

# BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2024  
Volume 24  
Issue 2



## BAGS Members Meeting

Virtual (Zoom) at 7pm

Shannon Combs-Bennett presents -  
*Roadmaps Tell You More Than How to  
Get From A to B: Creating a Research Plan  
with DNA Testing*

In **Genealogy 101**, we learned to create research plans as part of a genealogist's toolbox. Research plans are a way to guide our research thoughtfully and methodologically to solve our genealogical questions. Most people construct these plans with books, websites, and paper research. In the 21st Century, those plans can now include DNA testing. This presentation will demonstrate how to include genetic genealogy results, testing strategies, analysis, and proof arguments in your research plans.

**Shannon Combs-Bennett**, Qualified Genealogist (QG) through the Register of Qualified Genealogists of the United Kingdom, is an award-winning author and genealogist who lives in Northern Virginia. She writes and presents on various genealogical topics, from genetic genealogy to methodology. Shannon earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis in genetics from Indiana University and a Master of Science in Genealogical, Heraldic, and Paleogeographic Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. Currently, Shannon is a Ph.D. candidate in History with Genealogical Studies at the University of Strathclyde.

This meeting registration is located on the [BAGS website](#).

### *Inside this issue*

Membership Renewal	2
BAGS Information	3
Members Helping Members	4
MHM and Special Interests	5
Library/Research News	6
Members Seminar	7
BAGS Calendar	8

### *Special Points of Interest*

*BAGS Welcome*  
*Research & Learning Opportunities*  
*Social Media Links*  
*BAGS Partnerships*  
*Clayton Library Partner Links*

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – LAST CALL FOR 2024

**It's time to renew your membership** with the TX Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS)! The new membership year started January 1, 2024. You can renew your membership anytime between now and February 29, 2024, without any loss of membership privileges.

## **Why should I renew my membership with BAGS now?**

- ✓ BAGS is now able to include genealogy experts from outside the Houston area to speak at our virtual monthly general meetings. This provides you with the benefit of national speakers and a wider range of genealogy topics. We have also worked with other regional genealogical societies to give you access to their resources and presentations.
- ✓ Our private Facebook group is highly active with regular postings about webinars and expanded online resources (many of them free) to help you with your research.
- ✓ Members Helping Members sessions are expanding and include both virtual and in-person meetings. You can join in the group sessions or request an individual, one-on-one session. These sessions can help you with "how to" questions about using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker software or other tools. These sessions can also help you learn how to analyze the info you already have and show you how to research new sources.
- ✓ Participate in our Special Interest Groups. (currently German only)
- ✓ Free bus trips to the Clayton Library's Family History Research Center.
- ✓ Special in-person events are planned for the upcoming year and include awesome guest speakers plus door prizes, drawings, and delicious food!
- ✓ 4 monthly in-person General Meetings (BBQ buffet or potluck) and a Holiday Luncheon.
- ✓ Free access to all past publications (Quarterlies, Journals and monthly Newsletters).
- ✓ A listing in our Membership Yearbook.
- ✓ The opportunity to serve the Society by joining one of our committees.

## **Renew your membership NOW – 2 options:**



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
RENEW YOUR  
BAGS  
MEMBERSHIP**

**ONLINE** – You can fill out a membership form online and make your payment via PayPal with a credit or debit card, or a PayPal account, if you have one. To renew online, [click here](#). You will be directed to the "Membership Application Page" at the BAGS website. After filling out the form online, click the **Submit** button at the bottom. This will take you to PayPal where you will make your payment. You do not need to have a PayPal account to complete the transaction.

**Paper form and check** – If you would rather pay by sending a check through the regular mail, you can fill out a printed membership form. [Access the form here](#). This will open a PDF file which you can print and fill out. Mail this to the address on the form along with your check made payable to "BAGS."

If you have questions on the registration process or if you want to verify your membership status, please contact our Registrar via email, [registrar@txbayareagen.org](mailto:registrar@txbayareagen.org).

# BAGS INFORMATION

## 2024 BAGS OFFICERS

### President

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[president@txbayareagen.org](mailto:president@txbayareagen.org)

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[vicepresident@txbayareagen.org](mailto:vicepresident@txbayareagen.org)

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vacant

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### Social Media Administrator

Kathleen Williams

[socialmedia@txbayareagen.org](mailto:socialmedia@txbayareagen.org)

## BAGS NEED YOU

### as our County Coordinator!!

BAGS needs a new County Coordinator! This is a FUN position that doesn't require a lot of time, outside of the bus trip to Clayton Library and minimal time spent planning. The County Coordinator typically schedules only 4-6 bus trips per year. Two BAGS members currently serve as a backup and assist the County Coordinator as needed.

