

Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

April 2026
Volume 26
Issue 4

BAGS Spring Potluck and General Meeting

April 25, 2026, 12:00pm

Guest Speaker: **Lisa A Struthers**, *Director of
the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Library
at the San Jacinto Museum and Battlefield*



Inside this issue

President's Message	2
BAGS Opportunities	3
Research Assistance	4
Updating Media Storage	5
Let's Hear From YOU!	6
Library/Research News	7
BAGS Business	8
BAGS Calendar	9

Special Points of Interest

Meet Your BAGS 1st VP
Social Media Links
BAGS Partnerships
Clayton Library Partner Links

Join us for our April luncheon meeting at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Houston, 77059. Members are invited to bring their favorite side dish, salad, or dessert, and **BAGS will provide delicious meat!** Please remember to bring serving utensils for your dishes!

11:30am

Set up your side dishes and desserts, grab a beverage, find a seat, and socialize with great genealogy friends!

12:00pm

Welcome **BAGS members and guests**, opening remarks, and lunch blessing from our BAGS President, Teresa Rundell.

12:15pm

Members enjoy the delicious buffet with meat provided by TX Bay Area Genealogical Society

1:00pm

Presentation by **Lisa A. Struthers**, Director of the **Albert and Ethel Herzstein Library, San Jacinto Museum and Battlefield, La Porte, Texas.**



Located nearby, the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Library offers genealogists a rich collection of records focused on the era of the Republic of Texas, its early statehood, and the politics and legislation that are the foundations of Texas today. Pre-Republic record collections include books, maps, manuscripts, and more, covering the histories of Mexico, Spain, and France during the colonial period.

Bay Area Genealogical Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President's Message

We will be having a potluck lunch at our next meeting. For some reason, I wondered about the term potluck. I decided to use all my computer skills and research the word potluck.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* records the term "potluck" in printed sources as early as the 16th century. It defines "potluck" as one's fortune or chance regarding what is available in the pot, meaning what has been prepared for a meal. The term refers to accepting hospitality without prior preparation for the guest, and is predominantly used in the phrase "to take pot-luck." For instance, in 1592 Nash's *Four Letters of Confutation*, the dedication reads: "That that pure sanguine complexion of yours may never be famisht with pot luck."

The potluck looks quite different presently. Instead of dropping in on someone unexpectedly, we plan it and bring the food with us. I hope you will be able to join us for our meeting **on April 25 at 12:00pm, University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Houston, TX.** BAGS will be providing the meat. I cannot wait to see what unexpected salads, sides, or desserts you bring to our potluck.

See you there,
Teresa Rundell

MEET YOUR BAGS 1ST VP



My name is **Rebecca R. Briggs**. I am a 5th-generation Texan and was raised until the age of 13 in Wharton, Matagorda, and Brazoria Counties. After that, my family moved to South Texas. I received a BS in religion and English from Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands) in Williamsburg, Kentucky. I pursued a seminary degree at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California, and completed one year of studies. I received my Master of Social Work degree from the University of Houston in 2005. I have worked primarily as a social worker since 1997. Harris County currently employs me on a grant-funded early childhood education project. My career as a social worker has often involved research and tracing chronological history to ascertain pertinent facts. My career has also required me to develop a high level of skill in working with others to meet organizational goals.

My love of genealogy began early. My mother was interested in genealogy, and when I was a teenager, she would put my sister and me on the library's census microfiche reels and give us an ancestor's name to look up. I was hooked and have never lost my love of genealogy and research. Over the years, ~ *continued on page 6*

BAGS OPPORTUNITIES

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

April 20th

May 25th

June 22nd

July 27th

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/

BUS TRIP WITH FRIENDS TO THE CLAYTON LIBRARY!

Saturday, April 18th, 9:15am

THERE IS ROOM ON THE BUS FOR YOU!

Mark your calendar for this BAGS reserved day at the Clayton Library. Interested in riding on the bus? **To reserve your seat on the bus contact Terri Myers at publicity@txbayareagen.org, before 4/4.** Meet/park at the Freeman Library, 16616 Diana Ln, Houston, at 9:15am to catch a ride on the bus! Bring your laptop, flash drives, plus a light jacket (because Clayton gets cold), and your own lunch to enjoy! The bus will leave for Clayton at 9:30am!



Now available for [Members Only](#) at the [Genealogy Learning Collection](#) page on the BAGS website!



