



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

Dec 2025
Volume 25
Issue 12

BAGS Holiday Luncheon
Sunday, December 14, 2025
at 2:00pm

South Shore Grille
2800 Marina Bay Drive
League City, Texas 77573



Please join your fellow society members at the annual BAGS Holiday Luncheon on **Sunday, December 14th, 2:00pm to 4:00pm** at the *South Shore Grille* in League City. Reservations are required.

You can make your **[reservation to attend here!](#)** Members will cover their own luncheon tabs and gratuities. The menu preview is on **page 8**.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our next in-person, meeting, January 30, 2026, at University Baptist Church. This is our annual potluck luncheon to welcome the New Year and celebrate with fellow members! Our guest speaker will be our own Kathleen Williams, speaking on the topic: Full Text Search: Finding Hidden Records at FamilySearch.org.

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Special Points of Interest

Social Media Links
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Clayton Library Partner Links

BAGS BUSINESS | INFORMATION

Congratulations to the following Bay Area Genealogical Society Officers for 2026-27!

President	<i>Teresa Rundell</i>
1st VP	<i>Rebecca Briggs</i>
2nd VP/Programs	<i>Rebecca "Becky" Jones</i>
Secretary	<i>Louise Kidder</i>
Registrar	<i>George Porterfield</i>
Treasurer	<i>Todd Roberts</i>

At the November General Meeting, the above slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee, was approved by acclamation. These officers will be sworn in at the January 2026 general meeting for a period of two years. Other positions and committees will be appointed by the President subject to approval by the Board of Directors!



**KEEP
CALM
AND
RENEW YOUR
BAGS
MEMBERSHIP**



Statement of Activity as of November 1, 20225

Checking Account	\$3,131.41
Savings Account	\$2,176.53
CDs	\$10,097.40
Undeposited Funds	<u>\$2.00</u>
Total Monetary Assets	\$15,407.34

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.

2025 BAGS OFFICERS

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RESEARCH ASSISTANCE GROUPS

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE – MONDAYS

Session #1 10:00am to 12:00pm
with [Reneé Ball](#) & [George Porterfield](#)

Session #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 Research Assistance via Zoom. Participants can share their screens to demonstrate research finds. Details for connecting to a Zoom link are available on the [Research Assistance page](#).



Genealogy Writing Special Interest Group



The BAGS Writing Special Interest Group will be taking a short break for the holiday season. **The group will resume Thursday, January 15th, 2026!** More information and details are on the BAGS website or contact Becky Jones at vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org for further details 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 available on the [Research Assistance 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!



Navigating the AI Frontier with Steve Little

AI's Impact on Genealogy
Wednesday, 10 December 2025
8:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

 **GENTECH** Insight Series
Details on page 4

BAGS OPPORTUNITIES

BAGS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 14th @ 2:00pm

South Shore Grille

2800 Marina Bay Drive,

League City, TX, 77573

RSVP here to attend!

This event is "Dutch-treat."

Spouses/significant others are welcome to attend!

A sample menu is on page 8 of this newsletter

NGS GenTech Insight Series: Navigating the AI Frontier Launches December 10th!

Join the National Genealogical Society (NGS) for Navigating the AI Frontier: AI's Impact on Genealogy on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. ET. This is the first event in a new series created by Steve Little, presented in partnership with NGS, that will help you stay up-to-date on artificial intelligence (AI). Sign up now via Zoom.

In the free ninety-minute live session, you'll learn about the latest AI developments and their potential use or challenges for the family history community. Little and a panel of experts in the field will guide you through the ever-changing AI universe.

Little is the AI Program Director for NGS, founder of AI Genealogy Insights, co-host of The Family History AI Show podcast, and co-founder of Family History AI Show Academy. With a background in applied linguistics, NLP, and archives, he specializes in AI and genetic genealogy, especially endogamy and complex relationships. He leads Navigating the AI Frontier, his standards-first symposium and NGS GenTech Insight series, which examines AI's uneven impact across genealogical specialties.

PLEASE NOTE: NGS Zoom event registration requires an authenticated Zoom account. Each attendee must sign up for this meeting using their existing Zoom account (and the email address used with Zoom) or individuals can create a free Basic account with Zoom

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

2026 Meetings

January 26th

February 23rd

March 23rd

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/

SUPPORT YOUR BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY!

Time to renew your membership with BAGS!

TX Bay Area Genealogical Society

The membership year starts **January 1, 2026**. You can renew your membership anytime between **November 1, 2025**, and **February 28, 2026**, without any loss of membership privileges. Renew your membership online or via regular mail. If you paid your membership fee after November 1, please disregard this reminder.

