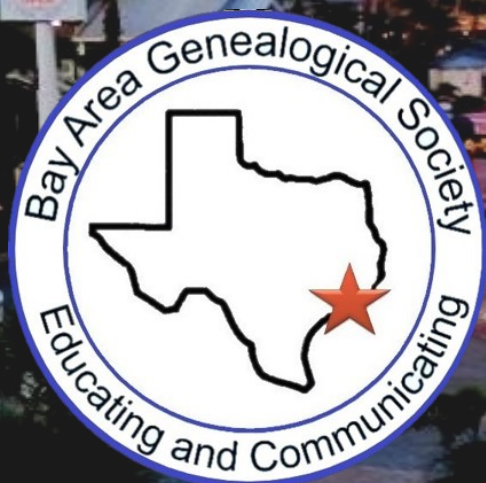


September 2025
Volume 25
Issue 9

Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter



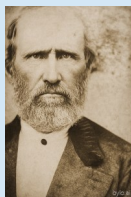
BAGS General Meeting

Friday, September 26, 2025

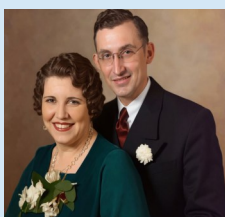
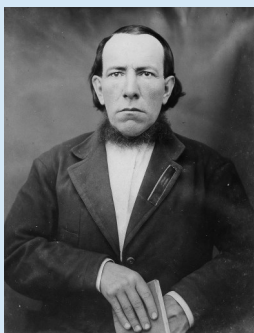
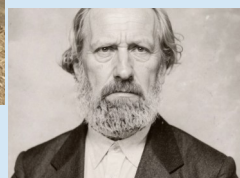
7:00pm

TBA — Check the [BAGS webpage](#)
for further developments!

Enhancing Photos with AI



Framed originals date from 1840 to 1950, enhanced by [Bylo.ai](#). All photos used with permission.



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Special Points of Interest

Social Media Links
BAGS Partnerships

BAGS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education Spotlight Presentation

Digging Deeper Into AI For Genealogists

Sep 23rd at 3:00pm (in-person) and **Sep 24th at 7:00pm** (Zoom)

Friendswood Library

AI can be a powerful tool for genealogy research. In this session, explore hands-on ways to use AI for crafting effective prompts, transcribing historical records, jumpstarting or refining your written work, uncovering the meanings of old words or terminology, building customized locality guides, and guiding your family history research every step of the way. Unlock the next frontiers of family history research with advanced AI tools designed specifically for genealogists seeking more than the basics.

Attendees need a laptop or tablet to participate in this “hands-on” session. Zoom registration for is available on the **Members Helping Members** page of the [BAGS website](https://www.txbayareagen.org).

Everything You Wanted to Know About Family Genealogy (But Were Too Ashamed to Ask)

A Beginner’s Guide to Exploring Your Roots

Genealogy, the study of family history and lineage, is more popular and accessible than ever before. Whether you’re motivated by curiosity, a desire to connect with your heritage, or the hope of solving a family mystery, tracing your ancestry can be both exciting and illuminating. The process involves gathering records—birth certificates, census entries, immigration papers, and more—and weaving together the stories of those who came before you. Today, technology has put generations of data at your fingertips, making it easier to piece together your family’s unique journey.

For those just getting started, there’s no shortage of resources. Free search sites like FamilySearch.org and the USGenWeb Project offer vast databases of records, including census, church, and immigration documents contributed by volunteers around the world. Many national and regional archives also provide free access to documents, and local libraries are often treasure troves for historical newspapers and city directories. Social Media forums and genealogy message boards allow beginners to connect with more experienced researchers and distant relatives who might hold missing pieces of the puzzle.

If you’re ready to dig deeper or crave more advanced tools, paid services like [Ancestry](https://www.ancestry.com) or [MyHeritage](https://www.myheritage.com) deliver access to digitized records, DNA testing, and tree-building platforms with automated hints and global search features. These paid sites frequently turn up documents and connections not available elsewhere and offer sleek apps for tracking your research on the go. Whether you start with free resources or invest in a subscription, genealogy is a journey of discovery—one that grows richer, the more you explore. ~ *Courtesy of CoPilot*

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

September 22th

October 20th

November 17th

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

Follow BAGS on Facebook!

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

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



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

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS GROUPS

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

Digging Deeper Into AI

Sep 23rd at 3:00pm (in-person) and **Sep 24th at 7:00pm (Zoom)**

Education Spotlight presentation topics are introduced by a brief presentation, followed by hands-on “how to.” Attendees bring a laptop or table to practice presentation material during the remainder of the meeting. Several members will be on hand to help attendees. A handout will be provided.

Sep 23rd in-person presentation will be at the Friendswood Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr, Friendswood, TX, 77546 at 3:00pm

Sep 24th 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 2](#) of this newsletter.

NEED ZOOM SUPPORT?

Kathleen Williams will be available **before** the in-person Education Spotlight session on **Sep 23rd at 2:00pm** to help you learn how to connect with BAGS on *Zoom*. She can also answer questions or troubleshoot any *Zoom* issues you might be experiencing! Please bring your own electronic device to connect.



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, **1:30 – 3:30pm** 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 [Members Helping Members page](#).



