BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February Member Meeting (Virtual)



February 2021 Volume 20



FRIDAY, February 19, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.

Brick Wall Breakthroughs presented by Thomas MacEntee

Want to see firsthand how to break through that persistent "brick wall" in your genealogy? (more on page 3)

Advance registration required. Pre-register now by clicking <u>HERE</u> An email will be sent with instructions on how to join the meeting.

rootstech 👾

RootsTech Connect is almost here! The excitement is building....

RootsTech Connect— a FREE, virtual three day conference experience is being offered to those around the world who share a love for genealogy.

A lineup of internationally acclaimed Keynote Speakers, plus dozens of genealogical classes, a virtual marketplace and more...

YOUR STILL HAVE TIME TO REGISTER

For Information and to Register CLICK <u>HERE</u>

February 25-27, 2021

Celebrate Your Family Story

www.TxBayAreaGen.org

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Special points of interest

- Virtual Learning
 Opportunities
- Open Board of Directors Positions
- TxSGS Updates
- Genealogy Word Search

BAGS OFFICERS 2019-2021 President Lisa Smith

President@TxBayAreaGen.org

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Adams of Alvin, TX Brenda DuShane of Alvin, TX Lisa Fisher of Alvin, TX





Thank You To...

- Todd Roberts, for accepting to serve as Editor of the Society's Journal publication
- Rebecca 'Becky' Jones, for accepting to serve as the Society's 2nd Vice President

Additional points of contact:

Contact entire BAGS Board: bagsboard@TxBayAreaGen.org

Need help attending the next meeting? <u>memberservices@TxBayAreaGen.org</u> (OPEN)

Research questions or to provide research assistance: <u>education@TxBayAreaGen.org</u> (Kim Zrubek)

Submit information for the Journal, published twice a year: journal@TxBayAreaGen.org (Todd Roberts)

Submit pedigree chart to share with membership: pedigreecharts@TxBayAreaGen.org (Anita Cooper)

Share to preserve Society history: historian@TxBayAreaGen.org (Teresa Rundell)

Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS: publicity@TxBayAreaGen.org (Terri Myers)

Not receiving emails? emailcoord@TxBayAreaGen.org

Don't know the Members Page password? <u>Registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org</u>

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 <u>newsletter@TXBayAreaGen.org</u>. All rights reserved.

Bay Area Genealogical Society February 2021 Vol. 20, Iss. 4

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BAGS CALENDAR

General Meetings



Brick Wall Breakthroughs presented by Thomas MacEntee

Friday, February 19, at 7:00 P. M.

Want to see firsthand how to break through that persistent "brick wall" in genealogy? Using actual research problems submitted by webinar attendees, professional genealogist Thomas MacEntee will walk participants through a step-by-

step research methodology process to find clues and possible solutions. Participants will have access to research logs, digital images and more during and after the webinar. Also included is a "habit recipe" to implement the same techniques used in the webinar on your own genealogy research.

What happens when a "tech guy" with a love for history gets laid off during The Great Recession of 2008? You get Thomas MacEntee, a genealogy professional based in the United States who is also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, online community builder and more. Thomas has over 42 years of experience researching family history. Thomas was laid off after a 25-year career in the information technology field, so he started his own genealogy-related business called High Definition Genealogy. Currently Thomas shares many of his articles and videos for free at the popular <u>Genealogy Bargains</u> website! Thomas describes himself as a lifelong learner with a background in a multitude of topics who has finally figured out what he does best: teach, inspire, instigate, and serve as a curator and go-to-guy for concept nurturing and inspiration. Thomas is a big believer in success, and that we all succeed when we help each other find success.



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, February 19, 7:00 PM - **Brick Wall Breakthroughs** presented by Thomas MacEntee, <u>www.genealogybargains.com</u> (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, <u>www.sktranslations.com</u>

Friday, April 30, 7:00 PM - *The Road to Independence: Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors* presented by Michael Strauss, <u>www.genealogyresearchnetwork.com</u>

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

2021

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.

BAGS LEADERSHIP

Introduction to your new President...



Lisa Smith is a certified fraud examiner, licensed private investigator, professional genealogist, and owner of <u>Dragon Investigation Group</u>. She is a member of the national and Lone Star chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Ms. Smith has presented at genealogical societies, churches, and colleges, and has contributed several articles to the BAGS' Journal and Newsletter.

She is a native of New Hampshire with ancestral roots in Sweden, Ireland, Greece, and Ukraine. She caught the genealogy bug in her mid-teens and has been expanding her family tree ever since. Her genealogy services focus on those countries, help with DNA matching, and locating adoptee/birth relatives.

