

June 2025
Volume 25
Issue 6



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter



BAGS General Meeting Friday, June 27th, 7:00pm (Zoom) Colonial Origins and DNA *with Kate Penny Howard*

BAGS welcomes **Kate Penny Howard** presenting "*Colonial Origins & DNA.*" Have you ever scrolled down your DNA match list past known family, to second, third, and fourth cousins, finding yourself in a harsh landscape of distant cousins? Kate will discuss when distant matches can be useful in confirming Colonial ancestors, and when they can be misleading. Kate will also explain how she broke through a brick wall using distant DNA matches.

Kate Penney Howard is a genetic genealogist and speaker specializing in endogamy and breaking down challenging research barriers with DNA. She brings decades of experience in family research and hundreds of successfully solved genetic genealogy cases. Known for her compassionate approach, Kate helps researchers uncover ancestral mysteries while providing more complete family medical histories and a stronger sense of identity. Her presentations captivate audiences by seamlessly blending historical context, technical guidance, and well-placed humor that keeps listeners engaged.

Kate discovered her passion for teaching during her cancer journey, finding fulfillment in sharing knowledge with fellow genealogists. She approaches her work with integrity, deliberately addressing historical injustices and dispelling common myths in her presentations. Kate has presented at RootsTech, East Coast Genetic Genealogy Conference, the International Congress on Medieval Studies, and Untangling Our Roots.

Visit our [website homepage](#) for the Zoom registration link for this meeting.

Inside this issue

Members Helping Members	2
BAGS Educational Spotlight	3
BAGS Business Information	4
BAGS Support	5
Library/Research News	6
BAGS Calendar	7

Special Points of Interest

Social Media Links

BAGS Partnerships

Clayton Library Partner Links

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS GROUPS

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

June 11th 1:30pm, FamilySearch Full Text Search
(repeated on **June 12th, 7:00pm** via Zoom)

Education Spotlight presentation topics are introduced by a brief presentation, followed by hands-on “how to.” Then attendees can practice what has been presented during the rest of the meeting. Several hosting members will be on hand to help attendees and a handout will be provided.

The June 11th in-person presentation will be at the Freeman Library, 1616 Diana, Houston, TX, 77062 at 1:30pm

June 12th is a virtual repeat of the previous day’s presentation via Zoom at 7:00pm. The Zoom registration is under the **Members Helping Members** section of the [BAGS website](#). More presentation details are available on page 3.



MHM Online Research – Session #1 & #2

#1 Mondays, 10:00am to 12:00pm with [Reneé Ball](#) & [George Porterfield](#)
#2 Mondays, 7:00pm to 8:00pm with Kim Zrubek & friends

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

Genealogy Writing Special Interest Group

The BAGS Writing Special Interest Group meets **virtually, via Zoom**, on the **1st** and **3rd** Thursdays of each month with an in person option, on the 3rd Thursday. Registration details are on the BAGS website or contact Becky Jones at vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org for more information and location directions.



Family Tree Maker – *by Appointment Only*



If you would like help using /installing Family Tree Maker 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](#).

Need Help?

Complete the [BAGS Help Desk Form](#) and email it to [Kathleen Williams, Education Chairman](#). She'll respond to discuss your research needs!

BAGS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education Spotlight Presentation

June 11th 1:30pm, FamilySearch Full Text Search
repeated on June 12th, 7:00pm via Zoom

Genealogy research can be a complex and time-consuming endeavor, requiring meticulous attention to detail and extensive exploration of historical records. In today's digital age, various online platforms have emerged to aid genealogists in their quest for family history. One such valuable resource is **FamilySearch**, a website offering a suite of tools and features designed to streamline the research process. Among these tools, the **full text search feature** stands out as an essential aid for genealogists. Here are several compelling reasons why genealogists should leverage FamilySearch's full text search feature:

Comprehensive Database Access

FamilySearch's **full text search feature** provides genealogists with access to a vast and diverse database of historical records. The platform hosts millions of documents, ranging from census records, birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, and immigration records to military service documents, land deeds, and wills. By utilizing the full text search feature, genealogists can search through this extensive collection efficiently and locate pertinent information that might otherwise remain hidden within the archives.