How to renew your 2026 membership:

- * **ONLINE** – You can fill out a membership form online and make your payment via *PayPal*. You do not need a PayPal account. You can pay via PayPal with a credit or debit card, or your PayPal account if you have one. [To renew online, click here:](#) or go to the homepage of the BAGS web site and click on the link that says, “**Membership Application Page.**” 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.
- * **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](#) or go to the homepage of the BAGS website and click on the link that says “Membership Application – PDF.” This will open a PDF file which you can print and fill out. Mail it to the address on the form with your check made payable to “BAGS.”

If you have any questions on the registration process or if you want to verify your membership status, please contact our [Registrar](#) via email, regitrar@TxBayAreaGen.org.

WE ARE FAMILY – BAGS Genealogy Presentation is now on display at the Freeman Library. Stop by and take a look in the foyer of the library! The presentation will be on display throughout the month of December!

DECEMBER RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES

Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person Research Session

TUESDAYS: Dec 16th

10:00am to 12:00pm

Now meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month! This 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.



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.

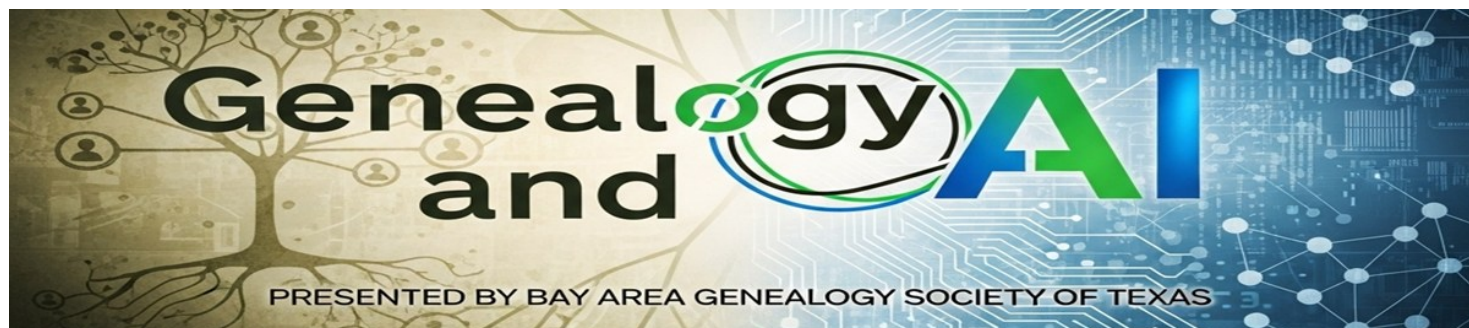
Orientation to the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library – Dec 4th, 10:00-11:30am, Curious about your family history? Clayton offers a monthly orientation to the Family History Research Center where you can learn about the history of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus, the resources we provide, and how to uncover your ancestors' stories [More Info](#)

CLF Book Sale & Scanning Saturdays – Dec 6th & 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!

"Write Out Loud" with the Family History Research Center, Dec 17th, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Our ancestors were as human as we are, which means they lived, laughed, loved, made mistakes, had triumphs, and tragedies. Join us at Clayton Library once a month for our new Special Interest Group "Write Out Loud," where we meet to work together to write out the stories that make our genealogies more than just a compilation of names, dates, and places. Each month will have a new "theme" to write about, so even though we'd like to build a "core" group of writers missing a meeting will not derail your progress. Use of a laptop or computer is helpful, but not necessary for group participation. [More Info](#)

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 Membership Appreciation Seminar

with **Nicole Dyer**

Saturday, January 24, 2026

1:00pm to 5:30pm



[Scan me for Zoom](#)

Hybrid: In-person Friendswood Library & Online - Zoom Presentation

Mark your calendar and save the date for our next **MEMBERS' ONLY SEMINAR!** Beginning at 1:00pm, the Texas Bay Area Genealogical Society will host a 3-session online and in-person seminar entitled *Genealogy and AI* with Nicole Dyer.

Nicole Dyer is a professional genealogist who specializes in Southern United States research and genetic genealogy. She is the creator of [FamilyLocket.com](https://familyloket.com) and **Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast**. She co-authored *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* and *Research Like a Pro with DNA* with Diane Elders and is an instructor for the study groups of the same name. Nicole lectures at national and local conferences and institutes throughout the US. She holds a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in History Teaching. At Family Locket Genealogists, Nicole is a project manager, editor, and researcher. She is also a member of the Pima County Genealogy Society.

