

BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2020
Volume 20
Issue 1



October Member Meeting (Virtual)



FRIDAY, October 23, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. *(Meeting one week earlier)*

Navigating the Freedmen's Bureau Records ***presented by Sharon Batiste Gillins***

Learn various options for accessing Freedmen's Bureau records. Understand the Bureau's organization and its record-keeping practices to help identify and locate desired records. *(more on page 3)*

It Is Time To Renew Your Membership For 2020–2021

The new Society year began September 1, 2020. Two renewal options available from the [BAGS website](#) are:

1. Click on [Membership Application Page](#), complete the form and click the Submit button located at the bottom. Then pay online using either credit card, debit card or PayPal.
2. Click on [Membership Application–PDF](#), complete the application, then print and mail to the address on the form with your check made payable to "BAGS."

Contact George Porterfield, Registrar, by email registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org if you have any questions on the registration process, cannot renew online or by mail, or want to verify your membership status. **Membership renewal is due by 31 October 2020.**

Why should I renew my membership with BAGS now?

- Keep your access to monthly meetings with local, regional, and national speakers
- Receive a yearbook of contact information to members that share your hobby and can assist with research
- Receive the *BAGS Journal* and newsletter
- Access to genealogy research help in our member helping member sessions
- Access the member's section of the BAGS website including current and past issues of *BAGS Journal* and newsletter, meeting handouts, past yearbooks, pedigree and surname lists.
- Access BAGS Facebook page for links and tips to a wide variety of genealogy resources on the Internet

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Special points of interest

- Welcome Members, Thank Yous, and Winner of early BAGS registration
- BAGS news, 2020 Calendar, Members Helping Members
- Genealogy Word Search puzzle
- BAGS Member Survey

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2019-2021

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A BIG THANK YOU TO Melodey Hauch!

Melodey has served as the *BAGS Journal* and *BAGS Quarterly* editor since 2008. She has done a wonderful job pulling together our research, publishing the content in a professionally looking format, printing copies, and distributing. **THANK YOU, Melodey**, for your gift of time and talent to create all those wonderful issues.

Melodey has passed the "pen" to BAGS member, Lisa Franklin, who is an excellent researcher and writer.

THANK YOU, Lisa, for accepting to serve as the next editor of this publication.

Please send Lisa your articles for our 2021 issues via email

journal@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Are you receiving BAGS emails? If not, notify Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

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 Zavala)

Research questions or to provide research assistance:

education@TxBayAreaGen.org (Kim Zubrek)

Submit information for the Journal, published twice

a year: journal@TxBayAreaGen.org (Lisa Franklin)

Submit pedigree chart to share with membership:

pedigreecharts@TxBayAreaGen.org (Lisa Franklin)

Share to preserve Society history:

historian@TxBayAreaGen.org (Teresa Rundell)

Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS:

publicity@TxBayAreaGen.org (Terri Myers)

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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General Meetings (date or time changes in red text)



Navigating the Freedmen's Bureau Records

presented by **Sharon Batiste Gillins**

Friday, October 23, at 7:00 P. M. (one week earlier)

Sharon Batiste Gillins will discuss the various options for accessing Freedmen's Bureau records 1865–1872, explain the Bureau's organization and record-keeping practices to help identify and locate desired records, and demonstrate how to use the Descriptive Pamphlet for productive research. ***This program will be presented online, and access details will be posted on the BAGS website and emailed to members.***

Sharon Batiste Gillins is a native of Galveston, Texas with paternal ancestral roots in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana and maternal roots in Fort Bend County, Texas. A life-long interest in her family's history led to an active involvement in genealogical research over the past 26 years.

Ms. Gillins earned a bachelor's degree at Howard University and master's degree at the University of the District of Columbia. She is faculty emerita of Riverside Community College. Sharon frequently calls upon her 40-year career background as a college educator to present workshops and deliver courses at regional and national genealogy conferences and institutes, among them the National Genealogical Society and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Ms. Gillins' research and teaching emphasize strategies that can be used to discover details of 19th century Southern life and ancestry in underutilized sources, including that of planter slave owners, enslaved people and free people of color.

Birds of a Feather—Y-DNA Research and Group Projects

presented by **Janine Cloud**

**Friday, November 20 at 7:00 P. M.
(one week earlier)**



Y-chromosomal DNA passes only from father to son, but while the path of inheritance is simple, choosing which Y test to take can be confusing, and using the results once you have them can be even more confusing.

Group projects can help alleviate some of that confusion as well as help focus research through comparison with other testers beyond simple one-to-one matching. This program will be presented online, and access details will be posted on the BAGS website and emailed to members.

Janine Cloud, a fifth-generation Texan and registered member of the Cherokee Nation, became interested in genealogy when a grade school assignment to complete a pedigree chart prompted her to question family members about her ancestors. She started working at FamilyTreeDNA in 2011 where she created the Group Projects – Events team which she now manages. Janine has given presentations at conferences such as the National Genealogical Society Conference, RootsTech and RootTech London, as well as numerous local organizations.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau 1865-1872)

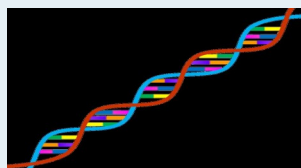
managed all matters relating to refugees, freedmen, and lands abandoned or seized during the Civil War. Both African American former slaves and impoverished whites from the Southern states and District of Columbia were aided. Providing relief and assistance to freedmen, the Bureau issued rations and clothing, operated hospitals and refugee camps, and supervised labor contracts. It also managed apprenticeship disputes, assisted in the establishment of schools, helped former slaves legalize their marriages, and provided transportation to refugees and freedmen. The Bureau helped black soldiers, sailors, and their heirs collect bounty claims, pensions, and back pay. [From NARA. *General Administrative Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau), 1865–1872*. December 2010.]

DNA Testing

What websites have you tested / uploaded your DNA? Please email us the answer to:

emailcoord@txbayareagen.org

Some of the possible companies are listed below. We are considering offering a DNA Special Interest Group.



- [AncestryDNA](#)
- [FamilyTreeDNA](#)
- [GEDMatch](#)
- [23andMe](#)
- [MyHeritage](#)
- [MyTrueAncestry](#)
- [NatGeno](#)
- [GenealNet](#)
- [YourDNAPortal](#)
- [DNALand](#)
- [MitoYDNA](#)



General Meetings

(date or time changes in red text)

Meetings will be virtual through the remainder of 2020.

Friday, October 23 – Sharon Batiste Gillian will share options to access Freedmen's Bureau records and tips to understanding this record group.

Friday, November 20 – Janine Cloud will present on turning your DNA research focus to group projects as an added tool to utilize.



2021 BAGS CALENDAR

Research Sessions

(Members Helping Members)

Get help with your research!



If you would like to brainstorm a research brick wall, gather suggestions, learn how to use an online resource, ask questions, give help, or just visit with other genealogists, join in with either or both of the sessions with or without video.

Participants can share their screens and demonstrate recent research discoveries or accomplishments.

The latest access details are posted on the [BAGS website](#). Click [Members Page](#) and then scroll down to the end and click on [Members Helping Members Page](#) link.

If you want to practice using Zoom or have questions connecting to a session, contact Kim Zrubek by email [educa-tion@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org) or by phone 281-992-2636.

Weekly: Mondays from 10am to noon join moderator Renee Ball.

Weekly: Mondays from 7:30pm to 8:30pm join moderator Kim Zrubek. *Evening sessions will not meet the last Monday of each month.*

Have German Ancestors?

BAGS is starting a special interest group (SIG) for those interested in German genealogy research, including research of persons from Germany (both modern day Germany and all earlier German territories), Prussia and Pomerania. This also includes other German-speaking territories such as parts of Switzerland, Poland, Denmark, Holland, and France.



This group will be co-hosted by George Porterfield and Karen Engelauf. They welcome genealogists with any level of experience and are happy to include those who have not begun research in “the old country,” as well as those that are experienced German researchers.

The meeting format will probably be similar to members helping members sessions. They may also have presentations on topics of interest to the group. Meetings will be held via Zoom for now. Frequency of meetings is yet to be determined.

To help them determine how many members are interested in this SIG and how often the group should meet, please complete the Germany Special Interest Group Survey online:

https://www.txbayareagen.org/?page_id=4727

BAGS Journal

[Latest Issue Available Online](#)

You can download and read the August 2020 issue of the BAGS Journal by clicking on this link https://www.txbayareagen.org/?page_id=1832 or go to our website www.TxBayAreaGen.org, click on **Members Page**, and then click on **Journals / Quarterlies**. Both current and past issues are available along with a table of contents.



BAGS Members are interested in reading stories of your ancestors or other families you felt compelled to re-search. Do you have a specific period in history that fascinates you?

Have you compiled finding aids and sources applicable to the subject that you want to share the reasons you find them important? Do you know of a new technology or record collection that you want to share details? Write up your stories and “how-to” articles. Share them with your fellow BAGS members.

Send your article to Lisa Franklin via email to journal@TxBayAreaGen.org

Board Meetings

Currently held as virtual meeting via ZOOM. All members are welcome to attend. Contact President Nick Cimino to receive the access information.



Monday, October 19 at 6:30 P.M.
Friday, November 20 at 7:00 P.M



Research Bus Trips

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Rebecca "Becky" & Wayne Miles of Santa Fe
- Elizabeth "Beth" Sears of League City
- Julie Thompson of Pearland



CONGRATULATIONS, Nancy Brooks!

Your name was drawn from the group of members that renewed by September 10th. Nancy has won a

FREE MEMBERSHIP for the 2021-2022 Bay Area Genealogical Society year!

Eagle Scout Project sponsored by BAGS

Scout James Williams

led a volunteer group to clean, document, and transcribe grave markers in Oak Park Cemetery located at 1305 Elm Street, Alvin, Brazoria County, Texas.

This project included recording and uploading 3872 pictures to BillionGraves.com for the 3279 headstone makers located in that cemetery. The group created 3149 transcriptions (and maybe completed all of them by this printing) for those photo entries. As of the September general meeting, James's project has helped over 200 people find an ancestor or loved one.

BillionGraves is a free website you can use to search for headstones around the world. Volunteers use smartphones and the BillionGraves mobile app to record GPS tagged photos of headstones and facilitate transcriptions. You can help by taking pictures of headstones in cemeteries and/or by transcribing the personal information found on those images. You can transcribe pictures that you take or someone else takes. There are training videos on the website to help you learn how to do this.

Use this link: <https://billiongraves.com/search> to access BillionGraves FREE search screen where you can search by person's name or browse the list of people by cemetery. The results include

Oak Park Cemetery in Alvin, TX: In this picture each orange dot represents a cleaned, photographed, and transcribed headstone. Green dots are marker photos waiting to be transcribed.



the GPS location of the headstone on a map of the cemetery as well as the marker photo and transcription. One of the best features of BillionGraves is the GPS location so you can easily locate the grave marker in that cemetery.

Another free site www.FindAGrave.com is very similar except it does not provide the GPS location. Both resources are worth visiting periodically since new entries are continually added by volunteers. 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 because you never know exactly how the name was printed on the maker.

Digital Scrapbooking - September Program Recap

Thank you, Linda Worsham, for spending time with our Society to share some inspiration and shed light on the processes to digitize our family collections. Linda's presentation and instructional handout are available on the BAGS website www.TxBayAreaGen.org. Click on **Members Page**, enter password, then 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.

Linda suggested that as you scan items, include the surname/event and date in the digital filenames to help you locate the image later. If you write the date in *yyyymmdd* format, the computer filename sorting will make it easier for you to view the images in chronological order. To help you begin scanning, the Friendswood Public Library offers a Cruz upright scanner that is great for books and large 3-D items. Call and make an appointment at 281-482-7135 menu option 2. You will need to either bring a USB drive or know your login to a cloud storage to place the created digital files. When the Clear Lake - Freeman Branch Library reopens, they offer a Digital Media Lab for public use to:

- Scan photos, film negatives, & slides to digital file
- 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 started on your project. Library is located at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, Texas 77062 (Clear Lake City), 832-927-5420.

Genealogy Face2Face — Thursdays from 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. via Zoom

Reservations required, click [here](#) to register for this Zoom Video Conference
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.



Friendswood Family History Center

Friendswood Family History Center is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 2pm. Please bring a mask if you are going to ask for assistance. If you bring your own laptop, you can access the records on their WIFI and if you prefer, research in a separate room. Volunteers are available to help. 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.

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@houston.tx.gov or phone (832) 393-2600 between the hours of 10am and 5pm Tuesday through Friday.



OCTOBER is FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Take advantage of these **FREE** virtual learning opportunities

Sources and Methods for Researching Native American Ancestors

Friday, October 23, 2:00—3:00 PM via Zoom

Reservations required. Click [here](#) to register for this Zoom Video Conference.

Nationally renowned speaker Paula Stuart-Warren will teach the basics for using the abundant and rich sources available to research U.S. Native American family history. Many types of records will be covered, including Indian census, special rolls, manuscripts, religious records, and Indian school records. The National Archives and regional locations, historical societies, state archives, county courthouses, and other record locations are described. The importance of understanding the historical and cultural context of the records and the lives they reflect will be discussed. Migration research provides some surprises for ancestral locations. An extensive handout provides steps, websites, and publications to further your search.

Medical Genealogy: Defining Obscure Medical Terms Used by Our Ancestors

Friday, October 30, 2:00—3:00 PM via Zoom

Reservations required. Click [here](#) to register for this Zoom Video Conference.

You may have heard that Great Aunt Mary was consumptive and know that means she had tuberculosis, but what if someone had phthisis pulmonalis, phthisis, potter's asthma, or white plague? Come and learn about some of the diseases our ancestors faced and where to find out the meaning of medical terms found in obituaries or death certificates. (*By the way, all the terms above have been used for tuberculosis.*) Registration is required and limited. Adults/Teens.

These above events are offered by **Houston Public Library - Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research**. Please direct questions to cla.reference@houstontx.gov or 832-393-2600.

Click [HERE](#) for a list of webinar

links to a series of German research presentations available from **Saturday, October 24—Friday, October 30**. The series covers resources, history, family Bibles, historic newspapers and five sessions on German handwriting.

The link also provides the upcoming November 2020 webinar selections through November 30, including Latin handwriting, Scots research, and Norwegian research.



Have you wanted to attend RootsTech sponsored by FamilySearch annually in Salt Lake City since 2010? The travel costs were just too prohibitive for your budget...

rootstech 

It is your lucky day! The 2021 RootsTech Family History Conference is being offered as the first RootsTech Connect—a FREE, virtual three day conference experience.

For Information and to Register
CLICK [HERE](#)

SAVE the DATES
February 25-27, 2021

Celebrate Your Family Story



During the month of October Thomas MacEntee is offering FREE downloadable

"cheat sheets" providing various resources, strategies in research, technology and more in his daily newsletter emails. View his posts for these and more free offers [HERE](#). As a professional genealogist with a technology background, Thomas is known for keeping up with the latest available to genealogists.

VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Nine guest speakers will provide live presentations followed by Q&A sessions over the two days along with broadcast of 22 pre-recorded lectures. The nine live speakers are:

- Judy Russell, JD, CG®, CGL®, The Legal Genealogist
- Nancy Calhoun, national speaker
- Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS, Mexican and Mexican-American research
- Kelvin Meyers, TIGR Director, forensic genealogist
- Diane L. Richard, professional genealogist, North Carolina, and African American research
- Michael Strauss, AG, national speaker
- Cari Taplin, CG, GenealogyPANTS
- Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, Advanced Genetic Genealogist
- Ari Wilkins, Dallas Public Library

The pre-recorded lectures include Sharon Gillins, Andrew and Devon Lee, Kevin Klaus, Bernard Meisner, Renate Yarborough Sanders, Diahna Southard, Randy Whited, Debra Osborne Spindle, and BAGS member Gale French,

You will be able to access all the presentations online for 90 days beginning on November 15, 2020, through February 5, 2021. Early-bird discount registration is available through October 20 with a choice of three different levels of participation. A Virtual Expo will also be offered. You can find details on the speakers, topics, and registration by accessing this page <https://www.txsgs.org/2020-conference/program-tracks>



10 LIVE and
22 VIRTUAL
Presentations

available for
90 days
following the event

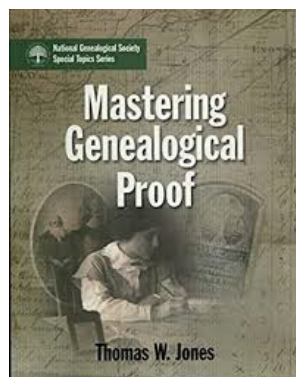
Join us VIRTUALLY for our
60th Anniversary Celebration

REMEMBERING YOUR
Heritage

2020 TxSGS Family History Conference

November 13-14, 2020

www.TxSGS.org #TxSGS2020



Mastering Genealogical Proof - Beginning Principles Class October 21—December 2, 2020

A 7-week, interactive study group class being offered by Cari Taplin, CG, owner of GenealogyPANTS covering the highly acclaimed book, *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, written by Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL and published by the National Genealogical Society.

(As of print of this newsletter, seats were still available for the evening course starting Wednesday, October 21st.)

CLICK [HERE](#) to learn more and to register.



GENEALOGY WORD SEARCH

OCCUPATIONS

BLACKSMITH FARMER
BRICKLAYER BAKER
FISHERMAN CHEF
HOUSEKEEPER LAWYER
IRONWORKER PILOT
MINISTER TEACHER
PHYSICIAN SHERIFF
SHOEMAKER
SHIPBUILDER
STENOGRAPHER

R E S P N R F Z M G R R V S R
E E O U A N A J I E E E K T E
Y V D H I G R X N H K P F E K
W P O L C M M Q I S R E N N A
A T O L I P E M S H O E A O M
L F B C S U R T T S W K M G E
U S H W Y I B I E I N E R R O
I E S R H W M P R J O S E A H
F E H E P S E Y I M R U H P S
S D L H K X U D G H I O S H H
B R I C K L A Y E R S H I E E
M H A A R E K A B G H P F R R
W L E E U I Y B S D F S W N I
B T C T R F G A D O P B S W F
O U B M Y G K U N O N J B B F

Puzzle created using Discovery Education's puzzle maker - <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>

BAG\$ Report by Bill Mayo, Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance as of 31 Jul 2020	\$ 1,503.08
Deposits+	\$ 330.09
Expenditures*	\$ 140.54
Balance on 31 August 2020	\$ 1,692.63

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance on 31 August 2020	\$ 5,701.40
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CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT**

Balance on 31 August 2020	\$ 6,005.13
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TOTAL for all accounts	\$13,399.16
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+Deposits: memberships, donations (e.g. tote bags, cookbooks, USB drives, pens)

*Expenditures: speaker fees, scrapbooking materials

**Certificate of Deposit was purchased in June 2020

Dear BAGS
Member,

We are concerned that several of our members have not been willing or able to participate in the electronic formats of the Society's events. Towards that end, please answer the questions in this survey, so we can better serve your genealogical needs.

Please click this link -

[BAGS Member Survey](#)

(also located on the home page of our website)
to fill out and submit the survey.

Thanks!
The BAGS Board