Ease of Use

One the great advantages of **FamilySearch's full text search feature** is its user-friendly interface. The search functionality is intuitive and straight-forward, making it accessible even to those who are new to genealogical research. Users can refine their searches using filters and advanced options, ensuring that they locate the most relevant information without unnecessary complications. This simplicity encourages more people to engage in genealogy and discover their heritage.

Access to Digitized Records

FamilySearch has made significant efforts to digitize historical records, making them accessible online to researchers worldwide. The **full text search feature** allows genealogists to search through these digitized records effortlessly. This digital access is beneficial for those who are unable to visit physical archives due to geographical constraints or other limitations. Researchers can explore a wealth of information from the comfort of their homes, expanding their research possibilities.

Constantly Updated Database

FamilySearch continuously updates its database with new records and information. The **full text search feature** allows genealogists to stay current with the latest additions, ensuring that their research remains comprehensive and up-to-date. Regular updates mean that researchers can discover new information that may have been previously unavailable, providing fresh insights into their family history.

Zoom registration for June 12th is available on the **Members Helping Members** page of the [BAGS website](https://www.bayareagen.org/).

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

2025 Meetings

June 23

July 21

Aug 25

Sep 22

Oct 20

Nov 17

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

Follow BAGS on Facebook!

[Facebook Group \(members only\)](#)

[Facebook Page \(public page\)](#)



[txbayareagen.org/](https://www.txbayareagen.org/)

BAGS BUSINESS | INFORMATION



In case you missed Carl Smith's April presentation: *GenZ and Genealogy: Getting the Next Generation Interested in Genealogy*, you're in luck! Due to a scheduling conflict, Carl has rescheduled to be at our November 21st General Meeting speaker by Zoom. Thanks to our own



Nick Cimino, who stepped up and filled in with his outstanding presentation: *Tips and Tricks: City Directories*. Check the BAGS website for information and handouts.

BAGS Bus Trips to the Clayton Library!

The next trip is scheduled for Tuesday, **June 3rd**! If you are interested in attending email Deborah Gammon, gammondc@gmail.com! 10 attendees are confirmed as of May 20th!

Meet-up spot – Freeman Library parking lot, 16616 Diana, Houston, TX. The bus departs at **9:30am sharp**! Bring lunch to enjoy! Outdoor tables are available for eating and fellowship. Bring a flash drive to save photocopies. The temperature in the library can vary, so plan accordingly. Return trip to Diana Lane by 4:15pm, traffic permitting.

WE ARE FAMILY



Is this year's BAGS display theme at the Freeman Library for September 2025.

Do you have a story that can be told with pictures or documents? Do you have memorabilia (photos, clothes, letters, etc.) to attract attention to the display? You can help!!

Create a poster or send photos – contact Polly Swerdlin, at 281-814-4606 or webeditor@txbayareagen.org, and let her know when and where to pick up your part of this project.

Setup is September 2nd (Tuesday) @ 10am.

Takedown is September 30th (Tuesday) @ 10am.

Statement of Activity as of May 1, 20225

Checking Account	\$4,170.09
Saving Account	\$12,173.23
Undeposited Funds	\$25.00
Total Monetary Assets	\$17,119.64



2025 BAGS OFFICERS

President

Teresa Rundell

president@txbayareagen.org

First Vice President

Jane Martin

vicepresident@txbayareagen.org

Second Vice President

Becky Jones

vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org

Treasurer

Todd Roberts

treasurer@txbayareagen.org

Registrar

George Porterfield

registrar@txbayareagen.org

Secretary

Kitty Olson

secretary@txbayareagen.org

Web Editors

Polly Swerdlin and

George Porterfield

webeditor@txbayareagen.org

Yearbook Editor

Luanne Newman

yearbook@txbayareagen.org

Journal Editor

Todd Roberts

journal@txbayareagen.org

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Austin

newsletter@txbayareagen.org

Newsletter Proofreader

Luanne Newman

Photographer

Bill Mayo

Email Distribution

Fred Roe

emailcoord@txbayareagen.org

Education Coordinator

Kathleen Williams

education@txbayareagen.org

County Coordinator

Deborah Gammon

countycoord@txbayareagen.org

Social Media Administrator

Kathleen Williams

socialmedia@txbayareagen.org

Publicity Coordinator

Terri Myers

publicity@txbayareagen.org

Additional points of contact:

Don't know the Members Page password? registrar@txbayareagen.org – George Porterfield

Have an article or idea to share? newsletter@txbayareagen.org – Cindy Austin

Submit information for the Journal: journal@txbayareagen.org – Todd Roberts

Ideas for BAGS advertising: publicity@txbayareagen.org – Terri Myers

Not receiving emails? emailcoord@txbayareagen.org – Fred Roe

Research questions or provide research assistance: education@txbayareagen.org – Kathleen Williams

SUPPORT BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY!

HOW YOU CAN HELP BAGS

The Bay Area Genealogy Society is now partnering with the Kroger Community Impact Program. You can easily link your **Kroger Plus Card** to the Bay Area Genealogy Society of Texas. It costs you nothing extra, but impacts BAGS in a mighty way! A percentage of your total purchases at Kroger stores go directly to the Bay Area Genealogy Society without any additional cost to you. It's part of Kroger's commitment to giving back to the communities they serve through their Community Rewards program.

HOW YOU CAN ENROLL

1. Sign in to your [Kroger account](#) OR create a NEW account.
2. Search for Bay Area Genealogy Society [here](#),
3. Type **HY346** in the search bar and then ←ENTER
4. Select the **BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** and click the blue **Enroll** button.

BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY will also be displayed in your account's Kroger Community Rewards section. If you need to review or revisit your choice, you can always do so under your Account details. If you have any questions, please contact

Treasurer, Todd Roberts, at treasurer@txbayarea.org.

Join Us for the **Annual SHOW & TELL Event** – Celebrate Your Ancestors' Legacy!

The Bay Area Genealogical Society is thrilled to invite all members to participate in our annual **SHOW & TELL** event, a cherished tradition where we share and celebrate the stories and treasures passed down from our ancestors. Have you unearthed a unique artifact that tells an incredible story? Do you have an old photo that vividly depicts an ancestor's life? Have you solved a genealogical mystery and want to share your research journey? This is your chance to showcase an heirloom, share a research breakthrough, or present a personal connection to your family's history. Whether it's a precious family keepsake or a research victory, your contributions will enrich and inspire others.

The event will take place during the membership luncheon on **Saturday, August 30th**, in the chapel of the **University Baptist Church**. It promises to be an afternoon filled with engaging stories, fascinating displays, and the warm camaraderie of fellow genealogy enthusiasts. Don't miss this chance to connect with others and celebrate the shared passion that brings us together! To participate and share your ancestor's legacy, contact **Rebecca "Becky" Jones** at VicePresident2@txbayareagen.org to be included in the list of presenters. Let's come together to honor the past, celebrate our heritage, and inspire future generations. We look forward to seeing you there!



All images courtesy of Microsoft Copilot

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.

MAY RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES



Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person MHM Research Session

TUESDAYS: June 17th, July 15th, July 19th
10:00am to 12:00pm

Now meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month! This MHM session is open to all BAGS members for research. The Friendswood FamilySearch Center is located at **505 Deseret Dr**, in Friendswood, TX. The center is also open to the public for research during the listed visitor hours:

Tues, Thurs, & Fri **10:00am – 2:00pm**
Tuesday evenings **7:00pm – 9:00pm**

The center has FREE access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, with premium family history software.

