

Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 26 Issue 6
JUNE 2026



BAGS General Meeting

June 26th, 2026, at 7:00pm (Zoom)

Guest Speaker: **Jill Nock**

*Finding a Revolutionary War Patriot:
Research Strategies and Proven Techniques*

Live Virtual

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>BAGS Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Research Assistance</i>	4
<i>Texas America 250</i>	5
<i>Library/Research</i>	6
<i>BAGS Information</i>	7
<i>BAGS Calendar</i>	8



Revolutionary War patriot research is richer and more complicated than most genealogists expect. Whether you are building a DAR or SAR application or simply documenting a patriot ancestor for your own family history, this session moves beyond the basic database search. Learn what types of service qualify, what to do when the pension doesn't exist, and how spelling variants and indexing errors hide records in plain sight.

Drawing on real case studies, you will leave with a practical, strategy-driven roadmap you can apply immediately to your own research.

Jill Nock, AG[®], is a professional genealogist accredited through ICAPGenSM in the U.S. Upper South. Inspired by the 1977 television miniseries *Roots*, she has been untangling family mysteries for nearly five decades. Through her business, Mountain State Genealogy, she specializes in DNA analysis, indirect evidence methodology, and transforming complex research into clearly written reports.

A ProGen 59 graduate, Jill has completed advanced training at GRIP, SLIG, and IGHR. She is proficient in reading and transcribing historical handwriting from the 1700s forward – a skill that opens records inaccessible to many researchers. She is active on several genealogy society boards as well as a 13-year member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Her presentations range from beginner-friendly introductions to advanced methodology, with particular depth in Upper South records and DNA research.

OTHER AREAS of INTEREST

Meet Your BAGS Secretary
Social Media Links
BAGS Partnership

Bay Area Genealogical Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'm writing this message prior to Paula Stuart Warren's presentation, "The Farmer in the Dell..."

I have farmers on both sides of my family. Every summer we would spend time at our grandparents' farm. My dad's parents had over 70 acres of land including their own lake right out the back door. We would fish from the bank if we did not want to deal with getting the boat out. My grandfather would catch crickets from the flowerbed to use for our bait, and we would fish and then have a fish fry if it was a good day. We also shelled purple hull peas until our thumbs were purple. We picked butter beans and tomatoes out of the garden and had them

night. We had farm to table before it was fashionable.

When we went to my mom's parents farm, we picked squash, English peas, cantaloupe, and watermelon. I liked shelling these peas better because they were easier on your thumbs. I learned my favorite jelly was made from mayhaw growing around the cow pond. My grandfather taught me what not to do when shooting a 16-gauge rifle. (Let me just say, my shoulder will always remember that lesson.)

I imagine Paula told us about agricultural, census and tax records showing information about the farm so we can prove our ancestor was a farmer. Those records are important, but they don't mean as much to me as the memories I shared above. We need to write stories for those that come behind us, so they know more than dates and numbers. We need more articles for the BAGS Journal. If you need help with your writing skills, we have a Writing Special Interest Group (Writing SIG), Take what you learned from Paula and your memories and consider writing an article for the journal. ~ *Teresa Rundell*

MEET YOUR NEW BAGS SECRETARY

Thekla Louise Kidder (née Mitchell) is new to the BAGS Board; she was sworn in as Secretary in January 2026. She usually goes by Louise, but she doesn't mind sharing her family name with like-minded family history researchers.

Louise grew up in West Texas and earned a BS in Biology from Angelo State University, then went on to earn an MLIS from the University of North Texas. She moved to the Houston-Galveston area in 2010. Louise is currently a librarian at the University of Houston, though she has previously also worked at a medical library and two public libraries in the area. She currently lives to serve two tabby cats, Bentley and Kevin.



Louise is a 6th-generation Texan. Sometimes she likes to joke that she's really an 11th-generation Texan, as one of her earliest known ancestors served under the administration of Governor Jacinto de Barrios y Jáuregui at one of the San Xavier Missions in the mid-1700's – the Texan gene just skipped a few generations. She is also descended from ancestors who were Louisiana Cajuns and Creoles, Pennsylvania Dutch, and other colonists of various flavors from the British Isles and Western Europe. Her most recent immigrant ancestor is also her namesake, Thekla Nübling, who came from Germany to America in 1828.

