



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

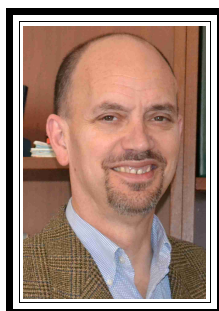
Volume 19, Issue No. 3

February 2020

Friday, February 28, 2020 at 7pm: Nick Cimino presents *Tips and Tricks for using City Directories in Genealogical Research*

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

Nick Cimino, BAGS President and professional genealogist, will be presenting an extended version of his tips and tricks when using city directories to track people and learn about their circumstances. They contain more information than a telephone book! Checkout Nick's blog at www.ancestorpuzzles.com

Due to a scheduling conflict, this is a program change from the originally scheduled presentation by Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, Ph.D, Historian, and NASA Johnson Space Center Archivist. An introduction and access information for the JSC Archives and Oral History project is available on page 4 of this newsletter.

Next General Meeting: Friday, March 27 at 7pm Guest speaker Samantha Bruer, Archivist for Houston Public Library, will discuss how to preserve your family documents and photos.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Welcome New Members, Thank You, New emails to contact us
- 3 BAGS 2020 Events Calendar, Bus Trip photo
- 4 JSC Archives and Oral History Project, Local Digital Media Lab
- 5 Clayton Library News, Recap January Tips & Tricks Program
- 6 2020 U.S. Census
- 7 BAGS News, Treasurer's Report, Cookbook
- 8 Local Events



**Find us on Facebook by name
Tx Bay Area Gen**

Need a ride or willing to provide a ride?
Contact Judy Zavalla, Member Services
memberservices@TxBayAreaGen.org

Need specific research help?
Come to our research sessions, details on page 3 or email
education@TxBayAreaGen.org



Bay Area Genealogical Society website www.TxBayAreaGen.org

BAGS Officers 2019-2021

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Welcome New Members!



- Pat Blair
- Kelly and Jason Kerr
- Debi Kirk
- Robbie Marlow of Friendswood
- Joseph Ball, husband to member Rene Ball
- Gary Lawrence of Friendswood

A BIG THANK YOU to

- Bob Wegner for serving as our Registrar since 2015.
- Garry Garrett for serving as our Email Coordinator, Yearbook Editor, and Pedigree Chart Coordinator since 2015.

Additional ways to contact BAGS members:

- Contact entire BAGS Board: bagsboard@TxBayAreaGen.org
- Need a ride or want to offer a ride to the next meeting?
memberservices@TxBayAreaGen.org or call 832-724-4353
(Judy Zavalla)
- Want a reminder call for the meetings?
telephone@TxBayAreaGen.org (Kathie Chaffee)
- RSVP for a Research Bus Trip:
countycoord@TxBayAreaGen.org (Deborah Gammon)
- Research questions or want to provide research assistance:
education@TxBayAreaGen.org (Kim Zrubek)
- Send information for the journal, published twice each year:
journal@TxBayAreaGen.org (Melodey Hauch)
- Submit pedigree chart to share with the membership:
pedigreecharts@TxBayAreaGen.org (Lisa Franklin)
- Share to preserve Society history:
historian@TxBayAreaGen.org (Bob Wegner)
- Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS:
publicity@TxBayAreaGen.org (Terri Myers)
- Help greet attendees or request name tag change:
welcoming@TxBayAreaGen.org (Jane Thompson)

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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2020 BAGS Calendar



General Meetings

(date or time changes in red text)

Friday, February 28 - Nick Cimino presents *Tips and Tricks for using City Directories in Genealogical Research*.

Friday, March 27 - Samantha Bruer, Archivist for HPL will discuss how to preserve family documents and photos

Friday, April 24 - Jeannette Piecznski from TSGS will present a program on how to utilize other family trees and fix yours when you find it inaccurate

Friday, May 29 – Devon Lee presents Exploring AncestryDNA Thru Lines and Potluck Dinner begins at 6:30pm

Friday, June 26 – Nick Cimino discusses Italian ancestry research

Friday, July 31 – Linda Hudson discusses Quaker ancestry research

Friday, August 28 – Annual Show & Tell with Potluck Dinner begins at 6:30pm

Friday, September 25 – Linda Worsham presents “Digital Scrapbooking Your Pictures and Data”

Friday, October 23 (one week earlier)

Sharon Batiste Gillins presents *Navigating the Freedmen's Bureau Records*



Saturday, November 21 (SATURDAY) – Lisa Smith presents *Genealogy from a Private Investigator's Perspective*.



