

# BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



## January Member Meeting (Virtual)



FRIDAY, January 29, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.

### ***The FamilySearch Catalog: A Researcher's Best Friend*** ***presented by Diana Elder, AG***

The FamilySearch Catalog holds references to billions of records, one of which might answer your research question. *(more on page 3)*

**Registration in advance of the meeting will be required. Pre-register now by clicking on this link (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5393480979543376398>) and then receive an email with the instructions on how to join that evening.**

rootstech 

*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...*

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

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### Special points of interest

- Friendswood Family History Library is OPEN!
- TxSGS Updates
- Genealogy Word Search

## BAGS OFFICERS

2019-2021

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[President@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:President@TxBayAreaGen.org)

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



*Jenny Sharrer of Houston*

*Donna Shaw of League City*

**Are you receiving BAGS emails? If not,  
notify [EmailCoord@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:EmailCoord@TxBayAreaGen.org)**

### *Additional points of contact:*

Contact entire BAGS Board:

[bagsboard@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:bagsboard@TxBayAreaGen.org)

Need help attending the next meeting?

[memberservices@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:memberservices@TxBayAreaGen.org) (OPEN)

Research questions or to provide research assistance:

[education@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:education@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Kim Zubrek)

Submit information for the Journal, published twice

a year: [journal@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:journal@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Todd Roberts)

Submit pedigree chart to share with membership:

[pedigreecharts@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:pedigreecharts@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Anita Cooper)

Share to preserve Society history:

[historian@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:historian@TxBayAreaGen.org) (Teresa Rundell)

Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS:

[publicity@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org).

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## General Meetings



### ***The FamilySearch Catalog: A Researcher's Best Friend*** presented by **Diana Elder, AG**

**Friday, January 29 at 7:00 P. M.**

The FamilySearch Catalog holds references to billions of records, one of which might answer your research question. Learn how to use the catalog to find valuable unindexed records and new collections to search. Discover how to navigate the search features of the catalog and how to use each to your advantage. The handout is available on the [Meetings page](#) of the BAGS website under the event specific information.

Diana Elder is an Accredited Genealogist® professional, author, and speaker. She has eighteen years of research experience and holds a credential for genealogy research through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen). Her area of expertise is the United States Gulf South Region which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. She is the author of the book *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide*, writes regular research tips for FamilyLocket.com and hosts the *Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast* with her daughter.



## 2021 BAGS CALENDAR

***Due to COVID-19 concerns, all in-person activities of the Bay Area Genealogical Society have been cancelled. Monthly general meetings will be held as virtual webinars. Details for registration will be posted to the Society website and future newsletters.***

Friday, January 29, 7:00 PM - ***The Family Search Catalog:  
A Researcher's Best Friend*** presented by Diana Elder,  
[www.familylocket.com](http://www.familylocket.com)

Friday, February 19, 7:00 PM - ***Brick Wall Breakthroughs***  
presented by Thomas MacEntee, [www.genealogybargains.com](http://www.genealogybargains.com)  
*(one week earlier to allow members to attend RootsTech Connect 2021)*

Friday, March 26, 7:00 PM - ***Help! I Don't Speak the Language:  
Tips and Tricks for Deciphering Foreign Language Records***  
presented by Katherine Schober, [www.sktranslations.com](http://www.sktranslations.com)

Friday, April 30, 7:00 PM - ***The Road to Independence:  
Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors*** presented by  
Michael Strauss, [www.genealogyresearchnetwork.com](http://www.genealogyresearchnetwork.com)

Friday, May 28, 7:00 PM - ***Genealogy from a Private Investigator's  
Perspective*** presented by Lisa Smith, BAGS President

## Board Meetings

Currently held as virtual meetings via ZOOM. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend a Board Meeting, request a



link from  
[info@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:info@TxBayAreaGen.org)

### 2021

January 25  
February 15  
March 22  
April 26  
May 24

Board meetings are held on Mondays at 6:30 PM.