Ms. Smith is also a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators as well as the Rockingham County Law Enforcement Officers Association. She has been a member of the Private Investigator Association of Virginia and the New Hampshire League of Investigators, where she served as editor of their quarterly newsletter and on their Cold Case committee. She graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a degree in Criminal Justice.

Her business contact information is <u>lisa@dragoninvestigation.com</u> or 281-670-8334 or through her company's website <u>www.DragonInvestigation.com</u>.

...and new Vice President

Susie Ganch is a native Texan and native Houstonian. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in English and Journalism and did post graduate work in accounting, applying her skills for 30 years as the Administrator for a Urology Clinic, before retiring in 2004. Susie is a Charter Member of BAGS and has served as Journal Editor and 1st and 2nd Vice President several times. Susie holds membership in the Sam Houston Chapter of DAR, where she has served as Regent, 1st and 2nd Vice Regents, Chaplain and Volunteer Genealogist, and completed all the Genealogy Education courses offered by DAR. Susie Ganch serves as Chairman of the Literacy Committee at the local Bauerschlag Elementary School in League City, volunteering many years tutoring reading skills to children at risk.



Susie has been interested in the history of her family for some time now. Unfortunately, her interest came after her grandparents had died and, along with them, many family stories. Her research has involved numerous branches of the family, spanning through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana. She has written several articles on research findings for the BAGS Journal and published a book, "**History of the Habersham and Ward Families**," about her maternal ancestry, including Revolutionary War Patriots, John Habersham and John Ward, which is available on Amazon. Susie realizes there are still many brick walls and much research yet to do to identify more of her ancestors. She welcomes the opportunities afforded all BAGS members to attend the many interesting programs, seminars and other events hosted by our society. Throughout her BAGS membership she has enjoyed meeting new friends and collaborating with members on research to locate missing information and tackle genealogical brick walls.

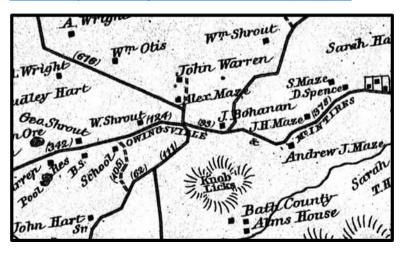
PROGRAM RECAP

The FamilySearch Catalog: A Researcher's Best Friend - Part 1

Last month Diana Elder presented a live virtual program to BAGS members discussing the Wiki and Catalog tools found at www.FamilySearch.org. After you identify a specific geographical location for an ancestor, Diana recommends you study the history, events, and issues concerning that area and time period. This can help you discover unique records created in that area and further develop the ancestor's life timeline. Listen to Diana and her daughter, Nicole Dyer, for more insights though their weekly genealogy podcast Research Like A Pro. Episodes can be accessed from their website www.FamilyLocket.com

FamilySearch Wiki is a free online worldwide genealogical guide maintained by fellow researchers to document resources they found helpful. Use the Wiki to discover some of the records available for your ancestor's geographical location. Access the Wiki at www.familysearch.org/wiki and search for places or topics not names of people. For example, the "Bath County, Kentucky Genealogy" page lists the date coverage of vital, court, land, and census records, lost records, and boundary changes. The Kentucky page provides state specific research tools and guides, an access button to view all online Kentucky records, county map, migration routes, and related organizations and archives. Learn how to use the Wiki from a tutorial page accessible online at

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Help:Search the Wiki



Small section of the 1884 Polksville Precinct No. 4 Bath County map on page 19

FamilySearch Catalog is a searchable guide to all the print and digital records, locale histories, family histories, and periodicals available at the Salt Lake City Family History Library and online at www.FamilySearch.org Use the **Catalog's Place Search** to discover and view the digital books, microfilm, and indexes documenting the history where your ancestor lived. Searching Bath County, Kentucky in the catalog, I discovered the digitized book An Atlas of Bath and Fleming Counties. Kentucky published in 1884 which provided wonderful maps documenting the locations of land owners/neighbors, rivers, railroads, cemeteries and townships. Next month, we will cover how to view, print, and download book and film images in Part 2 of January's program recap.

If you have not used FamilySearch.org, it is similar to Ancestry.com, MyHeritage, and FindMyPast. There are billions of records that can be integrated into a tree. The big differences are FamilySearch is free and the tree is not private, but one globally shared family tree, facilitating collaborative research. FamilyTree Magazine published "A Comparison of the Big Four Genealogy Websites" in the March/April 2020 issue providing an extensive comparison. Join us at the Member Helping Member sessions on Mondays to receive answers to questions and assistance using these resources.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Get help on your research project with these options!



In-Person Research Sessions

(Members Helping Members)

In-Person Research Sessions are 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 <u>education@txbayareagen.org</u> or text/call 832-660-5898.