League City FamilySearch Center

The League City FamilySearch Center is located at **4655 South Shore Blvd**, in League City and is open to the public for research:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays **7:00pm – 9:00pm**
Saturdays **10:00am – 12:00pm**

OTHER FAMILYSEARCH CENTERS

Alvin FSC , 2700 Lehi Ln, Alvin, TX, 77511	Wednesdays 10am – 12pm
Baytown FSC , 1010 Birdsong Dr, Baytown, TX, 77521	Wednesdays 10am – 12pm
Kingwood FSC , 4021 Deerbrook, Kingwood, TX, 77339	Wednesdays 7pm – 9pm
Pasadena FSC , 4202 Yellowstone Dr, Pasadena, TX, 77504	Wednesdays 7pm – 9pm
Sugarland FSC , 602 Eldridge Rd, Sugarland TX, 77478	Wednesdays 10am – 5pm

These centers have FREE access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, with premium family history software.

BAGS Bus Trips to the Clayton Library are BACK!

Be sure to sign up for our next trip on **JUNE 3rd @ 9:30am**. The registration link and travel forms are available on the [BAGS website](#) > **Members Only**> **Trips** page. We have 10 people confirmed as of May 20th. Please email Deb Gammon, gammondc@gmail.com, to save your spot! We meet at the front of the **Freeman Library**, 16616 Diana Ln, Houston, TX 77062. Bring a sack lunch and drink, your research and a flash drive to make copies. The bus leaves **promptly at 9:30am** and will return to the Freeman Library at 3:15pm, traffic permitting.

HPL Clayton Library for Genealogical Research (FSC) and CLF Events

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

CLF From Sea to Shining Sea: Discovering the Journey of Our Ancestors – **June 5th, 1:00–3:00pm (hybrid)**,

Stuck on a branch of your family tree? Maybe your ancestors moved! Following old migration trails can help figure out where they went or where they came from. Knowing when and where people tended to move, and applying the information to your research, could be the key to getting past that brick wall. Marcy Carter-Lovick, Honorary State Regent for the Texas Society DAR, is a member of the NSDAR Lineage Research Committee's Regional Support Team, and National Chair for the DAR Genealogy Research Institute. Online Zoom registration [click here](#).

CLF Book Sale & Scanning Saturdays – **June 7th and 21st, 11:00am–3:00pm**, Visit the Clayton Library Friends donated duplicate book sale held each 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Call 832-393-2600 to reserve your spot to scan photos and documents. Bring a flash drive to save all your scans! (*repeating events*)

LGBTQ Genealogy and Family Trees – **June 10th, 1:00-2:15pm**, We think of genealogy as tracing the roots of family trees; names, dates, places, and relationships, but what happens when histories are incomplete, hidden, or forgotten? Professional genealogist Stewart Blandon Traiman, MD, explores how genealogy can uncover hidden or forgotten ancestors through records like photographs, censuses, newspapers, and archives. This hybrid program has viewing options both in-person and online. To register for a spot in-person [click here](#). Register to join the Zoom meeting online follow the [link here](#).



BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



June 2025

Calendar of Events – 2025

JUNE

2	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
3	9:30a	BAG Bus Trip to Clayton Library
5	10:30a	Writing SIG (Zoom)
9	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
11	1:30p	Education Spotlight <i>Freeman Lib.</i>
12	7:00p	Education Spotlight (Zoom)
16	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	Members Helping Members #2
17	10:00a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
19	10:30a	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
23	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
27	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom): <i>Colonial Origins and DNA with Kate Penny Howard</i>
29	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – <i>Mia's Table</i>
30	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2

JULY

3	10:30a	Writing SIG (Zoom)
7	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
14	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
15	10:00a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
17	10:30a	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
21	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
25	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom) <i>After You're Gone: Future Proofing Genealogy Research</i> with T. MacEntee
27	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – TBA
28	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2

AUGUST

4	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
7	10:30a	Writing SIG (Zoom)
11	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
18	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
19	10:00a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
21	10:30a	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
25	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
30	12:00p	BAGS Members Meeting: <i>Membership Show & Tell with Potluck Luncheon</i>

SEPTEMBER

1	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
2	10:00a	Freeman Library Display begins: <i>We Are Family</i>
8	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
15	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	Members Helping Members #2
16	10:00a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
22	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
26	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting – TBA
28	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – TBA
29	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
30	10:00a	<i>We Are Family</i> – Freeman Library Display ends