



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

**BAGS General Meeting**  
**Friday, February 27, 2026 at 7:00pm**  
**Cherokee Genealogy 101**  
*presented by Aimee Rose-Haynes*

**Cherokee Genealogy 101** explores who the Cherokee people are, their original homelands, and how events such as the Trail of Tears and the creation of Indian Territory have shaped where records exist today. You will learn about the key federal rolls such as the Dawes, Baker, Henderson, Siler, Chapman, and Guion Miller Rolls and why these records are essential for proving lineage and tribal citizenship. Aimee will break down current enrollment requirements for each of the three federally recognized Cherokee tribes and explain why DNA alone cannot qualify someone for membership. This session demonstrates how to properly verify findings, avoid common mistakes such as confusing ancestors with the same name, and approach sensitive family stories with compassion. Whether you are trying to confirm Cherokee ancestry, understand the records, or gently guide someone when family lore is not supported by evidence, this session offers knowledge, tools, and empathy to help you do it the right way.

**Aimee Rose-Haynes** is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and a dedicated to reconnecting individuals with their lost heritage and biological families. A proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she's spent years assisting Native descendants in rediscovering their roots, offering guidance through the intricate processes of genealogy, DNA analysis, and tribal enrollment. With a strong background in genetic genealogy and family research, Aimee has worked hundreds of cases, specializing in helping adopted persons, donor-conceived individuals, and those with unknown parentage uncover their identities. Her expertise in interpreting DNA and historical records enables her to tackle even the most complex cases with precision and empathy.

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### *Special Points of Interest*

- Social Media Links*
- BAGS Partnerships*
- Clayton Library Partner Links*

# SUPPORT YOUR BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY!

## It's time to renew your membership with the TX Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS)!

The new membership year started January 1, 2026. You can renew your membership anytime before February 2, 2026, without any loss of membership privileges or website access.

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

- ✓ BAGS is able to provide **genealogy experts** from outside the Houston area to speak at our **virtual monthly general meetings**.
- ✓ Our private **Facebook** group is engaging, and active with regular postings about webinars and expanded online resources (many of them free) to help you with your research.
- ✓ **Members Helping Members sessions** have expanded to include both virtual and in-person meetings. These sessions can help you with "how to" questions about using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker software and other tools.
- ✓ Informative **Education Spotlight** sessions are held at the Friendswood Library or via Zoom.
- ✓ Organized **meetups** at the Clayton Library Family History Research Center.
- ✓ **Special events** are planned for the upcoming year and include awesome guest speakers plus door prizes, drawings, and delicious food!
- ✓ Three **in-person General Meetings** (BBQ buffet or potluck) and a Holiday Luncheon.
- ✓ Free access to all past publications including **Quarterlies, Journals** and monthly **Newsletters**.
- ✓ A complementary listing in our **Membership Yearbook**.

### Renew your membership NOW – 2 options:

**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 & 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)**.



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
RENEW YOUR  
BAGS  
MEMBERSHIP**

# BAGS BUSINESS | INFORMATION



Statement of Activity as of January 1, 20226

Checking Account	\$3,854.04
Savings Account	\$2,176.89
CDs	\$10,155.52
PayPal	\$24.01
Undeposited Funds	\$25.00
<b>Total Monetary Assets</b>	<b>\$16,185.46</b>

## Welcome to our new members:

Loretta Derrick	Lou Ann Edwards
Laurie Gordon	Barbara Foor Larson
Dorothy Little	Mary Marson
Janie Wood	Melissa and Mark Mobley

## 2026 BAGS OFFICERS

### President

Teresa Rundell

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

### First Vice President

Rebecca Briggs

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### Publicity Coordinator

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## 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@txbayareagen.org](mailto:treasurer@txbayareagen.org).

### Additional points of BAGS contact:

- Don't know the Members Page password? [registrar@txbayareagen.org](mailto:registrar@txbayareagen.org) – George Porterfield
- Have an article or idea to share? [newsletter@txbayareagen.org](mailto:newsletter@txbayareagen.org) – Cindy Austin
- Submit information for the Journal: [journal@txbayareagen.org](mailto:journal@txbayareagen.org) – Rebecca "Becky" Jones
- Ideas for BAGS advertising: [publicity@txbayareagen.org](mailto:publicity@txbayareagen.org) – Terri Myers
- Not receiving emails? [emailcoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:emailcoord@txbayareagen.org) – Todd Roberts
- Research questions or provide research assistance: [education@txbayareagen.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@txbayareagen.org). All rights reserved.

# 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 (SIG)

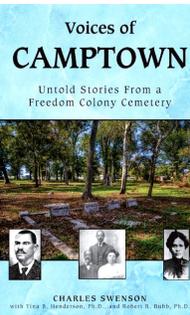


The BAGS Writing Special Interest Group meets **virtually, via Zoom**, from **1:30 - 3:30pm** on the **1st** and **3rd** Thursdays of each month, – with an in-person option, on the **3rd Thursday**. Registration details are on the BAGS website or contact Becky Jones at [vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org](mailto:vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org) 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 available on the [Research Assistance page](#).