#### The County Coordinator:

- Works with Harris County and the backup coordinators to schedule each bus trip.
- Communicates upcoming dates to the board for publications.
- Tracks attending members count. **A minimum of ten attendees are required to meet Harris County guidelines for bus usage.**
- Sends reminders to attendees.
- Maintains policy agreement and emergency forms for all attendees.
- Takes attendance (at the beginning and end of the trip) to ensure all attendees are accounted for.

Interested? Please contact Kathleen at [countycoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:countycoord@txbayareagen.org) for more information.



#### Statement of Activity as of January 1, 2024

Checking Account	\$2,683.57
Saving Account	\$11,877.16
Undeposited Funds	\$25.00
PayPal Account	<u>\$938.41</u>
Total Monetary Assets	\$15,524.14

#### Additional points of contact:

Don't know the Members Page password?

[registrar@txbayareagen.org](mailto:registrar@txbayareagen.org) — George Porterfield

Research questions or to provide research assistance:

[education@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org) — Kathleen Williams

Have an article or idea to share with the Society?

[newsletter@txbayareagen.org](mailto:newsletter@txbayareagen.org) — Cindy Austin

Submit information for the Journal:

[journal@txbayareagen.org](mailto:journal@txbayareagen.org) — Todd Roberts

Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS:

[publicity@txbayareagen.org](mailto:publicity@txbayareagen.org) — Terri Myers

Not receiving emails?

[emailcoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:emailcoord@txbayareagen.org) — Fred Roe

Want to go on the Clayton Bus trip?

[countycoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:countycoord@txbayareagen.org) — email for reservation

Submit your pedigree chart to:

[pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org](mailto:pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org) — email completed pedigree

# MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

## **NEW** IN-PERSON Research Spotlight Members Helping Members

The **Research Spotlight** MHM is BAGS newest type of Members Helping Members meeting. In this **in-person** meeting, a topic is introduced with a brief presentation (10-20 minutes) followed by hands-on research. An example of this might be newspaper research or the Texas General Land Office website. There will be a discussion about "how to" and then attendees can practice what has been presented. Several hosting members will be on hand to help attendees and a handout will be provided.

Research Spotlight meetings will be held at the Friendswood Public Library, 416 S Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546

**Fri, Feb 16 @ 2-4pm:** *The Census: More Than Just Names* (bring your laptop and library cards!)

**Wed, Mar 6 @ 10-12pm:** *Using FamilySearch effectively*

**Saturday, Apr 20 @ 9am-4pm:** *Members Appreciation Seminar* (see pg. 7 for more details and registration)

### Members Helping Members (MHM)

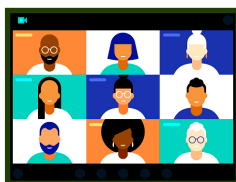
#### Online Research - Session #1 & 2

**#1 Mondays, 10:00am to 12:00pm**

~ hosts [Reneé Ball](#) and [George Porterfield](#)

**#2 Mondays, 7:00pm to 8:00pm**

~ host Kim Zrubek and friends



Need help with your family tree or a genealogical brick wall? BAGS members can join the virtual MHM sessions via *Zoom*. Participants may share their screens and demonstrate recent research discoveries. Details for connecting to a *Zoom* MHM links are available on the [Members Helping Members page](#).

### Members Helping Members

#### FOCUSED Research Session #2

**#2 – Mondays, 7:00pm to 8:00pm,**  
**Kim Zrubek, moderator, & friends**

The Monday evening MHM session, after a general meeting (via *Zoom* or in-person), will focus on the topic from the previous general meeting. These focused sessions will provide a more detailed overview of specific topics from the general meeting to allow participants to ask additional questions about the presentations. The group will utilize information and techniques presented in a hands-on approach to participants' actual experiences. The next focused session is:

**Monday January 29th at 7pm –** *Oral Histories: Remembering the Stories*

Details are on BAGS [Members Helping Members page](#).



### *What is an Online MHM (Members Helping Members) Meeting?*

During COVID, BAGS began holding weekly Zoom meetings to help our members continue their genealogy research. Due to their popularity, these meetings have continued. If you've never had the opportunity to attend one, you might wonder how they work.

In a Zoom (online) meeting, a *host* or *moderator* admits the other *attendees*. During the MHM, there is typically no agenda or schedule that is followed. Members are encouraged to talk about recent genealogical successes as well as current "brick walls" or genealogical dead-ends. Each participant brings a unique perspective and knowledge to the group and everyone can help attendees with genealogy research as they feel comfortable. Please consider attending the next meeting – MHM can be very rewarding!



# MHM and SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUPS



## BAGS German Special Interest Group THURSDAY FEB 15, 2024 at 7pm

George Porterfield and Karen Engelauf  
moderate this group.

The next regular meeting of the BAGS German SIG will be on THURSDAY, February 15th, at 7pm via Zoom.