## Research Bus Trips



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

*From Outgoing President, Nick Cimino...*

December 15, 2020

Dear Members of BAGS,

I am writing to inform you that I am resigning from my position as President of the Bay Area Genealogical Society. My last day in office will be December 31, 2020. As you all know this has been a year of great struggles for our organization, our country and our world. But together we have risen to the challenge and continued our BAGS programs using socially distant methods.

My recent health struggles have demonstrated to me that BAGS is quite capable of proceeding to further successes under new leadership. This will allow me to give more attention to the many projects that I currently have in progress.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve as your president since 2017. I have greatly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities I have had to preside over our general meetings and board meetings. I've learned in the process that we have a very talented membership and board that are fully committed to the betterment of genealogy and are more than able to take the organization forward into the future.

Our First Vice President, Lisa Smith, will automatically fill the vacancy in the office of the President and shall serve out the remainder of my term per our bylaws Article X, Paragraph C. I look forward to working with Lisa and the BAGS Board as the Immediate Past President in an advisory role.

This succession of officers does create the opportunity for BAGS members to be appointed to the Board to fill a vacancy of an elected or appointed officer. The Board will be filling the vacancies soon. I hope you will consider helping us by serving on our board. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in serving on the board by sending an email to [info@txbayareagen.org](mailto:info@txbayareagen.org).

Thanks for all that you do for the love of genealogy and family history. All the best wishes to BAGS members and officers for continued success in accomplishing our mission.

Sincerely,  
Nick Cimino, President

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NICK—

*The Bay Area Genealogical Society  
members wish you the very best  
as you go forward in your life's path.*

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# MESSAGES FROM BAGS LEADERSHIP

*From Incoming President, Lisa Smith...*

January 2, 2021

Happy New Year BAGS members!

Welcome to 2021. There have been many changes this past year - to our families, to our communities, and to BAGS - ending 2020 with the resignation of our president, Nick Cimino. **Thank you, Nick, for your terrific leadership since 2017!**

Despite the many challenges of 2020, BAGS continues to thrive and our Board works very hard to ensure you are receiving the most benefit for your membership. We have moved all meetings online, which came with technical challenges, but allowed us to open up our programming to national speakers. We also began offering online registration/renewal. A new German Special Interest Group was formed, and because this and the Members-Helping-Members meetings are done online through Zoom, many members who otherwise might not have attended in person have been able to participate. We are hoping 2021 will bring increased participation and enjoyment from our programs.

As your new President, I have a rather urgent request. There are several vacancies on the Board of Directors including Vice President, Member Services Chair, and Telephone Committee Chair. Our Board Officers are currently filling multiple roles in order to maintain continuity, but this puts a tremendous strain on their time. **PLEASE CONSIDER SUBMITTING YOUR NAME AND THE POSITION YOU ARE INTERESTED IN to [info@txbayareagen.org](mailto:info@txbayareagen.org).** The Board will then vote on candidates. These positions are vital in continuing to offer the excellent membership benefits that BAGS provides. We rely on volunteers to infuse our Board with fresh faces and new ideas! Below are brief job descriptions of each position and expectations as a member of the Board of Directors. Full job descriptions can be found on the Members page of our website.

- All board members are expected to attend the majority of board meetings, held on the Monday before the General meeting (usually the last Monday of each month) from 6:30p-8:00p.
- All board members are expected to use their assigned BAGS email account exclusively for all BAGS communications and to be technically adept enough to accomplish this.
- All board members are expected to communicate regularly with the rest of the Board, responding within 2-3 days of applicable emails.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP job description:** Responsible for programs for meetings and seminars agreed upon by the Board and Society.

**Member Services:** Send Welcome e-mail to new members as soon as new member application notice is received, assist Telephone Committee as needed, reach out to members to fill committee vacancies, help members with technology or refer them to other members who can help.

**Telephone Committee:** Courtesy phone calls to members on a monthly or as-needed basis for reminders of activities, inquiry after missed meetings, technical difficulties, illness, etc. Oversees phone tree consisting of other members.

I hope your holidays were celebrated with warmth and happiness, and you can ring in the new year with peace and hope. Please feel free to contact myself or any board member at any time with your questions, concerns, and suggestions. Thank you for being a member of our awesome society!

