

BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024
Volume 24
Issue 4



BAGS Members Potluck

Saturday, April 27, 2024
at 12:00pm

University Baptist Church

16106 Middlebrook Dr,
Houston, TX 77059

Join us for our April luncheon meeting at University Baptist Church, located in Clear Lake City. Members are invited to bring their favorite side dish, salad, or dessert, while BAGS will provide delicious fried chicken, bourbon chicken and roast beef from Golden Corral and KFC. Please remember to bring serving utensils for your dishes! Setup begins at 11:30am!

Our guest speaker will be **Melissa Hayes**, with a presentation entitled "**Cemetery Removal: Where Did It Go?**" We will discover resources to help us find a missing cemetery, including strategies to find out where gravesites were relocated and what we can do to document our findings.

Melissa Hayes, MLIS, is currently the Assistant Branch Manager at the *Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research*. She started researching her family during her college years in 1979. Many years and lots of generations later, she is still looking for missing family members! Melissa, a native of Charles County, Maryland, moved all the way to Houston and found her Maryland relatives while doing research at Clayton. Her areas of research include Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

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Special Points of Interest

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



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	<u>Successful Online Genealogical Searching: Learn tools for successful searching online:</u> <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	<u>Online Tools to Organize and Collaborate with Your Cousins:</u> <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	On your own, or join our reservation for the Charleston Tearoom with your online workshop registration
1:30 – 2:30pm	Session 3	<u>From Unknown Match to Known Match:</u> <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 4	<u>How to Organize and Write Ancestor Stories:</u> <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 BUSINESS | INFORMATION

2024 BAGS OFFICERS

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Welcome New BAGS Members:

Judy Richardson and Jackie Webster

Statement of Activity as of March 1, 2024



Checking Account	\$4,468.82
Saving Account	\$11,879.11
PayPal	\$332.22
Undeposited Funds	\$95.00
Total Monetary Assets	\$16,775.15

BAGS NEEDS 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 education@txbayareagen.org for more information.

Additional points of contact:

Don't know the Members Page password?

registrar@txbayareagen.org — *George Porterfield*

Research questions or to provide research assistance:

education@txbayareagen.org — *Kathleen Williams*

Have an article or idea to share with the Society?

newsletter@txbayareagen.org — *Cindy Austin*

Submit information for the Journal:

journal@txbayareagen.org — *Todd Roberts*

Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS:

publicity@txbayareagen.org — *Terri Myers*

Not receiving emails?

emailcoord@txbayareagen.org — *Fred Roe*

Want to go on the Clayton Bus trip?

countycoord@txbayareagen.org — *email for reservation*

Submit your pedigree chart to:

pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org — *completed pedigrees/questions*



MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS GROUPS

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



Do you need assistance with your family tree or a genealogical brick wall? BAGS members can participate in the virtual MHM sessions via Zoom. Participants may share their screens and demonstrate recent research findings. Details for connecting to a Zoom MHM link are available on the [Members Helping Members page](#).

Family Tree Maker

Now by Appointment Only

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](#).



German Special Interest Group

Our BAGS German Special Interest Group is **currently on hiatus**. For questions/information you may contact [George Porterfield](#). Members are encouraged to utilize our other Members Helping Members events for further research help with German Ancestry.

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 sessions are:

Monday, April 1 at 7pm –
Guardianship Records

Monday, April 29 at 7pm –
Cemetery Removal

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!



INTERNATIONAL GERMAN
Genealogy Partnership



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

THIS & THAT



April's Guest speaker – Melissa Hayes

~ continued from pg 1

Hayes graduated with a Master of Library Science and a Graduate Academic Certificate in Youth Services from the University of North Texas in 2008. She has worked at the Houston Public Library system since 2004. She accepted the position of Assistant Branch Manager at Clayton in June 2013. Melissa's areas of research include Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Lineage Societies and ghost stories. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

- ⇒ **Genealogy Roundtable** – **April 17th, 2:00pm** at the Friendswood Public Library. (non-BAGS sponsored)
- ⇒ **The WPA Era: Free Records Boon from the Government** **April 19, 2:00-3:00pm** Online/Virtual by the *Houston Public Library* [registration here](#). (non-BAGS sponsored)
- ⇒ **BAGS Meet 'n Munch** – **Sunday May 19th, 4:00 – 6:00pm** BB's Tex-Orleans, 1039 Bay Area Blvd, Gulf Freeway, Webster



The colors and designs of national flags usually are not arbitrarily selected but rather stem from the history, culture, or religion of the particular country. Many flags can be traced to a common origin, and such "flag families" are often linked both by common traditions and by geography.



Flags have been used by countries for thousands of years with ancient designs stemming from Greek, Iranian, and Egyptian designs. The first types of flags were called "vexilloids," which is derived from a Latin word meaning "guide."



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. 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

2024 Meetings

March 25

April 22

May 20

June 24

July 22

August 19

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/

APRIL RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES



Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person MHM Research Session

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 **Family History Center at 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. You can even visit their NEW YouTube channel [here!](#)

Scanning Saturdays and Booksale

CLF Donated Duplicate Booksale – Saturday, April 6, 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, April 20, 2024, 10:30am

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](#) |

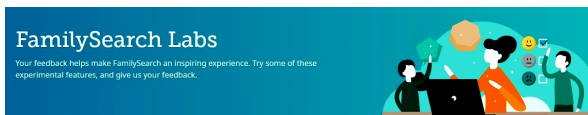
NEW FAMILYSEARCH FEATURES

By Kathleen Williams, BAGS Education Chairman

During RootsTech 2024, *FamilySearch* announced a new feature called **full-text searching**. This feature is still experimental, but genealogists are blown away by its possibilities. To access Full-Text Searching, you **MUST** be logged into FamilySearch.

