

Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 26 Issue 9
September 2026



BAGS General Meeting

September 26th, 2026, at 12:00 – 2:00pm

The Bryan Museum

1315 21st Street, Galveston, Texas 77550

Reservations are required to attend this event –
Space limited to 50 guests only. First come, first serve.

CELEBRATE WITH Texas BAGS!

BAGS is celebrating the **25th Anniversary** of the society on Saturday, **September 26, 2026!** This celebration is being held at the ***Bryan Museum in Galveston, Texas***, from 12:00 – 2:00pm. This free event includes catered lunch, presentation by historian and author Kathleen Maca, and an opportunity for a self-guided tour of the Bryan Museum after the luncheon. A round-trip bus ride to the event is also being organized, with the pickup/dropoff point at the Freeman Branch Library in Clear Lake City.

[Register here for this gala event!](#) All members, plus one guest, are invited to register to attend. There will also be an opportunity to watch a 28-minute documentary, *The Great Storm* - about the 1900 Galveston hurricane, in addition to the free self-guided tour. The cost for the movie is \$5, at your own expense. Whether you are interested in watching the documentary or registering for bus transportation and the gala meal you can reply here on the **[Google registration form](#)**. For more information, please email Rebecca Briggs at **vicepresident@txbayareagen.org**.

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OTHER AREAS of INTEREST

President's Message
Social Media Links
BAGS Partnership
Celebration Registration

See the flyer on page 2 for details.

Bay Area Genealogical Society



Bay Area Genealogical Society 25th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, September 26th 2026 | Noon to 2pm

The Bryan Museum

1315 21st Street, Galveston, Texas 77550

Join us as the **Bay Area Genealogical Society** celebrates **25 years** of connections, discoveries, and shared family histories! Society Members are warmly invited to enjoy this *free* anniversary event featuring a delicious catered lunch, an informative presentation by historian and author Kathleen Maca, and the opportunity to explore the Bryan Museum through a self-guided tour following the luncheon.

Make your reservation TODAY! Use the link or the handy QR Code:



<https://forms.gle/23Rh6uFiDUnThUtb6>



[Or on the BAGS Website!](#)

Reservations:

Please note that reservations are currently limited to individual BAGS members. Because space is limited, each BAGS member may bring one non-member guest.

Questions?

Please email vicepresident@txbayareagen.org.



**THE BRYAN
MUSEUM**

1315 21st Street, Galveston, Texas 77550
info@thebryanmuseum.org | (409) 632-7685

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE



Education Spotlight

September 5th, 2026 – “Finding Your Revolutionary War Patriot” presented by Fred Roe

2:30 – 4:30pm at the Friendswood Library

Join us for an in-person session, **SEPTEMBER 5th, 2026**, at the Friendswood Library from 2:30 to 4:30pm. Fred Roe will be presenting his research on Finding Your Revolutionary War Patriot. Please use the questionnaire, on page 7, to help you prepare to find your ancestor before arriving at this presentation.

Bring your laptop and current patriot research, and we will work on this together! Everyone is welcome! For more information or questions, contact Kathleen Williams education@txbayareagen.org. Friendswood Library, 416 S Friendswood Dr, Friendswood, TX 77546. More presentation details are under the **Members Only> Education Spotlight** section of the [BAGS website](#).

Online Only!



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](#).



Genealogy Writing Special Interest Group (SIG)

The BAGS Writing Special Interest Group **IS BACK!** This group **resumed** their meetings, via **Zoom**, in August 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

Due to renovations at the Friendswood Library during the month of September, the Family Tree Makers group is cancelled until October 13th!

If you have questions about using /installing Family Tree Maker or need information about the software and how it interacts with other genealogical sources, you can still make appointments directly with [Renee 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](#) to discuss your research needs!

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the people of Harris Brazoria, 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.

SEPTEMBER RESEARCH

Friendswood FamilySearch Center *In-Person* Research Sessions

TUESDAYS: Sep 15, Oct 20, and Nov 17

10:00am – 12:00pm

BAGS meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month at this session is open to all society 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 Needed 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: 12-1p!

OTHER FAMILYSEARCH CENTERS

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

Sat 10:00a-2:00p |

Wed 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

Sun 11:00a-1:30p |

Tues | Wed 7:00-9:00p

Kingwood FSC, 4021 Deerbrook, Kingwood, TX, 77339

Tues 9:00-11:30a |

Wed 7:00-9:00p

and **Thurs** 11:30a-2:00p

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

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

Centers have FREE access to the FamilySearch Center Portal, with premium family history software.

MEET YOUR BAGS REGISTRAR: George Porterfield

George Porterfield has been BAGS' registrar since March 2020, after serving as 1st Vice President. He joined BAGS in summer 2016. Although his father, paternal grandfather, and great-grandfather were born and raised in Texas, George did not become a Texas resident until 2014. His 3rd great-grandfather, *Samuel H. Porterfield*, traveled from Tennessee to the "Sabine Frontier" with the Tennessee Mounted Militia during the Texas Revolution.

George grew up in Kansas and Florida, then moved to Louisiana and earned a BA in Accounting from Louisiana State University. He served 21 years as a U.S. Navy Supply Corps officer, focusing extensively on computer systems development, then spent 26 years supporting Navy logistical and financial systems for contracting companies before retiring to devote more time to genealogy research.

George's interest in genealogy began soon after graduating from LSU, during a visit to Aunt Helen for his cousin's high school graduation. When he learned that relatives he had never known—his half-uncle Charles and half-cousin Peggy—were coming to dinner, Aunt Helen, the family historian, introduced him to more of his paternal family history and inspired his own research.