This month's topic will be the new online transcription service Transkribus: an AI-powered platform for text recognition, transcription and searching of historical documents. This tool has the potential to be able to "read" old hand-written documents that are a stumbling block for many genealogists.

This Special Interest Group online meeting is open to all BAGS members who have an interest in Germany history, culture, and information related to German genealogy. To join this group please complete the German SIG Interest Survey on the BAGS Special Interest Group page.

Bay Area Genealogical Society is proud to be members of:  
**National Genealogical Society,**  
**Texas State Genealogical Society, Clayton Library Friends,**  
*and*  
**International German  
Genealogy Partnership**



**INTERNATIONAL GERMAN  
Genealogy Partnership**



## Family Tree Maker By Appointment Only Reneé Ball hosts these sessions.

If you would like help with Family Tree Maker MHM or need to ask questions about how the software works and interacts with other genealogical sources, you can now make appointments directly with our FTM guru, Reneé Ball. Help with technical concerns, such as software upgrading and exporting files, is also available.

Connection details are on BAGS Members Helping Members page.

## Still Need Help?

Complete the BAGS Help Desk Form and email it to Kathleen Williams, Education Chairman. She will respond to discuss your research needs!

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 are interested 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 about the BAGS Newsletter should be addressed to the Editor at [newsletter@txbayareagen.org](mailto:newsletter@txbayareagen.org). All rights reserved.

## Board Meetings

All BAGS Board Meetings are virtual via Zoom. Members are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend a meeting, request a link from [info@txbayareagen.org](mailto:info@txbayareagen.org)

## 2024 Meetings

*February 19*

*March 25*

*April 22*

Board meetings are on Mondays at 6:30pm. Board meeting minutes are available on the Members Page of the BAGS website.

*Follow BAGS on Facebook!*

Facebook Group (members only)

Facebook Page (public page)



[txbayareagen.org/](http://txbayareagen.org/)

# FEBRUARY RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES



## Friendswood FamilySearch Center

### **In-Person MHM Research Session**

**February 21st, March 20th, April 17th**

**9:30am to 11:30am (for BAGS Members only)**

The Friendswood FamilySearch Center is located at **505 Deseret Dr**, in Friendswood. The entrance to the building is on the side furthest from the street. This MHM session is open to BAGS members ONLY for research. The center is also open to the public for research during the listed visitor hours below.

**Tues, Thurs, & Fri**      **10:00am – 2:00pm**

**Tues evening**      **7:00pm – 9:00pm**

*This center has access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, which gives free access to premium family history software and websites that generally charge for subscriptions.*

## League City FamilySearch Center

The League City FamilySearch Center is located at **4655 South Shore Blvd**, in League City. The entrance to the FamilySearch Center is on the SE corner, at the back of the building, away from the street. Use the first entrance off of South Shore Blvd.

The League City FamilySearch Center is open to the public for research:

**Tuesday**      **7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Saturday**      **10:00am – 12:00pm**

*This center has access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, which gives free access to premium family history software and*

## Clayton Library Friends Events

The **Clayton Library Campus** is open for research! Staff are available to help you get started and to assist you in locating the books, microfilms, periodicals, and databases to further your research.

### **Scanning Saturdays and Booksale**

**CLF Donated Duplicate Booksale – Saturday, February 3, 2024, 11:00am**

Looking for research books to add to your personal collection? Visit the Clayton Library Friends donated duplicate booksale and tour the historic William Clayton home located on the Family History Research Center library property. No appointment needed!

**Scanning Saturdays – Saturday, February 17, 2024, 10:30am; 12:00pm; 1:30pm or 3:00pm reservations**

Bring your old photos, slides or documents to scan to the Family History Research Center to preserve your family memories! Things to bring include your photos, slides or documents and a flash or thumb drive to save your images to. Volunteers will be available to help get you oriented to the scanners. *Appointments are scheduled at 10:30am; 12:00pm; 1:30pm or 3:00pm . Please call 832-393-2600 to reserve your spot!*

**Clayton Library Friends Partner Societies** | [The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society](#) | [The Bay Area Genealogical Society](#) | [The Baytown Historical Preservation Association](#) | [Galveston County Genealogical Society](#) | [German-Texan Heritage Society](#) | [The Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society](#) | [Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston](#) | [The Houston Genealogical Forum](#) | [Houston History Alliance](#) | [The Humble Area Genealogical Society](#) | [League City Historical Society](#) | [The Matagorda County Genealogical Society](#) | [Texas Research Ramblers Genealogical Society](#) |

*[Family History Research Center @the Clayton Library](#), 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas 77004*



## Texas Bay Area Genealogical Society Presents: Member Appreciation Seminar

Kelli Bergheimer – All-Day Workshop

**April 20, 2024**

**9:00am – 4:00pm**

**Friendswood Public Library**

416 S. Friendswood Dr, Friendswood, TX 77546

[Workshop Registration Deadline April 15](#) – [Register here](#)



**BAGS Members can attend FREE** virtually or in person at the Friendswood Library. Whether you plan to attend online or in person, please register for the meeting to receive instructions for attending and handouts. Not A BAGS member? You can become a member at the [BAGS website](#)!

**Kelli Bergheimer** is a writer, teacher, editor, and international genealogical speaker, holding a Bachelor's in Biology, a Master's in Education: Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master's in Business Management. Kelli is the Director of Curriculum and Assessments for Blue Kayak, a K-12 textbook company. She also works as the Director of Education for Your DNA Guide, runs a small business – Mess on the Desk; a

genealogical organization company with a [YouTube channel](#), and is the facilitator for an online DNA Interest Group called Genetics, Genealogy, and You. Kelli is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Speaker's Guild.

Are you stuck in your genealogical research? Wondering how to make progress on your brick walls, organize your DNA results, collaborate with cousins, and start writing your family stories? Kelli shares her step-by-step methods, using real-world examples that any level of genealogist can easily understand.

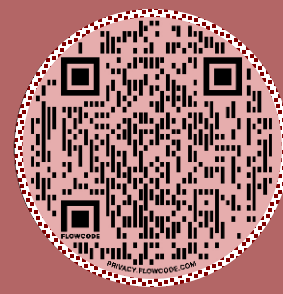
### Workshop Schedule

9:00 – 9:30am		Socialize and Technology Set Up
9:30 – 10:30am	Session 1	<b><u>Successful Online Genealogical Searching: Learn tools for successful searching online:</u></b> <i>Learn about browsers, search engines, and Boolean operators. How can you find some help with genealogical terminology and citations? Find some gems in WorldCat, Google Books, PERSI, and more.</i>
10:30 – 10:45am	Break	
10:45 – 11:45am	Session 2	<b><u>Online Tools to Organize and Collaborate with Your Cousins:</u></b> <i>Learn approaches for online wikis, blogs, and collaborating tools to share your family history with your cousins, friends, and family.</i>
12:00 – 1:30pm	Lunch	Lunch on your own, or join our reservation for the Charleston Tearoom with your online workshop registration
1:30 – 2:30pm	Session 3	<b><u>From Unknown Match to Known Match:</u></b> <i>The hard part of figuring out your DNA match lists is where to start and what to do. Learn tips for identifying cousins in your match list. We will use a match at AncestryDNA and a match at MyHeritage DNA to explore how to move those unknown matches into your family tree.</i>
2:30 – 2:45pm	Break	
2:45 – 3:45pm	Session 5	<b><u>How to Organize and Write Ancestor Stories:</u></b> <i>Learn tips to build an engaging and interesting family history. Refine your strategies and approaches to writing and compiling your ancestor stories.</i>
3:45 – 4:00pm	Q and A	Session Wrap up with time for questions and door prizes.



# BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

For the latest news and event updates,  
visit our website at [txbayareagen.org](http://txbayareagen.org)



February 2024

## Calendar of Events - 2024

### FEBRUARY

5	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
12	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
15	7:00p	German SIG
16	2:00p	In-Person <b>Research Spotlight</b> , Friendswood Library: <i>The Census: More Than Just Names</i>
19	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
21	9:30a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
23	7:00p	February General Meeting (Zoom) <b>Shannon Combs-Bennet: Roadmaps Tell You More Than How to Get from A to B: Creating A Research Plan with DNA Testing</b>
25	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch at <i>Potbelly - Webster</i>
26	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2 <i>2/23 Focused follow-up: (Zoom) Creating a Research Plan with DNA Testing</i>

### MARCH

4	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
6	10:30a	In-Person <b>Research Spotlight</b> , Friendswood Library: <i>Using FamilySearch Effectively</i>
11	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
13	7:00p	German SIG
18	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
20	9:30a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
25	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
29	7:00p	General Meeting (Zoom) <b>Cheri Hudson-Passey: Someone to Watch Over Me: Guardianship Records</b>
31	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch at <i>Olive Garden - Bay Area Blvd</i>

### APRIL

1	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2 <i>3/29 Focused follow-up: Guardianship Records</i>
8	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
10	7:00p	German SIG
15	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
17	9:30a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
20	9:00a	Members Appreciation Seminar (hybrid) Friendswood Library - <b>Kelli Berghheimer</b>
22	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
27	12:00p	APRIL Members Potluck, UBC - <b>Melissa Hayes: Cemetery Removal: Where Did It Go?</b>
28	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch - <i>TBA</i>
29	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2 <i>4/27 Focused follow-up: Cemetery Removal</i>

### MAY

6	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
8	7:00p	German SIG
13	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
20	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
26	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch - <i>TBA</i>
27	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
31	7:00p	MAY Members Meeting (Zoom) <b>Larry W. Thomas: Two Colonial Georgias</b>