Seminar Schedule

12:45p – 1:00p	Set Up – Check your connection and print handouts BEFORE 1:00pm.
1:00p – 2:15p	Session 1 – <u>AI Fundamentals and Responsibilities: A Practical Overview:</u> <i>Learn how to select and effectively use leading AI tools including ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Perplexity based on genealogical needs.</i>
2:15p – 2:30p	Break
2:30p – 3:45p	Session 2 – <u>Objectives, Analysis, and Research Planning with AI:</u> <i>Discover how Artificial Intelligence streamlines genealogy research, from defining objectives to analysis and planning.</i>
3:45p – 4:00p	Break
4:00p – 5:15p	Session 3 – <u>Transcription with LLMs:</u> <i>This hands-on class teaches genealogists how to use Large Language Models as transcription tools for historical documents.</i>
5:15p – 5:30p	Q and A – Session Wrap-up with time for questions

Join BAGS TODAY! BAGS Members attend **FREE** virtually or in-person at the Friendswood Public Library. Whether you plan to attend online or in person, please register for the meeting to receive instructions for attending and handouts **[REGISTER HERE](#)**. Not A BAGS member? BAGS Membership is only \$25! You can become a member at the BAGS website **<https://www.txbayareagen.org>**.

In-Person registration ends 1/22/26. Please check the BAGS website for more information and a link to print the handouts!



Holiday Luncheon
Menu for
December 14th, 2:00pm



SOUTH SHORE

GRILLE

Appetizers

Chili Con Queso Con Carne Shrimp Bam Bam Marina Bay Dip Guacamole Dip
Stuffed Jalapenos (4 or 6) Calamari Flat-Grilled Scallops
Crab Balls (6) Fried Asparagus Mozzarella Cheese Sticks Fried Mushrooms
Potato Skins Chicken Wings (8) Quesadillas (Chicken or Prime Rib)

Entrees

Chicken Salad Sandwich

Roasted chicken combined in a light dressing with pineapple, celery, and pecans.
Served with one side

Grilled Salmon

Served with two sides

The Greek

Mixed greens, feta, tomato, onions, avocado, olives, cucumbers, and creamy mustard vinaigrette.
Add salmon | Add 5 shrimp | Add grilled chicken

Chicken Melt

Grilled chicken breast topped with bacon, avocado, tomato, Monterey Jack cheese, and tri-pepper sauce.
Served with one side

Fish 'n Chips

Tempura battered fish with home-style potato chips, coleslaw, Malt vinegar, and tartar sauce.

Shrimp Po'Boy

White or Wheat roll, shredded lettuce, tomato, and creole dressing.
Served with one side

Half Cuban Sandwich & Tortilla Soup

Tender sliced roasted pork, ham, Swiss cheese, tomatoes, and creole mustard on a French roll.

Steak 'n Cheese Enchiladas

Prime rib with Jack and Cheddar cheese, cilantro, pico de gallo, guacamole, and black bean rice.

Sides

Coleslaw, Fried Okra, Black Beans, Garlic Green Beans, Creamed Spinach,
Sautéed Spinach, Mixed Vegetables, Smashed Red Potatoes, Garlic Red Potatoes,
French Fries, Sweet Potato Fries, Rice Pilaf

Desserts

Key Lime Pie Peach Cobbler Blueberry Cobbler
Island Brownie White Chocolate Cheesecake
Bread Pudding with Flor de Caña Rum Sauce

Beverages

Coke Diet Coke Sprite Dr. Pepper Root Beer Lemonade
Iced Tea Sweet Tea Coffee





BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



December 2025

Calendar of Events 2025 – 2026

DECEMBER

1	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	We Are Family – Freeman Library
8	10:00a	Research Assistance #2
	7:00p	Research Assistance #1
14	2:00p	Research Assistance #2
		BAGS Holiday Luncheon – <i>South Shore Grille</i> , League City
15	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
16	10:00a	BAGS @ Friendswood FSC
22	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
29	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
30	10:00a	We Are Family – Freeman Library
		Display ends (<i>tear down</i>)

JANUARY 2026

5	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
12	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
15	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom and in-person</i>)
19	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	Research Assistance #2
20	10:00a	BAGS @ Friendswood FSC
24	1:00p	BAGS Membership Appreciation Seminar – <i>Genealogy and AI</i> with Nicole Dyer (<i>Zoom</i>)
26	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
31	12:00p	BAGS Members Meeting Potluck, Kathleen Williams: Full Text Search: Finding Hidden Records at <i>FamilySearch.org</i>

FEBRUARY

2	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
5	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom</i>)
9	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
16	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
17	10:00a	BAGS @ Friendswood FSC
19	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom and in-person</i>)
23	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
27	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
		<i>Cherokee Genealogy 101</i> – Aimee Rose Haynes

MARCH

2	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
5	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom</i>)
9	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
16	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
17	10:00a	BAGS @ Friendswood FSC
19	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom and in-person</i>)
23	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
27	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
		<i>From Clutter to Clean – Organize Digitize And Store Photos</i> – Allyson Maughan
29	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch - TBA