What's Been Done: Using Someone Else's Genealogy Research

Whether you are new to genealogy or you've been working on your family history for years, incorporating the research of others can always be tricky. Here's how to develop a proven strategy to benefit from the work of other genealogists.

Thomas MacEntee is a guy with a love of punk rock music but also art history who somehow “fell” into the technology industry years ago. He left a lucrative tech career to pursue his love of family history and genealogy. Technology and historical research seem like opposites, but “tech people” like Thomas are needed to guide you through the maze of options so you can find your ancestors and bring their stories to life. **Check out the BAGS [Genealogy Learning Collection](#) for more information!**

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE GROUPS

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE – MONDAYS

Session #1 10:00am-12:00pm

with [Reneé Ball](#) & [George Porterfield](#)

Session #2 Mondays, 7:00- 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 for more information and location directions.



Family Tree Maker Assistance



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!



JOIN US!
May's Meet 'n Munch

May 31st, 4:00pm

Red River BBQ & Grill

1911 E Main St,

League City, TX 77573



Updating Your Old Media Storage:

Freeman Library Digital Media Lab

Evelyn Meador Digital Media Lab

The Digital Media Labs at the Freeman Library and the Evelyn Meador Library allow you to digitize your slides and negatives, vinyl records, VHS and cassette tapes, 8mm and Super 8 films, and so much more!

A short orientation course is required before you can reserve any equipment in the Digital Media Labs. Equipment reservations are available during library hours and some devices may have limited availability. Please check with staff for current schedules and restrictions. The lab also offers floppy readers and CD-ROM drives for use with on-site computers, allowing files to be transferred to a USB device.

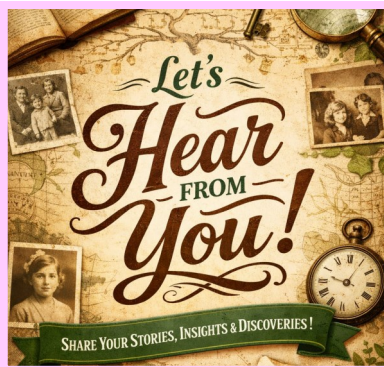
To sign up for the orientation course at the Freeman Library, call 832-927-5420 or visit their [website](#) for more information. The Freeman Library is located at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, Texas 77062 (Clear Lake City).

To sign up for the orientation course at the Evelyn Meador Library call 281-474-9142 or visit their [website](#) for more information. The Evelyn Meador Library is located at 2400 N. Meyer Ave., Seabrook, Texas 77586 (Seabrook).



Let's Hear From You –

Monthly Members' Questions!



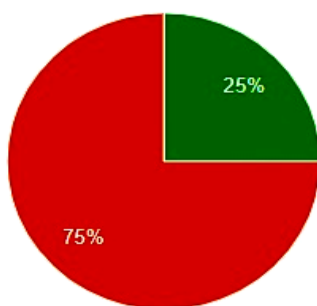
In order to make your BAGS newsletter be a bit more hands-on and members interactive, the BAGS board would love to hear your response!

Based on the MARCH General Members Meeting presentation, [please use this link](#) to Google forms to answer the brief questions.

In the April addition of the newsletter, we'll let you know the other members answers to the questions and have another fun question or two for you to answer!

March Members Question/Answers:

- √ Do you have documented Cherokee ancestors in your family tree?



- Absolutely, yes!
- Unfortunatly, no
- I'm unsure at this point in my research
- I don't have Cherokee ancestors, but do have other Native American ancestors.

- √ What other Native American Tribes appear in your research? – **Creek**

Continued from page 2:

Rebecca Briggs: I have researched family lines in Texas, Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, and other places. Some of my most valuable genealogical finds involved my German paternal great-grandparents, one of whom arrived in Galveston in December 1845. Through her lineage, I was able to join the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. I am also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution through a maternal ancestor. I have made several personal genealogical trips over the years, including to Indiana and Tennessee. I enjoy researching online for information and love a free day just for this! I have been a member of Bay Area Genealogical Society for several years and participated in events with the German Special Interest Group. As a BAGS member, I have grown through developing relationships with members with similar interests and through my skills as a genealogist.

APRIL RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES

Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person Research Session

TUESDAYS: Apr 21, May 19, Jun 16, Jul 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

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.