Warm regards,



*Get help on your research project with these options!*



### **In-Person Research Sessions** (Members Helping Members)

**In-Person Research Sessions** are now offered on the **first Wednesday each month 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. The center will be opened only to BAGS members on those days. Take advantage of the electronic databases and books that are only accessible from within the FHC. Six computers are available for research. Bring a USB drive to save the information that you find. **If you do plan to attend, please send an RSVP email to Kim Zrubek at [education@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org) or text/call 832-660-5898.**

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**9:30 AM—11:30 AM**

**2021 Future Dates are:**

**3 February - 3 March - 7 April - 5 May**

**Please wear a mask while in the building.**



If you do not wish to participate during an in-person BAGS research session or visit the FHC during business hours, but do have a specific record that can only be accessed from within an FHC, please send the information to Kim Zrubek, as well as a return phone number. Kim will retrieve and send those records during our next in-person session.

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### **Online Research Sessions (via ZOOM teleconferencing)** (Members Helping Members)

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 [Members Helping Members Page](#).

**Weekly: Mondays from 10:00 AM to noon join moderator Renee Ball.**

**Weekly: Mondays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM join moderator Kim Zrubek.**

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





### Member, Kim Zrubek, shares:

While at the Friendswood FHC research January session, I came across a webpage that offers a **layered map of England jurisdictions in 1851** <https://www.familysearch.org/mapp> which is accessible from home. Backtracking, the **Maps By County** FamilySearch Wiki page ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Category:Maps by country](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Category:Maps_by_country)) is a good place to start discovering what images are available online for specific county and date. You can always search for a specific country, state, county, or parish within the FamilySearch Wiki and look for the Map section in the information provided for that location.

The Family History Center (FHC) provides free access to **American Ancestors**, a subscription site provided by the New England Historical Genealogical Society. According to their website, AmericanAncestors.org provides extensive online collections of early American genealogical records and the largest collection of U.S Catholic records online. The LDS affiliate account provides access to a majority of those databases. I have lists of the American Ancestors databases available to search from within the FHC for the time periods pre-1700 (138 databases), 1700 to 1750 (77 databases), and 1750 to 1800 (84 database). I also have the list of databases not accessible within the FHC. If you are researching early American records, contact me at [education@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:education@TxBayAreaGen.org) to email you the lists.

**Join us at one of the MHM sessions if you would like assistance on creating a Facebook group, locating maps or newspaper clippings, printing family charts, or using word processor for biographies.**

### Member, Barbara Larsen, is asking for assistance:

Barbara is looking for any BAGS members using **REUNION, version 13**. She recently upgraded from version 9 to 13 and has some questions.

### Member, Renee Ball, is offering assistance:

Renee has volunteered to help members with the software application, **FAMILY TREE MAKER**.

**Call or email Barbara and/or Renee. Contact information for both is accessible to BAGS Members in the latest YEARBOOK edition on the MEMBERS PAGE of the Bay Area Genealogical Society website.**



**German SIG** (Special Interest Group) meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm. For now meetings are held via Zoom.

### Mark your Calendar-

**Feb 10 - Mar 10 - Apr 14 - May 12 - Jun 9**

Please, register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdOutqj0jHdRDEZfjowBtmML7Q81KULzN>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For more information contact [George Porterfield](#) or [Karen Engelauf](#), or complete [our survey form](#) to join the SIG.

## Pedigree Charts and Surname List available to members

Use the pedigree charts and surname list to discover other BAGS members that are researching the same family names. These charts and lists can be found on the "Members Page" of the BAGS website ([www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org)).

**Have you submitted your pedigree chart to BAGS?** All members are encouraged to submit a pedigree chart of their family. The chart does not need to be complete and information about living relatives may be omitted. Sharing your information may provide a connection that will help fill in those frustrating gaps in your genealogy! If you have questions or need assistance, send an email to [pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org](mailto:pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org).



The [BAGS Member Page](#) Password changed for the new 2020-2021 Society year!