**Nick Cimino**, author of [AncestorPuzzles.com](#) and BAGS member, highly recommends the book *Voices of Camptown: Untold Stories From a Freedom Colony Cemetery*, by Charles Swenson, Tina B. Henderson, Ph.D., and Robert R. Bubb, Ph.D., This book explores the lives of African Americans in post-Emancipation Washington County, Texas, through the stories found in Camptown Cemetery. The authors highlight figures such as Wiley Hubert, Sam Love, and Mary Marks, showing how formerly enslaved people built schools, churches, businesses, and a strong community despite challenges during Reconstruction and Jim Crow. Combining archival research and oral histories, the book recounts the efforts to restore Camptown Cemetery and preserve this heritage. *Voices of Camptown* is both a local history and a tribute to resilience, illuminating overlooked chapters in Texas's past and the ongoing importance of remembrance.

## 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!

# BAGS OPPORTUNITIES

## *BUS TRIP February 4, 2026!!*

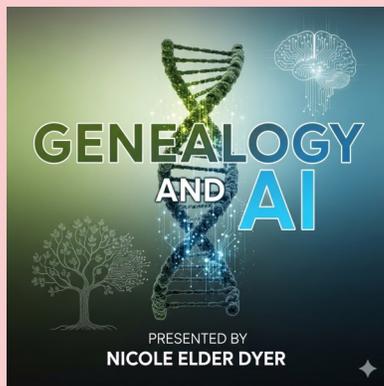
Get on the bus with BAGS as we tour **The National Museum of Funeral History!** \$10 Admission and plan on Dutch-treat lunch at Cracker Barrel after the tour! Reserve your spot now with Terri Meyers at [publicity@txbayareagen.org](mailto:publicity@txbayareagen.org)

## BAGS Offers a New Membership Benefit for 2026:

Sixteen video presentations by genealogist Thomas MacEntee, with more to come. All current members can access these on the Bay Area Genealogical Society's Members Only webpage, along with informative handouts for each video. Just visit the [MEMBERS ONLY page](#), scroll to **Genealogy Learning Collection by Thomas MacEntee**, and pick topics that interest you. We welcome your feedback on this resource!



## VIDEO and HANDOUTS AVAILABLE!



In case you missed the BAGS *Genealogy and AI* seminar (24 Jan 2026) or you would just like a refresher, Nicole Dyer's three presentations are **available for the next 24 days on the BAGS website inside the [MEMBERS ONLY](#) section.**

## 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)

### 2026 Meetings

February 23rd

March 23rd

April

May

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

# FEBRUARY RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES

## BUS TRIP WITH FRIENDS TO THE NATIONAL FUNERAL MUSEUM!

Wednesday, Feb 4th 9:15am

**THERE IS STILL ROOM ON THE BUS!**

- Mark your calendar for this BAGS reserved day . Interested in riding on the bus?
- Contact Terri Meyers at [publicity@txbayareagen.org](mailto:publicity@txbayareagen.org) to reserve your spot. Meet at the Freeman Library, 16616 Diana Ln, Houston, 2/4/26 at 9:15am to catch a ride on the bus!! \$10 admission

## Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person Research Session

**TUESDAYS: Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21**

**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

<b>Alvin FSC</b> , 2700 Lehi Ln, Alvin, TX, 77511	Wednesdays 10am – 12pm
<b>Baytown FSC</b> , 1010 Birdsong Dr, Baytown, TX, 77521	Wednesdays 10am – 12pm
<b>Kingwood FSC</b> , 4021 Deerbrook, Kingwood, TX, 77339	Wednesdays 7pm – 9pm
<b>Pasadena FSC</b> , 4202 Yellowstone Dr, Pasadena, TX, 77504	Wednesdays 7pm – 9pm
<b>Sugarland FSC</b> , 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

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 – FEB 28, 10:00-11:30am**, Curious about your family history? We offer a genealogy workshop where you can learn how to uncover your ancestors' stories. Begin with a short video introduction, followed by a guided tour of our extensive genealogy collection. Afterward, stay for one-on-one assistance from our expert staff as you dive into your own research and start piecing together your family tree.

Why you should attend – 1. Learn the basics: Get an introduction to genealogy research and available resources. 2. Expert guidance: Receive personalized help from experienced staff. Uncover your family history: Start exploring your ancestry with the tools and support you need. [More Info](#)

**"Write Out Loud" with the Family History Research Center, FEB 18, 10:30am–12:00pm**, 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 - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



## Calendar of Events 2026

### FEBRUARY

2	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
4	9:00a	Funeral Museum Trip
5	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
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	Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
19	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
22	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – Red River BBQ
23	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
27	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom) <i>Cherokee Genealogy 101 – Aimee Rose Haynes</i>

### MARCH

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

### APRIL

2	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
6	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
13	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
19	10:00a	Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
16	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
20	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
21	10:00a	Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
25	12:00p	BAGS Members Meeting & Potluck
27	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2

### MAY

4	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
7	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
11	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
18	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
19	10:00a	Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
21	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
25	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
29	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting – The Farmer in the Dell... and Many US Records – Paula Stuart Warren

NGS Presents: Live & On Demand Workshops

17 FEBRUARY 2026 7:00 PM ET

## GENTECH TOOLBOX

ANCESTRYDNA CUSTOM CLUSTERS: IDENTIFYING MATCHES THAT MATTER  
Angie Bush

Register Now

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**AncestryDNA Custom Clusters: Identifying Matches that Matter**

Learn how to use AncestryDNA Custom Clusters to group your DNA matches around key relatives, uncover patterns, and target potential unknown ancestors in this hands-on online workshop. NOTE: This workshop will require an active Ancestry subscription, AncestryDNA test results, and an active Pro Tools subscription. \$35 for NGS members.  
Angie Bush - presenter