

Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 26 Issue 7

JULY 2026

BAGS General Meeting

July 31st, 2026, at 7:00pm (Zoom)

Guest Speaker: Courtney Carr

*Preserving the Greatest Generation: WWII Genealogy,
The Society of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans*

Live Virtual



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OTHER AREAS of INTEREST

Social Media Links
BAGS Partnership



Museums can play a vital role in their communities by offering genealogy programs to preserve the stories of past generations.

Courtney Carr, WWII Veterans Legacy Programs Manager at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas, will introduce *The Society of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans*. This genealogy-focused membership initiative honors, preserves, and shares the stories of America's "Greatest Generation." The program provides

descendants an opportunity to connect to other families while also documenting their loved one's lived experiences for future generations. This presentation is sponsored by the National Museum of the Pacific War.

Courtney is an enthusiastic public historian who holds a Master of Arts degree in Public History from Arizona State University. Courtney served in the U.S. Navy for 12 years and has extensive leadership experience in museums and nonprofit management.

Bay Area Genealogical Society

BAGS OPPORTUNITIES

CALL for PRESENTATIONS for ANNUAL BAGS SHOW and TELL – 29 August 2026

To celebrate America's 250th birthday, the BAGS Board is issuing a call to our members to participate in the annual **BAGS SHOW & TELL** August members' meeting by sharing accounts of **Revolutionary War ancestors**. Patriots, Loyalists, Minutemen, vendors, local farmers and the women who stayed behind – all these stories are important to understand the struggles of this era. Plan to participate with your family connection to an ancestor's history of life during the American Revolutionary era, starting as early as the Proclamation of 1763, issued by King George III, restricting settlements west of the Appalachian Mountains, and up to the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and George Washington taking office in 1789.

Presentations should be short, preferably about five to eight minutes. Visuals, including artifacts, maps, diaries, and other items are welcome. PowerPoint slides should use larger fonts (28pt +) to be easily read by those in the back of the room. For tips on creating and telling a condensed history of your ancestor, visit the BAGS website to view/download two helpful [AUGUST handouts](#) and listen to the BAGS June 26th members' presentation with Jill Nock - [Finding a Revolutionary War Patriot: Research Strategies and Proven Techniques](#).

Those planning to contribute a presentation to the August "Show & Tell" should contact [Rebecca "Becky" Jones, BAGS VP2, Programs](#) to schedule a time slot for the event and add your name to the contributors' roster.

SAVE THE DATE!

BAGS is making plans to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the society on September 26, 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!

JOIN US!

July's Meet 'n Munch

JULY 26th 4:00pm

Red River BBQ & Grill

1911 E Main St,

League City, TX 77573



VOLUNTEER

FOR THE BAGS 25TH ANNIVERSARY
PLANNING COMMITTEE!



CONTACT

REBECCA BRIGGS @

RRW77004@GMAIL.COM

OR (713) 401-7718

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.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

July 18th, 2026

2:30 – 4:30pm at the [Freeman Library](#)

Need help finding Grandma Freeman in the census, or reading Uncle Daniel's will, or just general help on a tough research problem? Bring your research, and we can work on it together. Join us for an in-person Research Assistance Group session on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at the **Freeman Public Library** from 2:30 to 4:30pm in the conference room on the second floor. All are welcome! Presentation details are under the **Members Only > Education Spotlight** section of the [BAGS website](#). For more information or questions, contact Kathleen Williams [@txbayareagen.org](mailto:txbayareagen.org). Freeman Library: 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, TX, 77062.

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](#).



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](#).



Genealogy Writing Special Interest Group (SIG)

On VACATION!

The BAGS Writing Special Interest Group **IS ON VACATION for 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.



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!

JULY RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES

Friendswood FamilySearch Center In-Person Research Sessions

TUESDAYS: Jul 21, Aug 18, Sep 15, Oct 20

10:00am – 12:00pm

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, Friendswood, TX**. The center is also open to the public for research during the listed visitor hours:

Tues, Thurs, & Fri 10:00a – 2:00p and Tuesday evenings 7:00p – 9:00p

This center has FREE access to the FamilySearch Center Portal, with premium family history software.

Volunteers Needs at the Alvin FamilySearch Center!

