clayton Library Center will present a history of food and family, resources for tradition research, and preservation of those books and recipe cards that are passed through generations.

### **Modern Military Research Or, How To Find Your 20th Century Military Relative**

**Monday, March 5 at 6:00pm** at Helen Hall Library located at 100 W. Walker, League City. Presented by Irene B. Walters, librarian from Clayton Library.

## **Online Classes on DNA Research sponsored by DNAAdoption along with DNAGedcom**

**March 2** (2 week class): **“Just for Absolute Beginners”** (\$29)

**March 9** (3 week class) **“Beginner Y-DNA Basics”** (\$39) taught by BAGS member Gale French.

**April 6** (4 week class): **“The Basics of Autosomal DNA”** (\$49)

For more information about the classes and view a class syllabus go to [dnaadoption.com/index.php?page=online-classes](http://dnaadoption.com/index.php?page=online-classes)

## **Research Strategies, German Records, and City Directories by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin**

**Saturday, March 3 from 10am to 3pm** at Bayland Community Center located at 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. This program is hosted by Houston Genealogical Forum ([www.hgftx.org](http://www.hgftx.org)) cost for non-members is \$20. Four lectures will be offered:

*Oh Where, Oh Where Are My Ancestors From*

*Read the Tabloids: German Church Records*

*Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of German Military Records*

*Reading Between the Lines of the City Directory*

## **3-week class taught by Friendswood Family History Center Consultants Ginger Gregory and Nancy Royce**

**Tuesdays, March 20, March 27, and April 3 from 7pm - 8:30pm**

Discover and practice searching records, building trees and sharing memories on FamilySearch.org, a free online resource. For beginner and seasoned researchers. Class meets at the Friendswood Public Library but you must register with FISD Community Education Department either online or by postal mail at <http://myfisd.com/community-ed> Class fee is \$20.