She credits her paternal grandparents with igniting her interest in genealogy. Their ability to find fun family stories and their dedication to digging up facts was inspiring. Much of the information that they were able to find in the decades before online family trees and genetic genealogy has stood the test of time and serves as a solid foundation for Louise's own research. She also wishes to express gratitude to her maternal great-aunt, who has spent years untangling the complex histories of their ancestors and who has graciously shared her hard-won knowledge. Louise admires the dedication of the family history researchers who've paved the way, and she hopes to someday leave a similar legacy.

BAGS OPPORTUNITIES

Board Meetings

All BAGS Board Meetings are virtual via Zoom. Members are welcome to attend! If you would like to attend, request a link from info@txbayareagen.org.

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

2026 Meetings

June 22nd

July 27th

Aug 24th

SAVE THE DATE!

BAGS is making plans now to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the society on **September 25, 2026!**

We need your input to make this gala event thoroughly enjoyable for all members, old and new alike!

If you'd like to help with the planning, contact [Rebecca Briggs](#) and she'll get you plugged in!

VOLUNTEER

FOR THE BAGS 25TH ANNIVERSARY
PLANNING COMMITTEE!



CONTACT

REBECCA BRIGGS @

RRW77004@GMAIL.COM

OR (713) 401-7718

Cemetery Season Is Here: Field Tips for Spring by Kate Penney Howard - katepenneyhoward.com

Spring is cemetery season for genealogists. Here are the field notes I wish someone had given me when I started.

Bring a kit but keep it reasonable. You don't need a backpack full of equipment you won't use. My kit includes a wide-brim hat, water, sunscreen, and a soft, natural-bristle brush. I also carry a spray bottle with distilled water, a rigid notebook, two pens, a small mirror, and a phone with a fully charged battery. I've stopped carrying chalk, shaving cream, and flour. Preservation professionals have been clear for over a decade: these substances damage stone.

Document the whole plot, not just the one stone. Family burials cluster. A single ancestor might share a plot with a sibling who died in childhood, a first wife you didn't know existed, or a cousin whose name appears on no other record. Take a wide photograph of the plot before you zoom in. Note the stones on either side. Note the section and row if the cemetery is mapped.

Read light, not stone. A weathered inscription often reads better at dawn or late afternoon, when the sun strikes the surface at a shallow angle. If you can't wait for the right time of day, bring a mirror. Stand with your back to the sun, hold the mirror at roughly 45 degrees, and bounce the light across the stone. The shadows in the carved letters will deepen. This costs nothing and harms nothing.

Photograph with care. Shoot straight on, not at an angle. Fill the frame with the stone and not much else. Take one shot for the dates and names, then take a wider shot that shows context, material, and condition. If the inscription is hard to read, take the same photo three times at different exposures. Modern phones do this automatically in HDR mode.

Record as you go. Memory is the least reliable field tool. Before you leave the cemetery, open your notebook. Write the cemetery name, the date of your visit, the weather, and the section if known. Sketch a rough map of where each photographed stone sits. Skip this step, and you'll return to your desk with thirty-seven images of granite and no idea which one is your great-grandmother.

Respect the living, too. Small rural cemeteries often sit on private land or are maintained by township trustees. Check before you visit. [FindAGrave](#) and [BillionGraves](#) both list cemetery types and sometimes contact information. A phone call ahead is rarely refused and often rewarded; the person with the key frequently knows more about the cemetery's history than anything written down.

Upload afterward. If you photograph a stone that isn't yet on [FindAGrave](#) or [BillionGraves](#), consider adding it. Your picture becomes a permanent record accessible to researchers who may never visit the site. Gravestones weather with time. Cemeteries are lost to neglect, development, and flooding. Your image today may be the only image in fifty years.

One last thought. Cemeteries are not laboratories. The people buried there had names and faces and people who loved them. Walk gently. Leave nothing but footprints and take nothing but photographs and field notes.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

June 13th, 2026

10:00am – 12:00pm at the [Freeman Library](#)

JUNE's spotlight workshop will be introduced by a brief presentation, followed by a hands-on "how to" application of information. Handouts will be available for download from the [BAGS website](#). This is a members-requested, in-depth dive into *MORE Full-Text Search* at [FamilySearch.org](#) from 10:00am-12:00pm. Bring your troublesome research ancestors or problems – their names and dates are a must! Volunteers will be available to help you solve those pesky brick walls! A computer or a tablet is necessary for this session! Presentation details are under the **Members Only** > **Education Spotlight** section of the [BAGS website](#).