The new password was sent to members via email. If you did not receive the email, send an email to [MemberServices@txbayareagen.org](mailto:MemberServices@txbayareagen.org).



**THANK YOU TO BAGS MEMBERS!**

Thank you, **Anita Cooper**, for agreeing to serve as the Pedigree Charts Chairperson.



The 2020-2021 edition of the BAGS Yearbook is now available on our website in the Members Page section.

## BAG\$ Report by Bill Mayo, Treasurer

### CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance as of 31 Oct 2020	\$ 2,855.68
Nov Deposits	\$ 375.12
Nov Expenditures*	\$ -319.84
Balance on 30 November 2020	\$ 2,910.96

### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance on 30 November 2020	\$ 5,702.83
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### CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Balance on 30 November 2020	\$ 6,026.20
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<b>TOTAL MONETARY ASSETS on 30 November 2020</b>	<b>\$14,639.99</b>
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\*The Clayton Library Friends—CLF dues for 2021 were paid and a donation of \$100 to CLF. A retainer of \$75 was paid to Diana Elder, January 2021 speaker. The other major expense was the cost of mailing journals and yearbooks.

Instructions to print the yearbook are located on the back inside cover and paid printed copies will be mailed later this year.

### Join BAGS Facebook group

to get the latest news on events and resources. Log into Facebook and either click on this link [www.facebook.com/groups/1123990297740879](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1123990297740879) or search by name **Tx Bay Area Gen** to access the BAGS group.





### Recent BAGS Program Recaps

The handout for the BAGS November program ***Birds of a Feather – Y-DNA Research and Group Projects by Janine Cloud*** is available on the Members Page

You can watch the BAGS October program ***Navigating the Freedmen's Bureau Records presented by Sharon Batiste Gillins*** by clicking here <https://www.txbayareagen.org/wp-content/uploads/General%20Meetings/2020/2020-10-23%20Meet.mp4>

Sharon's presentation begins 33 minutes into the recording.

### BAGS "Bag Of Cheer" Event

On December 12 and 14 goodie bags of sweets and treats were handed to members willing to drive by the Friendswood Public Library. The evening's MHM Zoom session on Monday, December 14 was a socializing event to make merry and share the holiday spirit. **A BIG THANK YOU to Teri Meyers, Teresa Rundell, and Polly Swerdlin** for assisting in assembling the bags and handing them out.

*2020 needs more than a cup of cheer,  
So for you, we have created a BAGS "bag of cheer".  
Come drive by and get your treats,  
Some to eat and some to keep.  
Just a way to say,  
Happy Holiday from BAGS*

### Friendswood Family History Center is now OPEN to THE PUBLIC!

Friendswood Family History Center is open weekly on Tuesday,  
Thursday and Friday from 10am to 2pm.

**Please wear a mask.**

Volunteers are available to help...

If you bring your own laptop, you can access the records on their WIFI and if you prefer, research in a separate room. 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.



### Southern California Genealogical Society *jamboree 2021* Two Online Virtual Conferences



The Southern California Genealogical Society will host their conference virtually this year on June 11-12. The society is also hosting a second virtual conference Genetic Genealogy on June 4-5. The schedules, speakers, costs, and registration details are available online at <https://genealogyjamboree.com>.



## Clayton Library & Clayton Library Friends present...



### Upcoming February Events celebrating *Black History Month*

Thu., Feb. 04, 1:00pm—2:00pm	-Genealogy Face to Face—African American Video Oral History Collection with Sue Kaufman
Fri., Feb. 05, 2:00pm—3:00pm	-The 1870 Community Cluster: Gateway to Your Ancestor's Enslavement
Fri., Feb. 12, 2:00pm—3:00pm	-Using Manuscript Collections in Genealogy Research
Sat., Feb. 13, 10:30am—12:00pm	-CLF February Meeting: The Answer Was Right in Front of Me
Thu., Feb. 18, 1:00pm—2:00pm	-Genealogy Face to Face— Melvin E. Edwards, Author of "The Eyes of Texans"
Fri., Feb. 19, 2:00pm—3:00pm	-Some Great & Seldom-Used African American Resources: A Genealogical Potpourri
Sat., Feb. 20, 10:00am—11:00am	-Navigating Freedmen's Bureau Records—Strategies for Research Success
Sat., Feb. 20, 10:30am—1:30pm	-Freedmen's Bureau Experience

**Visit the library website— <https://claytonlibraryfriends.org/events>—for more details on each program. Pre-registration is required to attend. A link to REGISTER your choice of events is included in each description.**

### 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](mailto:cla.reference@houstontx.gov) or phone (832) 393-2600 between the hours of 10am and 5pm Tuesday through Friday.



Click [HERE](#) for a list of webinar links to the first quarter 2021 Family Search Online Learning Center opportunities. Webinar topics covered include European research, British Isles research, Asian research, U.S. and Canadian research, plus FamilySearch and DNA tips.

Take a look at the selection of FREE webinars offered on a variety of topics in 2021. One of these may be what you need to jump start research on that ancestor that still seems to be in a holding pattern on your TO DO List.



All on the list are offered FREE on the date and time of the presentation but require a membership fee for viewing the recording outside of a week after presentation.

[Click HERE](#) to review February webinar descriptions and to register for those of interest.

**Tuesday, February 2, 7:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Nurturing Your Family Trees: Online or On Your Device (or Both)?

**Speaker:** Cyndi Ingle

**Wednesday, February 3, 1:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Me and My 1000+ DNA Cousins

**Speaker:** Diahan Southard

**Friday, February 5, 1:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Finding Indian Ancestors in African American Families

**Speaker:** Angela Walton-Raji

**Tuesday, February 9, 1:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Making the Most of MyHeritage Resources with the Help Center, Knowledge Base, and Site Settings

**Speaker:** Daniel Horowitz

**Wednesday, February 10, 1:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Chinese American Research: Challenges and Discoveries

**Speaker:** Grant Din

**Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Researching Your Maine Ancestors

**Speaker:** B. J. Jamieson

**Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** A Family for Suzanne

**Speaker:** Ruth Randall, CG

**Wednesday, February 17, 1:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Shoot Like a Pro: How to Record Quality Videos Using Your Mobile Device

**Speaker:** Elizabeth M. O'Neal

**Friday, February 19, 1:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** How to Locate an Ancestor in Ontario, Canada West or Upper Canada

**Speaker:** Janice Nickerson

**Tuesday, February 23, 1:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Bringing Your Family Photos to Life on MyHeritage

**Speaker:** Keren Dotan

**Wednesday, February 24, 1:00 PM CST**

**Topic:** Polish Genealogy Online - Portals and Databases

**Speaker:** Kinga Urbanska





## GENEALOGY WORD SEARCH

### U.S. States & Territories

ALABAMA  
ARKANSAS  
CALIFORNIA  
GEORGIA  
GUAM  
KENTUCKY  
LOUISIANA  
MAINE  
MISSOURI  
NEW YORK  
NORTH CAROLINA  
OHIO  
OKLAHOMA  
PENNSYLVANIA  
PUERTO RICO  
RHODE ISLAND  
TEXAS

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

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



### 2021 Call for Presentations!

The Texas State Genealogical Society announces a Call for Presentations for their 2021 TxSGS Family History Conference *Connecting Generations*. This event, slated for October 1-2, will be held virtually. Selected presentations will be included in a **TxSGS Live!** two-day event with live speaker Q&A; other presentations will be

recorded for an On-Demand program available for replay for 90 days after *TxSGS Live!* The deadline for proposals is February 28, 2021. More details and submission form are available online at <https://www.txsgs.org/2021-conference/2021-call-for-presentations>.

### TIGR—Texas Institute of Genealogical Research June 13-18, 2021

The Texas State Genealogical Society's TIGR will be offered virtually in 2021 to accommodate safety protocols for students. It is your opportunity to take part in one of four, five-day courses, designed for genealogists researching ancestors in the Southwest. For details on this year's course choices, visit Texas State Genealogical Society's website at <https://www.txsgs.org/featured-events/tigr-2021/?orgId=txsgs> to learn more and to REGISTER.