WEDNESDAYs 9:30 AM—11:30 AM

2021 Future Dates are:

3 March - 7 April - 5 May - 2 June

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 <u>Kim Zrubek</u>, as well as a return phone number. Kim will retrieve and send those records during our next in-person session.

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 <u>education@txbayareagen.org</u> or by phone 281-992-2636.





Member, Kim Zrubek, shares:

I am always looking for ideas that help entice the interest of other family members to our genealogy research. I came across an online article **Beyond the Tree: 4 Enduring Ways to Share Your Family History Research** by Maggie Huff. Her recommendations that I have seen actually work are:

- Start a Facebook group dedicated to your family's history and invite only family members. This is a great platform to identify photos, share records, and dig deeper into family lore. On the flip side, search existing Facebook group that share a surname or location of research interest. If you find one of interest, request to join.
- If you have family nearby that you can visit, create a binder of a few photos, maps, newspaper clippings, and a family chart to share and to use as a prop for discussion. Just limit to a few pages, if successful, they will want more!
- Create a short biography including photos, records, and citations for one of your colorful or noteworthy family members. Share the result with other family members. You can continue writing biographies for other members of the same family branch to illustrate the bigger picture of the family. This is a great way to get started on creating a book that other family members can obtain through print on demand.

Find full article: <u>https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/share-family-history-research/</u>

NEED ASSISTANCE ???

• Do you want to scan family photos?

- Do you need help researching Louisiana records? Several members are actively researching Louisiana collections and may be of service.

Contact Kim (<u>education@TxBayAreaGen.org</u>) to get started scanning or to connect with fellow Louisiana researchers within our membership.



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

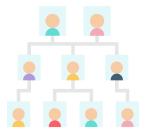
Mark your Calendar-Mar 10 - Apr 14 - May 12 - Jun 9

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 <u>George Porterfield</u> or <u>Karen Engelauf</u>, or complete <u>our survey form</u> to join the SIG.

BAGS NEWS

Member Pedigree Chart submissions...



All members are encouraged to submit a pedigree chart of their family. The chart does not need to be complete and vital information about living relatives may be omitted. The chart will be available for members to review on the Members Only page of our website.

Sharing your information could create a connection with other researchers that can help! Submit a chart or ask questions and get assistance from Anita Cooper via email to

pedigree@TxBayAreaGen.org

Journal Articles Needed!

Share your research with others. Our new editor, Todd Roberts, is creating the next issue of the **BAGS Journal**. Please consider sending an article, photograph, record, or story suitable for publication to Todd via email at journal@TxBayAreaGen.org. Our Journal is a great way to share your personal research and knowledge with the broader community of genealogists, including both BAGS members and (through PERSI) with the global genealogy community.

BAG\$ Report by Bill Mayo, Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance as of 31 October 2020	\$ 2,855.68				
Deposits	\$ 375.24				
Expenditures*	<u>\$ -319.84</u>				
Balance on 31 December 2020	\$ 2,911.08				
JSC FCU SAVINGS ACCOUNT					
Balance on 31 December 2020	\$ 5,702.83				
JSC FCU SHARE CERTIFICATE (CD)					
Balance on 31 December 2020	\$ 6,031.35				
TOTAL MONETARY ASSETS on 31 December 2020	\$14,645.26				

*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.

Society Yearbook for 2020-2021 is hot off the presses!



Take a look at your fellow members since we have not seen each other for almost one year. Use the phone numbers and emails to reach out to one another.

While on the Members Page, look at the surname list and pedigree charts to discover other BAGS members that are researching the same family surnames. The yearbook, charts and surname list can be found on the "Members Page" of the BAGS website

(www.TxBayAreaGen.org).



Join the 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 or search by name Tx Bay Area Gen to access the BAGS group.

RESEARCH & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



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

Open weekly on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 2pm.

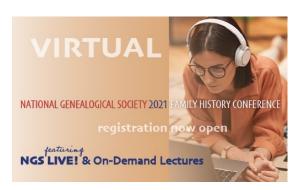
Please wear a mask. Volunteers available to assist. 505 Deseret Dr., Friendswood (enter building on side furthest from the street)

FREE Access to premium subscription websites:

- 19th Century British Library Newspapers
- Alexander Street Press American Civil War
- American Ancestors Colonial & Early American
- FamNet New Zealand family history network

migration

- Newspapers.com
- Paper Trail 19th Century westward American
- Ancestry.com Institution Version
- ArkivDigital Swedish Church
- FindMyPast United Kingdom
- MyHeritage Library Edition
- Puzzilla



The National Genealogical Society's annual Family History Conference has opened the 2021 registration for a week of workshops, LIVE presentations by nationally known speakers covering genealogical topics of interest, and a full program selection of ON DEMAND webinar packages to be viewed at your own pace between mid-June and the end of December 2021. For details on the schedule, programs and to register visit the NGS website.