Board Meetings

Held at the University Baptist Church in room EB105 at 6:30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Monday, March 23

Monday, April 20

Tuesday, May 26

Monday, June 22



Research Sessions (Members Helping Members)

Come get help with your research! Bring your family information to get started. Also, if you missed the last general meeting, pickup announcements, speaker handout, and discuss the program details.

**All Wednesdays (10am to 11:45am):
March 18, April 1, May 6**

Meet at the Friendswood Family History Center (FHC), located at 505 Deseret Dr, Friendswood (online map). Enter the building on the side furthest from the street. Come take advantage of the electronic databases and books that are only accessible from within the FHC. You are welcome to bring your laptop or mobile device. Free public WiFi is available.



February 2020 Research Bus Trip to Clayton Library
(L-R) Deborah Gammon, Renee Ball, Teresa Rundell, Judy Monthy, Nick Cimino, Kitty Olson, Becky Jones, Catharin Lewis, Katie Benoit Hake, Annette Bowen, Gary Lawrence, Lynn Finger, and Oletia Teas.



Next Research Bus Trip - Friday, April 3

Interested in going? Please RSVP with Deborah Gammon via phone 281-334-4950 or email countycoord@txbayareagen.org. Meet at Clear Lake Recreation Center, 16511 Diana Lane, Houston (Clear Lake area/near Freeman Library) by 9:00am. The bus will depart at 9:15am and return to Clear Lake Recreation center by 4:00pm.

Johnson Space Center (JSC) History Portal

https://historycollection.jsc.nasa.gov/JSCHistoryPortal/history/jsc_history.htm



The JSC History Portal is a free online database available for you to view images, press kits, interviews, flight summaries, statistics, videos, etc. for the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Apollo-Soyuz, Space Shuttle, Shuttle-Mir, and International Space Station projects. The portal is part of the larger JSC History Collection that contains 1.5 million documents covering more than 40 years of NASA's human space flight activities and community history, and is also home to the JSC Oral History Collection.

Johnson Space Center Oral History Project

Established in 1996, the goal of this ongoing project is to capture history from the individuals who first provided the country and the world with an avenue to space and the moon. Participants include managers, engineers, technicians, doctors, astronauts, and other employees of NASA and aerospace contractors who served in key roles during the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, and Shuttle programs. Oral history interviews began in the summer of 1997, and since then more than 1001 individuals have participated in the project resulting than 1,299 oral history sessions. You may read the transcriptions of these interviews online at https://historycollection.jsc.nasa.gov/JSCHistoryPortal/history/oral_histories/oral_histories.htm

Are you in the JSC Archives?

The JSC History Collection welcomes materials that document individuals' roles at NASA Johnson Space Center or involvement in the growth and development of the Bay Area Houston community. Information from neighborhood associations, clubs, boards, charities, and other organizations may also be considered. Materials can include: personal papers, photographs, brochures, correspondence, drawings, newsletters, journals, designs, and meeting minutes. If you live in the greater Houston/Galveston area, the UHCL Archives staff can arrange for pick-up of donations. Accepted items will be placed in the UHCL Archives online database for use by researchers and the community. Contact the UHCL Archives staff for more information about donations to the UHCL Archives.

JSC History Collection
University of Houston-Clear Lake
Neumann Library, UHCL Archives
2700 Bay Area Blvd. Houston TX 77058
Open M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Digital Media Lab – Free resource in our backyard

Located in the Freeman Branch Library, this lab offers you the ability to

- Digitize your slides and 35mm film from 96 to 4600 dpi resolution.
- Convert vinyl records and cassette tapes to compact disc or digital file
- Convert 8MM and Super 8 to DVD or digital file.

A short orientation course is required before reservation can be made with any equipment in the Digital Media Lab. The staff is willing to help you use the equipment to get you started on your project. Library is located at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, Texas 77062 (Clear Lake City), 832-927-5420.

American slave narratives – New Collection at Clayton Library

Clayton Library now has a 41 volume set of American slave narratives entitled *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography* by George P. Rawick. This set can be found in the library's USA section under call number: 305.567 A512 USA. In the article *The American Slave Narratives*, Franklin Smith explains what these narratives might reveal about your ancestors and recommends two sources for searching these narratives. This article was published in the *The Clayton Advocate*, Newsletter of the Clayton Library Friends, February 2020, page 5 and can be accessed online at www.claytonlibraryfriends.org/resources/Documents/Newsletters/2020-02-Newsletter.pdf

Love Genealogy and looking for something fun to do? Volunteer at the Clayton Library!

Shelve books or assist patrons at the Microprint Desk or Clayton House Welcome Desk. *Interested?* Contact Elsa Schmieder, Director of Volunteers, or Steven Bychowski, the Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator, at Steven.Bychowski@houston.tx.gov, 832-393-2600. Details of the jobs and training are posted in the *The Clayton Advocate*, Newsletter of the Clayton Library Friends, February 2020, page 6 and can be accessed online at www.claytonlibraryfriends.org/resources/Documents/Newsletters/2020-02-Newsletter.pdf

Recap January 2020 Program – Tips and Tricks

Thank you to our members that shared some tips and tricks last month! The handouts and presentation slides are available on the BAGS website www.TxBayAreaGen.org. Click on **Members Page**, enter password, click on "**General Meeting Handouts**" and look at the top of the list. Or click [here](#) for a direct link to the handouts page. You may still need to enter the password.

Susie Ganch encouraged us to use *Pinterest* (www.pinterest.com) to discover genealogy information on resources, tips, and geographical history. She uses *Photomyne* (<https://photomyne.com>) to scan, touch up, crop, colorize, create collages, make videos, and share. *Photomyne* also offers *SlideBox* (for Apple only) to digitize old photo slides and *FilmBox* (for Apple only) to create digital color photos from old negative film. If using Chrome browser on your computer, add the *Pinterest Save Button* extension to make pinning your findings easy.

Polly Swerdlin discussed the features and functions available in *RootsMagic* software (www.RootsMagic.com) to store your family information. This is available for computers and mobile devices (Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, and Kindle). The latest version is integrated with *FamilySearch.org*, *Ancestry.com*, *FindMyPast*, and *MyHeritage* to provide record search hints and trees sharing. *RootsMagic* version 7 is \$29.95

Melodey Hauch introduced *FindAGrave.com* and *BillionGraves.com* and discussed their differences. Searching and viewing the names on grave markers and cemeteries is **FREE** on both. Use this link to access *BillionGraves* free search screen: <https://billiongraves.com/search>. Melodey encouraged us to periodically search these resources since new entries are continually added. When searching grave marker names, try a variety of name spellings, use initials for first or middle name or both names, and also swap first and middle names.

Nick Cimino demonstrated why city directories are more than a telephone book and fill the gap years between U.S. Census. City directories are available to search in many national, state, and local collections including online *Ancestry.com*, *FamilySearch.org*, and *Portal of Texas History*.

2020 U.S. Census

First Count of the 2020 U.S. Census (an article shared by member Patsy Chappellear)

Did you know that the U.S. Census Bureau's first enumeration location for the 2020 Census was Toksook Bay, a remote Alaska Native village ([map](#))?

Consider the difficulty in enumerating people that live in rural and remote areas. Usually these homes receive their mail at a post office in a near-by town. The Census Bureau does not send mail to post office boxes so extra time and effort is expended to hand deliver paper questionnaires to remote and rural households. This may involve travel by boat, dog sled, plane, snowshoes, horse, snowmobile, mule, etc. Keep in mind, these situations existed for all the past decennial censuses and could be one reason why some families are missing from the records.

TRIVIA

The 2020 U.S. Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. Territories.

**What are the five U.S. Territories?
(answer at the bottom of the page)**

Learn more about the trials and tribulations of the first census counts in Alaska through the centuries, beginning with 1870 in an brief online article published by U.S. Census Bureau at

www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/07/alaska-remote-areas-always-first-counted-decennial-census.html



Alaska in United States,
(from Wikimedia Commons)



Toksook Bay, Alaska
(from Google Maps)

For the 2020 Census, people will have the option to respond by mail, phone, or online. If you want to earn extra spending cash, consider working as an enumerator in your area (part-time, flex hours).

Apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs

(The five U.S. Territories included on the 2020 U.S. Census are: Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)

New BAGS Journal Editor – Please we NEED a member to become the *Journal* editor! The *Journal* is published twice each year. Melodey Hauch has done a fantastic job publishing *BAGS Quarterlies* and *BAGS Journal*. She is now working full time on creating a Galveston County history book.

Journal Articles - Next issue of the *BAGS Journal* planned for March. Send any articles, photographs, or records to Melodey by the end of February via email at journal@TxBayAreaGen.org

2019-2020 Yearbook – It is in production. Please send a headshot photo if either: 1) Your photo was not in the previous Yearbook. or 2) You want to update last year's photo. or 3) You are a new member and Bill missed taking your photo. Email your photos to yearbook@TxBayAreaGen.org

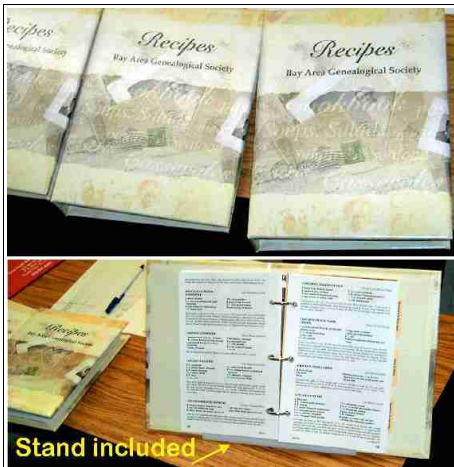
BAGS Cookbook – A Supplement Deadline – May 29, 2020 at Potluck Dinner

Do you have a recipe to share with our members?

We would like to add new pages to the cookbooks on hand and offer the additions to those who already have our cookbook.

Do you have a picture of your dish? Or even one of the originals?

Also under consideration is a better index of all recipes.



An example of one addition will be member Polly Swerdlin's Cranberry Sauce, since she noticed there is only a Cranberry Salad in the originals. You can find the original index on the Society's website: www.txbayareagen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/BAGS-Cookbook-Index.pdf

Please send your contributions to Polly Swerdlin via pmswerdlin@gmail.com with the subject "BAGS recipe". Also consider helping to create the new pages to take to the printer.

BAG\$ Report by Bill Mayo, Treasurer CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on 31 December 2019	\$8,450.22
Deposits+	\$3,959.63
Expenditures*	<u>\$213.59</u>
Balance on 31 January 2020	\$12,196.26

+Deposits: Certificate of Deposit matured. Usual deposits: memberships, donations (e.g. tote bags, cookbooks, USB drives, pens)

*Expenditures: Mailing *Journals* and *Yearbooks*, Marje Harris memorial donation, BAGS business card, January UBC meeting room rental and handouts.

January 2020: The BBVA bank account was moved to JSC Federal Credit Union.

Available at the
general meeting
for a donation:

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



Local Events

Telling Your Family Story with Tropy

Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm with socializing at 9:00 AM in the Bayland Community Center located at 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.

At this seminar, Emily Vinson, Audiovisual Archivist and curator of the KUHT and KUHF Collections at the University of Houston Libraries Special Collections, will provide an overview of the software and demonstrate how she has used this software in her own genealogical research.

Tropy (www.tropy.org) is a free, open-source software initially designed for scholars using archival materials. The desktop application allows users to easily import, edit, and describe photographs and documents for easier access. Through intuitive metadata fields, customizable tags, and options for annotations and notes, you can use Tropy to transform an overwhelming digital accumulation of photos and documents into a sortable, searchable collection to help you tell the story of your own family history.

Genealogy Working Group - ongoing

1st and 3rd Mondays from 10 to 11:30 in the Alvin Senior Center located at 309 W Sealy St, Alvin. Group led by BAGS member Oletia Teas.

Genealogical Interest Group

Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm in the Friendswood Public Library located at 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood. Group led by Luanne Newman.

New Braunfels Founding Family event celebrating 175-year history.

Saturday, March 21, 2020. For event information contact the Sophienburg Museum at (830) 629-1572 or www.sophienburg.com

FamilySearch.org Introduction

Saturday, March 28 at 10:30am in the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston.

This is an introduction to the FamilySearch.org website with the world's largest and free collection of family trees, genealogy records, and learning resources. Bring a laptop if you wish to follow along during the class. Class size is limited. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600.

Bernardo de Galvez Statue in Galveston

The Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1 of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

www.bdgssar.org is working on a project to feature a larger than life bronze statue of the likeness of Bernardo de Galvez on horseback in Menard Park, Galveston (27th and Seawall). Learn how Galvez (Galveston's namesake) served a crucial role in assisting the colonies to win their independence from England and how you can help secure a place in history for Galvez at <https://galvezstatue.org> Sponsors at all levels are needed to complete the project. Any questions can be directed to BAGS members David Zwahr and Bill Mayo who are also members of this SAR chapter.

Czech Genealogical Workshop

April 3 & 4 from 10am to 4pm in the Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogical Center located at 119 West French Ave., Temple, TX. Registration is \$20 by March 20. Get help

- using the Czech Archives (Matriky) for Bohemia and Moravia
- using Stable Cadastral Maps of Czechia to locate ancestral homes
- date and repair photos
- translating Czech
- using TCGS library to pull ancestral information
- understanding your DNA test results
- researching prior to 1700's
- use Master Surname Index

Complete event details is on the Texas Czech Genealogical Society <https://txczgs.org>