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 *Zoom* links are available on the. [Research Assistance page](#).



On
VACATION!!

Genealogy Writing Special Interest Group (SIG)

The BAGS Writing Special Interest Group **IS ON VACATION for June and JULY!** The group will **resume** meeting, via *Zoom*, on **August 6th** and **20th** from **1:30 - 3:30pm**, continuing 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!



Celebration

**Saturday, June 27
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

★ ★ **FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN** ★ ★

Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center
650 FM 1011, Liberty, Texas 77575 | www.tsl.texas.gov/shc

- ENTERTAINMENT
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- HISTORICAL EXHIBITS AND TOURS
- REFRESHMENTS



JUNE RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES

Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person Research Session

TUESDAYS: Jun 16, Jul 21, Aug 18, Sep 15

10:00am – 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 10:00a – 2:00p

Tuesday evenings 7:00p – 9:00p

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:

Wednesdays 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am – 2:00pm (NEW)

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

Sugar Land FSC, 602 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land TX, 77478

Wednesdays 10am – 5pm

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.

Genealogy Booksale, June 6 & 20, 11:00am – 3:00pm : Looking for Genealogy research books to add to your personal collection? Visit the Clayton Library Friends donated duplicate book sale held each 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month.

Write Out Loud (In-Person), June 17, 10:30am – 12:00pm : Our ancestors were as human as we are, which means they lived, laughed, loved, made mistakes, had triumphs, and had 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. [More info!](#)

Scanning Saturday, June 20, 10:30am-3:00pm : Do you have any old photos, negatives, slides or documents stored in your home? Bring them to the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library to preserve your family memories? The Family History Research Center has three unique stations available by appointment to use to help digitize your memorabilia. [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

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

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mary Louise Martin, who passed away 11 May 2026.



Statement of Activity as of May 1, 2026

Checking Account	\$4,528.58
Savings Account	\$2,187.61
CDs	<u>\$10,264.09</u>
Total Monetary Assets	\$16,980.28

JOIN US!

May's Meet 'n Munch

JUNE 28th 4:00pm

Red River BBQ & Grill

1911 E Main St,

League City, TX 77573



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

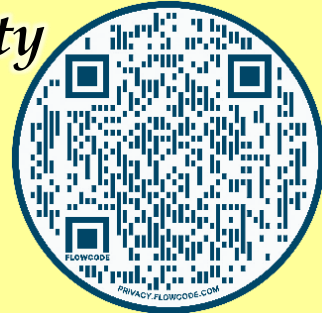
Not receiving emails? emailcoord@txbayareagen.org – Todd Roberts

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



JUNE 2026

Calendar of Events 2026

JUNE

1	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
8	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
13	10:00a	Education Spotlight @ <i>Freeman Library</i>
15	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
16	10:00a	Research Session @ <i>Friendswood FamilySearch Center</i>
22	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
26	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom) <i>Finding a Revolutionary War Patriot: Research Strategies and Proven Techniques</i> by Jill Nock
28	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – <i>Red River BBQ</i>
29	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2

JULY

6	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
13	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
14	9:30a	Clayton Library Bus Trip
20	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
21	10:00a	Research Session @ <i>Friendswood FamilySearch Center</i>
26	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch – <i>Red River BBQ</i>
27	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
31	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom) <i>Preserving the Greatest Generation: WWII Genealogy</i> by Courtney Carr

AUGUST

3	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
6	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
10	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
17	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
18	10:00a	Research Session @ <i>Friendswood FamilySearch Center</i>
20	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
24	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
29	12:00p	BAGS Members Meeting & Potluck – Annual Show & Tell!
31	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2

SEPTEMBER

6	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
7	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
14	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
15	10:00a	Research Session @ <i>Friendswood FamilySearch Center</i>
17	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
21	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
25	12:00p	BAGS 25th Anniversary Celebration – Galveston, TX
28	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2

Hidden Histories

A Beginner's Guide To Family Discovery

Explore your heritage and uncover the stories that shaped your family

- Hands-on research session
- Guide to free resources
- Start your own genealogy chart
- Questions & Answers with Bay Area Genealogical Society



TERESA RUNDEL CINDY AUSTIN TERRI MYERS
BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



VISIT OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR TO REGISTER.
WWW.PASADENALIBRARY.ORG



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24



FAIRMONT LIBRARY



6:00 PM

ADULTS