FREE Two Day Virtual—IGS Annual Conference - April 9-10

Speakers from the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center and Lisa Louise Cooke will be presenting on various topics.



Click HERE for schedule information. Pre-Registration is required for each event day: Friday, 9 April Saturday, 10 April



	Southern California Genealogical Societ									
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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.

LIBRARY NEWS



Clayton Library & Clayton Library Friends present...



Upcoming February Events celebrating Black History Month

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
Fri., Mar. 26, 2:00pm—3:00pm	-Naturalization: An Unnatural Process
Fri., Apr. 02, 2:00pm—3:00pm	-ABC Strategies for Working with DNA Matches

Visit the library website— <u>https://claytonlibraryfriends.org/events</u>—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.

OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS...

There are many ways to contribute to our Society such as submitting articles to our newsletter or journal, participating in Members-Helping-Members sessions, or sharing knowledge in special interest groups. Another way is by filling a role on the Board. We have several vacant committee chair positions. Consider offering your skills to one of following:

Are you a Human Resources person? Interested in onboarding new members of our **Society?** If so, consider becoming our <u>Member Services</u> chairperson. (approximately 15 minutes per new member, 1.5-hour Board meeting once a month)

Do you enjoy talking to people on the phone? If so, consider becoming head of our <u>Telephone committee</u>. (approximately 2 hours once a month, 1.5-hour Board meeting once a month)

Would you like to greet our members and visitors as they come to our meetings? If so, consider becoming chair of the <u>Welcoming committee</u>. Note: This position is currently inactive as we meet virtually and will reactivate once in-person meetings resume. (approximately 1 hour once a month prior to start of General meeting, 1.5-hour Board meeting once a month)

Job descriptions for the above roles are located on our website's Members page. Please send an email with your interest, skill set, and availability to info@txbayareagen.org.



VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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 March webinar descriptions and to register for those of interest.

Tuesday, March 2, 7:00 PM CST Topic: British Genealogy Online: The Top English & Welsh Family History Websites Speaker: Rick Crume

Wednesday, March 3, 1:00 PM CST Topic: La Madre Chiesa—Italian Catholic Parish Records Speaker: Suzanne Russo Adams, CG

Friday, March 5, 1:00 PM CST Topic: The Ten Percent: Free People of Color Speaker: Nicka Smith

Tuesday, March 9, 1:00 PM CST Topic: Using Different Family Tree Views for Your Research Speaker: Uri Gonen

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 PM CST Topic: Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussian Genealogy Records Speaker: Nancy E. Loe, MA, MLS

Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 PM CST Topic: Reporting on Research: Standards Encourage Better Communication Speaker: Nancy A. Peters, CG, CGL

Wednesday, March 17, 1:00 PM CST Topic: FamilySearch.org—10 Links You Have to Try Speaker: Devin Ashby

Friday, March 19, 1:00 PM CST Topic: Tracing Your War of 1812 British Soldier Speaker: Paul Milner

Tuesday, March 23, 1:00 PM CST Topic: See Your Ancestors Like Never Before with MyHeritage's Photo Tools Speaker: Janice Nickerson

Wednesday, March 24, 1:00 PM CST Topic: 20th Century Immigrants to the West Coast Speaker: Linda Harms Okazaki

Wednesday, March 31, 1:00 PM CST Topic: Fifty Overlooked Genealogical Resources in Fifty Minutes Speaker: Diane L. Richard







<u>HISTORIC</u> AFRICAN AMERICANS

OPRAH WINFREY ROSA PARKS JESSE OWENS BARACK OBAMA MAYA ANGELOU HARRIET TUBMAN MARY W JACKSON BESSIE COLEMAN BEYONCE HALLE BERRY CICELY TYSON KOBE BRYANT JOE LOUIS MAE JEMISON MEDGAR EVERS

GENEALOGY WORD SEARCH

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



Genealogical Society Leadership Forum Saturday, March 27, 2021 8:45am to 6pm Hosted by Texas State Genealogical Society

FREE - but registration is required.

Join genealogy society leaders from across Texas for this full-day event focused on topics and issues relevant to managing and leading a genealogical society in to-

day's environment. Discuss issues and learn from other participants in the breakout sessions scheduled throughout the day. Finish the day in a private breakout group session with your own society members or with other society leaders from your region of the state. Complete schedule, description, and registration are online at <u>https://www.txsgs.org/genealogical-society-leadership-forum/</u>

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