The Alvin FamilySearch Center has requested volunteers to help patrons navigate the FamilySearch website at their location, **2700 Lehi Ln, Alvin, TX, 77511**. The center's phone number is 832-472-9461. If you have time to share research skills, please contact Cora Tew at TX_Alvin@familyhistorymail.org to volunteer! **Alvin FSC hours: Tues: 2-5p, Wed: 10a-12p, 6:30-8:30p, Thurs: 2-5p, Sat: 9a-12p, and Sun: 12-1pm!**

OTHER FAMILYSEARCH CENTERS

League City FSC, 4655 South Shore Blvd, League City, 77573

Wed 7:00-9:00p & Sat 10:00a-2:00p

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

Wed 10:00a-5:00p & 7:00-9:00p

Baytown FSC, 1010 Birdsong Dr, Baytown, TX, 77521

Wed 10:00a-12:00p & Tues | Wed 6:30-8:30p

Pasadena FSC, 4202 Yellowstone Dr, Pasadena, TX, 77504

Tues | Wed 7:00-9:00p & Sun 11:00a-1:30p

Kingwood FSC, 4021 Deerbrook, Kingwood, TX, 77339

Tues 9:00-11:30a & Wed 7:00-9:00p

Thurs 11:30a-2:00p

Centers have FREE access to the FamilySearch Center Portal, 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.

Write Out Loud (In-Person), July 15th, 10:30am – 12:00pm: Our ancestors were human, which means they lived, loved, made mistakes, had triumphs, and tragedies. Join us for our Special Interest Group "Write Out Loud," We meet to write out the stories that make genealogies more than just a compilation of names, dates, and places. [More info!](#)

Genealogy Booksale, July 18th, 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.

Scanning Saturday, July 18th, 10:30am-3:00pm: Do you have any old photos, negatives, slides or documents stored in your home? The Family History Research Center has three unique stations available by appointment to help digitize your memorabilia. [More info!](#)

Orientation to the Family History Center @ Clayton, July 25th, 10-11:30am: 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, then stay for one-on-one assistance from our expert staff as you dive into your own research and start piecing together your family tree. [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

Bay Area Genealogical Society

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BAGS INFORMATION

2026 BAGS OFFICERS



Texas Welcomes the World

Unless you have been living in a cave, you have probably noticed that thousands of tourists are in Texas for the FIFA World Cup. I will be the first to admit that I do not know much about soccer, but I have enjoyed watching videos of visitors from around the world experiencing everything Texas has to offer – except, perhaps, the heat.

As Independence Day approaches, I cannot help but wonder what our international guests will think of our Fourth of July celebrations. It is remarkable to imagine a group of people who left England and, in the years that followed, made the bold decision to fight for independence from England.

That fight for independence opened the door for people from many other countries to emigrate to America. Those immigrants were our ancestors – the very people we spend so many hours researching, remembering, and honoring.

There is a bit of irony in knowing that some of their descendants may be here right now, enjoying Buc-ee's and Whataburger while taking in all that Texas has to offer! Happy Independence Day!

~ Teresa Rundell, BAGS President

BAGS 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 Board Meetings:

July 27th Sep 21st
Aug 24th Oct 26th

BAGS welcomes our newest member:

Wayne York



Statement of Activity as of June 1, 2026

Checking Account	\$4,081.45
Savings Account	\$2,187.80
CDs	\$10,291.97
Total Monetary Assets	\$16,561.22

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

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president@txbayareagen.org

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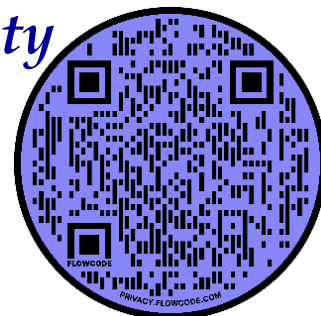
Terri Myers

publicity@txbayareagen.org



BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



JULY 2026

Calendar of Events 2026

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
18	2:30p	In-person Research Assistance <i>Freeman Library</i>
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)

*Preserving the Greatest Generation:
WWII Genealogy 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: <i>Your "Revolutionary War" Ancestor</i>
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)
26	12:00p	BAGS 25th Anniversary Celebration – Galveston, TX
28	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2

OCTOBER

1	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
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 (Zoom and in-person)
16	10:30a	Family History Day @ <i>Friendswood Library</i>
17	9:30a	Clayton Library Bus Trip
19	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
20	10:00a	Research Session @ <i>Friendswood FamilySearch Center</i>
26	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
30	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom)