



Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 19, Issue No. 5

June 2020

Friday, June 26, 2020 at 7pm: Guest speaker Melissa Corn Finlay, AG presents "Orphans, Infants, and Minors: Genealogy Nuggets, and Pitfalls in Guardianship Records"

Public Invited. This is a Virtual Meeting!



Melissa Corn
Finlay

Melissa Corn Finlay, AG®, earned a BA in Family History-Genealogy from Brigham Young University and is an Accredited Genealogist® professional in the US Mid-South region through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen). Melissa has been teaching others how to discover and share their family history for over 20 years. Find articles and videos on genealogy methodology at her website www.boundlessgenealogy.com. Her personal family history photos and stories are shared at www.finlayfamily.org.

This program and the general meeting will be held online as a virtual meeting. In order to access the meeting, you must register prior to Friday, June 26 by clicking on the link below. Registration is free! After you register, you will receive an email giving you instructions for signing on the night of the presentation. **KEEP THAT EMAIL.** On Friday June 26 by 6:50pm, open that email and click on the link to join the virtual meeting. This will allow time to resolve any connection issues. The program handout is available on our website (Meetings page) and during the presentation.

Melissa's program will be a broadcast recording of her presentation during the October 2019 TSGS Conference held in Houston, TX. However, we hope to have Melissa available to answer questions from the audience after the presentation.

Register to attend this virtual meeting, click

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8764324140807611660>

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

**Annual Membership for 2020-2021
Renew online with credit/debit or PayPal
begins July 1 details on page 7**



Bay Area Genealogical Society website www.TxBayAreaGen.org

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Welcome New Members!



- **Lindsay Kimmel from Schelocta, Pennsylvania**

Lindsay would like assistance on researching Rajtarowski beyond her great grandfather and the surname Hellwig/Hellvig through her Priester line originating from Prussia/Germany.

- **Lynda Collins from Houston**
- **Angela Vitali from Conway, South Carolina**

Angela would like assistance researching her great grandparents family in Poland and Italy.

Additional points of contact:

- **Contact entire BAGS Board:**
bagsboard@TxBayAreaGen.org
- **Need help attending the next meeting?**
memberservices@TxBayAreaGen.org or call 832-724-4353 (Judy Zavalla)
- **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, June 26 – Melissa Corn Finlay presents *Orphans, Infants and Minors: Genealogy Nuggets and Pitfalls in Guardianship records*. This is a virtual program.

Friday, July 31 – Linda Hudson discusses Quaker ancestry research. This is a virtual program.

Friday, August 28 – TBD virtual program. The Annual Show and Tell program usually scheduled for August will be moved to a later date when we can gather together in person.

Friday, September 25 – Linda Worsham presents “Digital Scrapbooking Your Pictures and Data”. This is a virtual program.

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

Currently held as virtual meeting via Zoom. Usually held at the University Baptist Church in room EB105 at 6:30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Monday, June 22

Monday, September 21

Monday, July 27

Monday, October 19

Monday, August 24



Research Sessions (Members Helping Members)

Come get help with your research!

Online help sessions are available to provide an avenue for member communication and assistance. Participants can share their screens and demonstrate recent research discoveries or accomplishments. Members are also encouraged to ask for assistance with roadblocks.

Get the current schedule and connection details from the BAGS website. Click on “Members Page” and then scroll down to end click on “Members Helping Members Page” link.

- **Weekly: Mondays from 10am to noon**
join moderators **Nick Cimino and George Porterfield**
- **Weekly: Mondays from 7:00pm to 8:00pm** join moderator **Kim Zrubek**.
We will not meet the last Monday of each month.

Contact Education Chair, Kim Zrubek to work through your research questions. If she cannot help, another member will be found who can help. Reach Kim by email education@txbayareagen.org or by phone 281-992-2636.



Research Bus Trips

Suspended until Clayton Library reopens and the Harris County Precinct #2 bus trips resume.

Bylaws – Proposed Changes

The following proposed changes to the BAGS Bylaws will be presented to the membership at the June 2020 meeting. During the July 2020 general meeting, these changes will be presented again to the membership, along with a chance for discussion and a vote. The complete bylaws are printed at the end of each BAGS *Yearbook*. A copy of the **Bylaws** and the **2019-2020 Yearbook** (current issue) are available on the BAGS website www.TxBayAreaGen.org, click on **Members Page**, enter password. Thank you to Bill Mayo, Kitty Olson, George Porterfield, Bill Mayo, and Lisa Smith for serving as the committee to review and update the bylaws.

Article IV – Membership and Dues

A. Membership is open to any individual having genealogical interests without regard to sex, race, creed, or national origin. Members are encouraged to submit a ~~Five-generation Pedigree Chart~~ **pedigree chart** in a timely fashion.

B. Categories of Membership:

1. Individual Membership

2. Family Membership

Related individuals; receives one copy of BAGS' publications

3. (add) **Lifetime (individual)**

4. (add) **Lifetime Honorary**

A non-voting individual membership approved by the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") awarded to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to Bay Area Genealogical Society and/or to the field of genealogy.

C. ~~Categories of~~ **3.–Donations (made in addition to dues; applies to the current membership year):**

1. Contributor **\$1 - \$29**

2. Benefactor **\$30 - \$49**

3. Patron **\$50 or more**

D. ~~G.–~~ **Dues and Fiscal Year:**

1. Changes to dues for each category of membership shall be recommended by the Board and approved by a majority vote of the membership at a General Meeting, having been given one month's notice of the proposed change.

2. The Membership Year and the Fiscal Year shall run from September 1 through August 31.

3. New memberships are accepted by the Registrar upon completion of Membership Application and payment of dues.

~~4.– Any member who has not paid membership dues for the membership year by the end of that membership year, shall be removed from the membership roll as of the last day of the membership year. Any member who has not paid their dues by the last day of December will not be included in the BAGS Yearbook for the current fiscal year.–~~

4. **New memberships paid between July 1 and September 1 shall be for the upcoming membership year. All other new memberships will be for the current membership year.**

5. **The deadline for renewals is October 31 of the current membership year. Any member who has not renewed by October 31 shall be removed from the membership roster on November 1 and will not be included in the yearbook.**

E. ~~D.–~~ **Visitors may attend up to two General Meetings without joining the Society, after which a paid membership will be required to attend further meetings.**

In Memoriam



Bettinna "Tina" Medlin-Chatham, Charter Member and Society President 2009-2011 passed away on Monday, June 16, 2020. Our condolences and prayers go out to Walena and Denise and their family. Dignity Memorial published her obituary and tribute movie of family photos online at

www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/pasadena-tx/bettinna-chatham-9222544

BAGS member Michael Hart passed away in May 23, 2020. Our prayers and condolences go out to his wife Barbara and their family.

Local Happenings



Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

The doors may be locked, but staff is answering phones and email. They are available to discuss strategy, identify specific resources to consider for your research, and provide referrals to other genealogical/historical societies or government agencies.

Ask your specific question either via email to cla.reference@houstontx.gov or phone (832) 393-2600 between the hours for 10am and 5pm Tuesday through Friday.



Genealogy Face2Face Thursdays at 2pm

This is a weekly roundtable discussion for Clayton Library Friends members and the general public related to genealogy research.

On the Third Thursday of each month, we will be joined by a staff member of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, a branch of the Houston Public Library.

Registration in advance of the meeting will be required. Pre-register now by
<http://tinyurl.com/genface2face>

DNA from A-Z: Unlocking Your Genetic Code Saturday, July 25, 2020 from 8:50am to 4:00pm



A virtual seminar hosted by Dallas Genealogical Society featuring four professional genetic genealogists: **Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D, JD, Mary Eberle, Patricia Hobbs CG, and Diahn Southard**. All sessions will be live-streamed presentations. The speakers will take questions from the audience following their presentations.

Three tracks will be offered: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. You may choose from 12 classes that match your interest and level of experience. For the class descriptions and registration info, go to <https://dallasgenealogy.com>

Before July 5, cost is \$70. For more information, contact the society at 1-866-968-2347 or info@dallasgenealogy.org



Friendswood Family History Center

**Now reopened to the public on
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
from 10am to 2pm.** Please bring a mask if you are going to ask for assistance. The Center is located at 505 Deseret Dr, Friendswood. Enter the building on the side furthest from the street. Take advantage of the electronic databases and books that are only accessible from within their center.

For Fun – Genealogy Puzzle

Create Your Own Word Search, Crossword, or Matching Game

Spark family members' interest in their heritage by creating your own word games containing interesting family facts pulled from your genealogy research.

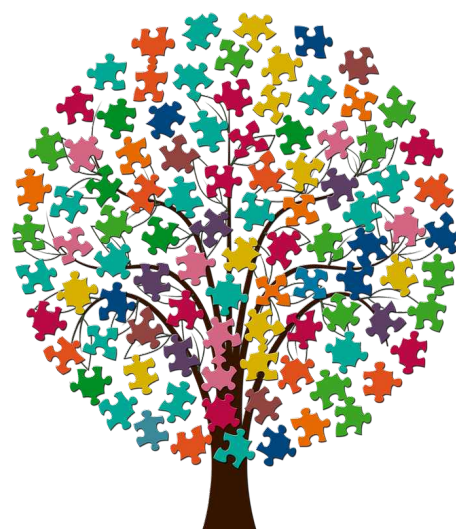
Discovery Education offers generators for crossword, word search, word scramble, and cryptogram at <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>

This is a free site and no registration is needed.

For example, creating a word scramble is easy. First, enter a number of words or phrases (e.g surnames, key events, geographic locations, keepsakes). Second, enter the final word or phrase that will be created by combining the letters from the word list and then click create puzzle button. The puzzle is created and ready for print or copy/paste to share with others.

**Unscramble the following commonly used record sources in genealogy.
Then use the circled letters to build the phrase at the bottom.**

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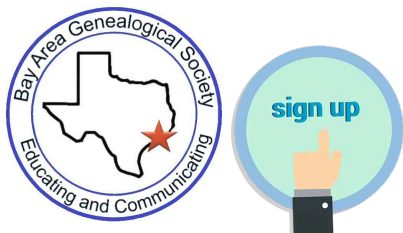
**Answers on
page 9.**

[illegible]



Journals and Yearbooks accessible online!

View both publications, current and past issues, on the **Members Page** of our website www.TxBayAreaGen.org. Ask a board member for the password. In addition, there are instructions on how to print the yearbook on the back page and printing of any or all articles in the Journal from the web page is allowed.



Time For Membership Renewal

Beginning July 1 renew your membership for 2020-2021 Society year online using credit/debit card or PayPal.

Go to www.TxBayAreaGen.org

The new Society year begins September 1.

Sharing Family Food and Stories

Do you have a family dish to share along with a story or photo of the family members that made it? So far, we have 18 new ones and 8 are desserts. We are looking for appetizers, beverages, breads, or candies. We will accept anything up to the July 31 general meeting. The plan is to add new pages to the cookbooks on hand and offer the additions to those who already have our cookbook and possibly publish the content in future *Journals* or newsletters. Please email your contributions to Polly Swerdlin with the subject line "Cookbook".

Yearbook Editor Needed

We are looking for someone to step in as *Yearbook* Editor since Garry Garrett has retired from the role. *Interested?* Please reach out to yearbook@txbayareagen.org

BAGS Info Online

The BAGS website www.TxBayAreaGen.org lists the latest general meeting information on the **Meetings** page, current and past issues of the newsletter on the **Newsletters** page, bus trip information on the **Trips** page, and member helping member sessions on the **Workshop** page. The **Members Page** provides the current and past *Quarterly*, *Journals*, and *Yearbooks*; member surname lists and pedigree charts; past program handouts; meeting minutes; and financial statements.