Let's go through the step-by-step process to use this tool:

1. Go to www.familysearch.org/labs
2. Sign into FamilySearch
3. Inside the box that says, "Expand your search with Full Text" click "**TRY IT**" or "**Go To Experiment**." This will open a new screen tab.
4. You will then see FamilySearch's disclaimer. This is an experimental product, so they don't guarantee it will always be available. Also, there is no support available for this product. 
5. Now, you will enter your search terms. FamilySearch has a box with Search Tips that can help you find items of interest.



Why are genealogists so excited by this? Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transcribed over 100 million searchable records from the following collections: *U.S. Land & Probate records*, *Freedman's Bureau records*, *Mexican notarial records*, and *the Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations Collection*. This is just the beginning. FamilySearch intends to use AI to transcribe ALL unindexed records in their collection.

Here are a few general tips:

- Use creative searching. If you have a common name, be more specific about what you want to find.
- Search for "James Williams of Coleman" or "Williams of Coleman" to find records related to the Williams family that are in Coleman County.
- Use wildcards * (one or more characters) and ? (one character).
- Use the exact search "James Williams."
- Use + to link keywords together.
- **Filtering is KEY!** You can filter by year, type, place, or collection. Click on a filter and then choose from the choices provided. (Example: Click on "Record Place" and then select "United States of America." You can then filter by state and county.)
- Remember that your ancestors may be in places you don't expect.



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NEW FAMILYSEARCH FEATURES

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Tips for Using Keywords:

- ✓ Use multiple surnames
- ✓ Use names of geographical features
- ✓ Use both spouses' names
- ✓ Use occupations (ex., cooper, doctor)
- ✓ Use boundary descriptions to locate deeds
- ✓ Use nicknames, middle names & reverse order of name (ex. McElrath James)
- ✓ Use locations associated with your family other than the location being filtered
- ✓ Search using members of the FAN club (Friends, Associates & Neighbors)
- ✓ Phrase searches in quotes will return exact or similar results (Ex. Hellen will find Helen, "James W Williams" will also find similar results like "James Williams.")



Unfortunately, there is no guide to show us exactly how this works – likely because it's still a work in progress. Right now, there isn't any advantage to using the surname box instead of or in conjunction with the keyword box, but this may change.

A few limitations you need to be aware of:

- * There isn't a list of exactly what collections or items are included.
- * Full-text searching is new and NOT perfect.
- * Documents may have multiple dates listed (If the date listed occurs much later than an individual lived, don't discount it. It may still apply to that person – sometimes it takes decades for records to process through the courts.)
- * Not everything will be transcribed correctly.
- * If it's not digitized, it's not available - yet.
- * **Viewing restrictions still apply.** This last limitation needs to be clarified: if you are searching land records of Dale County., Alabama, you won't find much of interest because although those records have been digitized, they're **not available from home**, so you will only be able to **view them at a FamilySearch Center**.



What I have discovered in about 10 hours of searching:

- ⇒ A land record naming the parents of Willie McElrath (the only previous proof was her death record), her siblings' names, and the dates of her parents' deaths.
- ⇒ A land record detailing purchased land in Jefferson County, Missouri, for D.C. Freeman after he "disappeared" from St. Louis, Missouri, in 1875.
- ⇒ A land record naming all the children (including those who were deceased) and the two wives of James Stephens of Coleman County.

If you need help using this new feature, join us for any Monday's MHM sessions!

****Because this feature is being updated regularly, the examples may be outdated by the time it's published!****



BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

For the latest news and event updates,
visit our website at txbayareagen.org



April 2024

Calendar of Events - 2024

APRIL

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

MAY

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 6 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2 |
| 13 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2 |
| 19 | 4:00p | Meet 'n Munch – BB's Tex-Orleans
1039 W Bay Area Blvd, Friendswood, TX |
| 20 | 10:00a
6:30p | Members Helping Members #1
BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom) |
| 24 | 7:00p | MAY Members Meeting (Zoom)
Larry W. Thomas: Two Colonial Georgias |

JUNE

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 3 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2
<i>6/31 Focused follow-up: Two Colonial Georgias</i> |
| 10 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2 |
| 17 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2 |
| 19 | 9:30a | MHM, Friendswood FSC |
| 24 | 10:00a
6:30p | Members Helping Members #1
BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom) |
| 28 | 7:00p | General Meeting (Zoom)
J Mark Lowe: Using That Brick Wall
as a Foundation |
| 30 | 4:00p | Meet 'n Munch – Tookie's Burgers
406 Texas Ave, Kemah, TX |

JULY

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 1 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2
<i>7/24 Focused follow-up: Using That Brick Wall as a Foundation</i> |
| 8 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2 |
| 15 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2 |
| 17 | 9:30a | MHM, Friendswood FSC |
| 22 | 10:00a
6:30p | Members Helping Members #1
BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom) |
| 26 | 12:00p | JULY Members Meeting - TBA |
| 28 | 4:00p | Meet 'n Munch - TBA |
| 29 | 10:00a
7:00p | Members Helping Members #1
Members Helping Members #2 |