BUS TRIP WITH FRIENDS TO THE CLAYTON LIBRARY!

Saturday, April 18th, 9:15am

THERE IS ROOM ON THE BUS FOR YOU!

To reserve your seat on the bus contact Terri Myers at publicity@txbayareagen.org, **before 4/4.**

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.

“Write Out Loud” with the Family History Research Center, APR 15th, 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!](#)

Orientation to the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library – APR 25th, 10:00-11:30am, HPL offers a genealogy workshop where you learn how to uncover your ancestors' stories. Begin with a short video introduction, followed by a guided tour of the extensive genealogy collection. Afterward, stay for 1-on-1 assistance from the staff as you dive into your own research! 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 information 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](#)

BAGS BUSINESS | INFORMATION

A Warm Welcome
to our newest BAGS member!
Harold Horrick

**Bay Area
Genealogical
Society**



**Yearbook
2025**

2025 BAGS Yearbook Is Ready!

You can get your copy of the 2025 edition of the BAGS Yearbook on the [BAGS website](#) under the **Members Only** section, scroll down to **Yearbook**, then click on **2025** to download your very own copy!

IF you paid for a printed copy, look for it arriving by USPS soon!

Statement of Activity as of March 1, 20226

Checking Account	\$5,033.35
Savings Account	\$2,187.24
CDs	\$10,209.45
PayPal	\$747.26
Undeposited Funds	\$65.00
Total Monetary Assets	\$18,242.30

2026 BAGS OFFICERS

President

Teresa Rundell

president@txbayareagen.org

First Vice President

Rebecca Briggs

vicepresident@txbayareagen.org

Second Vice President

Rebecca "Becky" Jones

vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org

Treasurer

Todd Roberts

treasurer@txbayareagen.org

Registrar

George Porterfield

registrar@txbayareagen.org

Secretary

Louise Kidder

secretary@txbayareagen.org

Web Editors

Polly Swerdlin and

George Porterfield

webeditor@txbayareagen.org

Yearbook Editor

TBA

yearbook@txbayareagen.org

Journal Editor

Rebecca "Becky" Jones

journal@txbayareagen.org

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Austin

newsletter@txbayareagen.org

Newsletter Proofreader

Luanne Newman

Photographer

Bill Mayo

Email Distribution

Todd Roberts

emailcoord@txbayareagen.org

Education Coordinator

Kathleen Williams

education@txbayareagen.org

County Coordinator

Terri Myers

countycoord@txbayareagen.org

Social Media Administrator

Kathleen Williams

socialmedia@txbayareagen.org

Publicity Coordinator

Terri Myers

publicity@txbayareagen.org



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 – Rebecca "Becky" Jones

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

Not receiving emails? emailcoord@txbayareagen.org – Todd Roberts

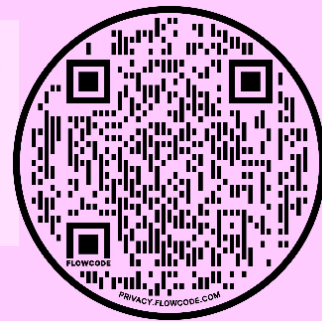
Research questions or provide research assistance: education@txbayareagen.org – Kathleen Williams

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.



BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



April 2026

Calendar of Events 2026

APRIL

2	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom</i>)
6	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
13	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
16	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom and in-person</i>)
18	9:30a	Bus Trip to Clayton Library
20	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
21	10:00a	Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
25	12:00p	BAGS Members Meeting/Potluck <i>University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Houston, TX</i>
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 (<i>Zoom</i>)
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 (<i>Zoom and in-person</i>)
25	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
29	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting – <i>The Farmer in the Dell... and Many US Records</i> – Paula Stuart Warren
31	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – <i>Red River BBQ</i>

JUNE

1	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
4	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom</i>)
8	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
15	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
16	10:00a	Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
18	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom and in-person</i>)
22	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
26	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>) – <i>TBA</i>
28	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – <i>Red River BBQ</i>
29	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2

JULY

2	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom</i>)
6	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
13	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
16	1:30p	Writing SIG (<i>Zoom and in-person</i>)
20	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
21	10:00a	Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
26	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – <i>Red River BBQ</i>
27	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>)
31	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (<i>Zoom</i>) <i>Preserving the Greatest Generation: WWII Genealogy</i> – Courtney Carr