Need Extra Help?

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

SUPPORT YOUR BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY!

WE ARE FAMILY—POSTPONED!

This year's [BAGS display presentation](#) at the [Freeman Library](#) is rescheduled for **DECEMBER 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/memorabilia to 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.



BAGS CONTINUES TO NEED YOUR HELP!

The Bay Area Genealogy Society is partnering with the Kroger Community Impact Program. You can 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 BAGS 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 TO 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. Have questions? Please contact Treasurer, Todd Roberts, at treasurer@txbayarea.org.

FREE ONLINE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE:

Legacy Family Tree announces

WEBTEMBER 2025

All Genealogy

All September Long

Free online genealogy conference every **WEDNESDAY** in September!

[Genealogy Bargains](#) | [Family Tree Legacy](#)



**I'M JUST ONE
WEBINAR AWAY
FROM A MAJOR
BREAKTHROUGH**
**WEBTEMBER
2025**

FREE GENEALOGY WEBINARS
EVERY WEDNESDAY IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES

Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person MHM Research Session

TUESDAYS: Sep 16th, Oct 21st Nov 20th

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

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

JOIN US for a DAY of RESEARCH at the SAM HOUSTON REGIONAL LIBRARY and RESEARCH CENTER, Liberty, Texas

The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center is one of twenty-four regional centers overseen by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The Liberty location covers the ten counties of Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, and Tyler. Their collections include over 12,000 cubic feet of artifacts, maps, local government records, manuscripts, and business records for families, individuals, organizations, and businesses in the area. The library also provides several resources for general research on Texas.

BAGS has coordinated a membership day trip to the Sam Houston Library on **Saturday, October 18**. Details and registration are available on the [BAGS website](#). Please send an email to Coordinator [Deborah Gammon](#) by **October 3rd** to save a seat!

Information for this location, including finding aids for some of their collections, can be found at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/>.

Visit www.tsl.texas.gov/arc for information on the archival holdings of the Texas State Archives.

Visit www.tsl.texas.gov/texasdigitalarchive for searchable digital collections.

HPL Clayton Library for Genealogical Research | FamilySearch Center and Clayton Library Friends (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 Book Sale & Scanning Saturdays – Sep 6th and 20th, 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!

Orientation to the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library – Sep 13th, 10:00-11:30am, Curious about your family history? Clayton offers a monthly orientation to the Family History Research Center where you can learn about the history of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus, the resources we provide, and how to uncover your ancestors' stories [Register here](#)

Clayton Library Friends Partner Societies | [The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society](#) | [Texas Bay Area Genealogical Society](#) | [The Baytown Historical Preservation Association](#) | [Galveston County Genealogical Society](#) | [The 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](#) | [West Houston Area Genealogical Society](#)

Family History Research Center @ the Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas 77004

BAGS BUSINESS | INFORMATION

Nominations for the following Bay Area Genealogical Society positions 2026-27 are now being accepted by the Nominating Committee.

President

1st VP

2nd VP/Programming

Secretary

Registrar

Treasurer

If you are interested in serving on the board, or know someone who would love the opportunity to serve, please email the name to 1stvicepresident@txbayareagen.org **before October 10th**. The official nominees will be announced at the October meeting on October 24, 2025.

Other positions and committees are board appointed. Voting will be in November at the General Meeting. The results will be announced in the December newsletter and on the BAGS website.



Statement of Activity as of September 1, 20225

Checking Account	\$3,519.39
Savings Account	\$2,175.99
CDs	\$10,010.36
PayPal	\$81.83
Total Monetary Assets	\$15,787.57

COMING IN OCTOBER! – [GENEALOGY LOCK IN](#)

Hosted by Waco McLennan County Library and Central Texas Genealogical Society This event is available virtually. Eight presentations will be on **Friday, October 18, 2024**. Check the [Waco McLennan County Library](#) website for the list of speakers and topics! More information for in-person sites available in October.



Additional points of BAGS 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

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.

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BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



September 2025

Calendar of Events – 2025

SEPTEMBER

1	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
4	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
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
18	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
22	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
23	2:30p	Zoom Help – Friendswood Library
	3:00p	Education Spotlight – FPL
24	7:00p	Education Spotlight: (Zoom)
26	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting – TBA (Zoom)
28	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – <i>Hugh and Jeff's Carwash and Grill</i> – League City
29	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2

OCTOBER

2	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
6	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
13	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
16	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
18	8:00a	Bus Trip to Sam Houston Research Center and Library
	9:00a	Genealogy Network of Texas (aka Genealogy Lock-in) – online
20	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
21	10:00a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
24	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom)
		<i>After You're Gone: Future Proofing Genealogy Research</i> with T. MacEntee
26	4:00p	Meet and Munch – <i>Hoppes Sports Bar and Grill</i> – League City
27	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2

NOVEMBER

3	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
6	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
10	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
17	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
18	10:00a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
20	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
21	12:00p	BAGS Members Meeting: (Zoom)
		Carl Smith – <i>GenZ and Genealogy: Getting the Next Generation Interested In Genealogy</i>
24	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
27	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – <i>Red River BBQ</i> – League City

DECEMBER

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> (set-up)
6	11:30a	BAGS Holiday Luncheon - TBA
8	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
15	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
22	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2
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 (tear down)