BAG\$ Report by Bill Mayo, Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on 30 April 2020	\$1,320.94
Deposits+	\$85.06
Expenditures*	<u>\$411.83</u>
Balance on 31 May 2020	\$994.17

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance on 31 May 2020**	\$11,698.98
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+Deposits: memberships, donations (e.g. tote bags, cookbooks, USB drives, pens)

*Expenditures: Zoom Video Communications Contract, Speaker Fee, PO Box rental

**A Certificate of Deposit was purchased in June 2020.

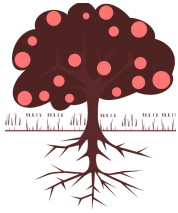
Telephone Committee Members Needed



PLEASE HELP!

BAGS would like to continue the telephone communication and needs a couple of members to serve on the Telephone Committee and one to serve as the chairman. The committee disseminates Society meeting and activity information to members monthly. Please contact Nick Cimino if you are interested.

The Reclaiming Our African Roots (R.O.A.R.) Project



FamilySearch is partnering with African-American museums, genealogical societies, and university archives from all over the country to collect and provide access to millions of genealogical records relating to African-Americans. FamilySearch also plans to interview, collect and make available genealogies from the leaders of African clans in different countries and ethnic groups. [Summarized from online article “The Reclaiming Our African Roots (R.O.A.R.) Project” written by Rodney Sam and published in the *Clayton Crier Quarterly Newsletter*, April 2020 issue]

FamilySearch Online Consultations

FamilySearch is now offering free one-on-one online 20-minute consultations with research specialists from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Book an appointment from the FamilySearch Wiki page “Family History Library Online Consultations” accessed at (copy/paste this link)

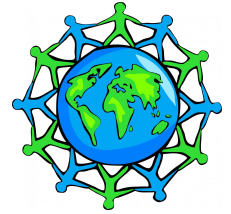
www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Online_Consultations



Consultations with a library specialist are held using Microsoft Teams (step-by-step instructions are also available on the wiki page). They request

you provide as much information as possible about the research problem on the bookings form. Limit to 1 consultation per week. Due to contractual obligations, FamilySearch cannot offer access in online consultations to historical records that are restricted to family history centers and affiliate libraries, despite the temporary closure of these facilities.

Foreign Research: Ask The Community



FamilySearch also supports a host of free, online research communities!

The community consists of people who wish to collaborate and help one another find answers. You can post specific genealogical questions or translation requests regarding a country or region in the world. Many users receive responses to their questions within 24 hours. Find your country and community from the FamilySearch Wiki Page “FamilySearch Genealogy Research Groups” accessed at (copy and paste this link)

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Genealogy_Research_Groups



FamilySearch Live Webinars

The Family History Library continues to offer free live webinars in English and Spanish. The subject matter changes frequently and no registration is required.

View the schedule, access the classes and download handouts from the FamilySearch Wiki page “Family History Library Classes and Webinars” accessed at (copy and paste this link)

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

To date, the following classes are listed for July:

(General) ***Using the FamilySearch Catalog***
Monday, July 6 at 11am (Central)

(General) ***Tips and Tricks for Finding Elusive Records in FamilySearch***
Tuesday, July 7 at 11am (Central)

(European) ***Germans from Russia: Locating Church Records***
Wednesday, July 8 at 2pm (Central)

(United States) ***Where There's a Will, There's a Probate: U.S. Probate Records***
Tuesday, July 28 at 2pm (Central)

Virginia Records

Member Deborah Gammon shared: The Virginia Legislature approved to unlock Virginia state records including all counties and independent cities available in FamilySearch.org. Beginning in July 2020 you can view these records from home and not required to be in a Family History Center or affiliate.



Your Smartphone Camera is a Scanner!

Houston Public Library blog article “Photo Preservation at Home: Scanning Photos With Your Phone” written by Joel Draut, Houston Metropolitan Research Center Photo Archivist, published May 8, 2020 provides tips to reduce glare, reflection, and keystone when using your phone camera to create digital images of your family photos. Access this online article at (copy and past this link) <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/blog/photo-preservation-home-scanning-photos-your-phone>

Galveston Tribune Newspaper

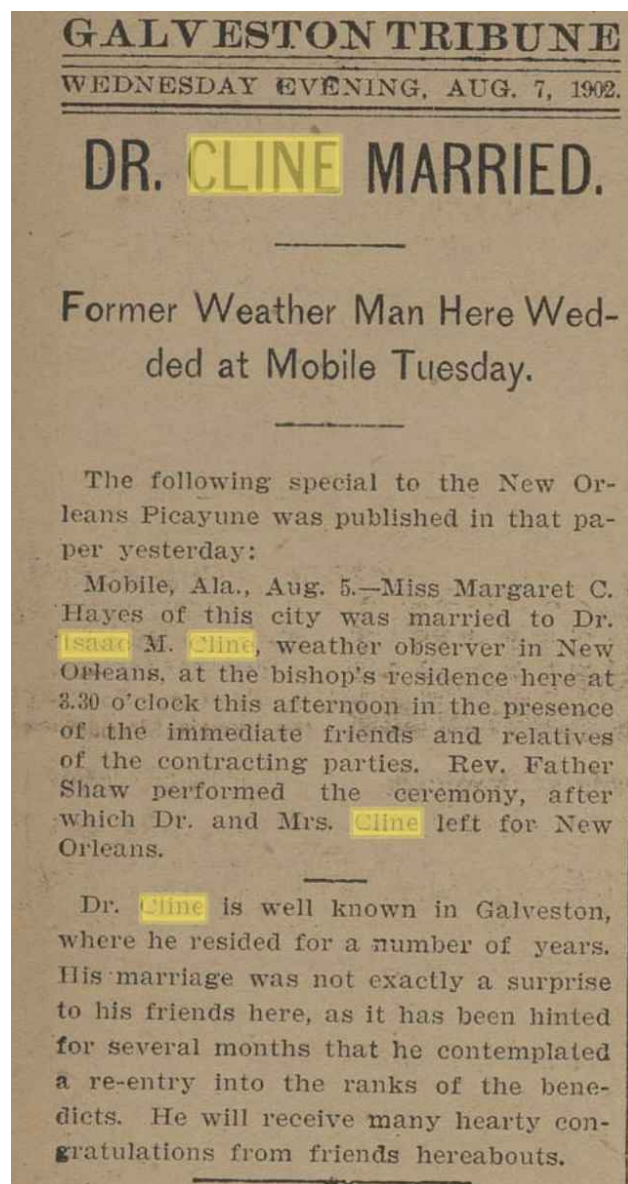
The Galveston and Texas History Center (www.galvestonhistorycenter.org) located in the Rosenberg Library has digitized the *Galveston Tribune* from 1885-1904 and it is now available in the *Portal of Texas History* for you to search and read for free. In the past, this newspaper was only available through microfilm and bound volumes and a limited set of issues were available online in *Newspapers Archives*. The *Galveston Tribune* was published six days a week until 1963, when it was combined with the *Galveston Daily News*. The *Galveston Tribune* ran more social news than the *Galveston Daily News*, often publishing obituaries that were not reported in other papers.

Search and read the online images of the *Galveston Tribune* using this link to the *Portal of Texas History* collection (copy and paste this link) https://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?fq=until_collection%3AGALTR

Archivist Kevin Kinney created a YouTube video “How to Search the Galveston Tribune with the Rosenberg Library”. Watch at www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdRCBm1ow-4

Remember the book *Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History* by Erik Larson?

Galveston Meteorologist Isaac M. Cline remarried in 1902 according to the *Galveston Tribune* article.



Page 6 Puzzle Answers: poll tax, census, land, pension, passenger, adoption, bible, probate, obituary, newspaper, profession, freemen, grantee. Final Phrase: Genealogy is fun!