More than 50 years later, George has gathered information on over 5,300 ancestors, descendants, and related individuals worldwide. His research into his mother's German ancestors and his wife's ancestors from Germany, Switzerland, and The Netherlands strengthened his skill in identifying European birth villages and alternative records when traditional vital records are unavailable. For 3+ years, he shared this expertise as moderator of the BAGS German Special Interest Group. His interest in German genealogy has taken him to Germany and other parts of Europe, including several of his wife's ancestral villages.

BAGS OPPORTUNITIES AT HPL

Family History Research Center – Clayton Library

The [FamilySearch Center Clayton Library Campus](#) at the Houston Public Library is open for research! Staff members are available to help you get started and assist in locating books, microfilms, periodicals, and databases to further your research.

Orientation to the Family History Center @ Clayton, Sep 12, 10-11:30am: A genealogy workshop to learn how to uncover your ancestors' stories. Beginning with a short video, followed by a guided tour of our extensive genealogy collection, then stay for one-on-one assistance from our expert staff to dive into your research to start piecing together your family tree. [More info!](#)

Write Out Loud (In-Person), Sep 16, 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 stories that make genealogies more than just a compilation of names, dates, and places. [More info!](#)

Colonial Naming Conventions in Mexico, Sep 18, 1:00-2:00pm: Understanding the naming conventions in Colonial Mexico may seem complicated initially, but don't worry! This class will give you valuable insights into how names were used in Mexico before the 19th century and how last names have evolved. Join the Clayton Genealogy library as we welcome guest speaker and Professional Genealogist, Susana A Leniski, to explore this topic. [More info!](#)

Genealogy Book Sale and Scanning Saturday, Sep 19, 10:30am-3:00pm : Looking for Genealogy research books for your personal collection? Visit the Clayton Library Friends donated duplicate book sale held each 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month. The Family History Research Center also has three unique stations to help digitize your memorabilia. Available by appointment [More info!](#)

Genealogy Resource Roundups: In-Person!

The Houston Public Library provides access to several Texas-sized genealogy databases. Just like the wild west of old, these resources can seem daunting and vast to navigate.

If you have been wranglin' with our online resources and a-hollerin' for help the wait is over! Join us for a new series with the Clayton Library: The Genealogy Research Roundup. Genealogy Librarian Carl Smith dons his Cowboy boots and hat to become Cowboy Carl - your Texas-themed genealogy guru - to help you with a-navigating these databases. Each month we'll cover a different database and in no-time you'll be on your way to greener genealogy pastures.

This event is free and open to the public; however, **registration is required for these events.**

- October 13, 2026 - [Ancestry Library Edition](#) - 1:00-2:00pm
- November 10, 2026 - [FamilySearch Affiliate Library](#) - 1:00-2:00pm
- December 8, 2026 - [FindMyPast Library Edition](#) - 1:00-2:00pm
- January 12, 2026 - MyChinaRoots (TBA) - 1:00-2:00pm
- February 9, 2026 - MyHeritage Library Edition (TBA) - 1:00-2:00pm
- March 9, 2026 - [NewspaperArchive](#) - 1:00-2:00pm

All sessions will be held in the Susan Garwood Meeting Room at the Clayton Library Campus.

Family History Research Center @ the Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas 77004

BAGS BUSINESS



This month, I found myself returning to one important question raised by a member: “How can we encourage more members to attend events?” It is a question worth asking – and one that invites all of us to take a fresh look at the many ways we can connect, learn, and grow together.

If you already attend our monthly meetings, thank you! Your presence helps make our society stronger. But there may be even more opportunities waiting for YOU beyond the monthly meeting, from special programs to informal gatherings that deepen both friendships and genealogy skills.

If you are new to genealogy, please do not let inexperience keep you from joining in. Our events are designed to help you learn the basics, ask questions, and build confidence. If you are an experienced researcher, your participation matters just as much – your knowledge, discoveries, and lessons learned can encourage and guide others on their own family history journey.

There truly is something for everyone! We invite you to look over the calendar at the end of this newsletter, choose an upcoming event, and make plans to attend. Your presence could be the encouragement someone else needs – and we would love to see you there.

~ *Teresa Rundell*
BAGS President

*BAGS welcomes
Maria “Susan” Parr!*

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:
Sep 21st Oct 26th Nov 16th

Statement of Activity as of August 1, 2026

Checking Account	\$3,736.19
Savings Account	\$2,188.17
Undeposited Funds	\$25.00
CDs	<u>\$10,347.07</u>
Total Monetary Assets	\$16,296.43



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

2026 BAGS OFFICERS

President

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vicepresident@txbayareagen.org

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SEPTEMBER EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT



Do you have a Revolutionary War Patriot?

To prepare for our Education Spotlight, try to answer these questions about **one or more** of your ancestors. The table below will help guide you in your search once you have a likely candidate.

We will discuss #7-#12 during the session.

Did any of your ancestors live in the American colonies during the Revolutionary War? (1775-1783)

Most soldiers would have been male, born between 1725 and 1765.

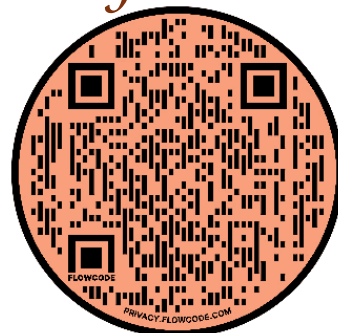
Which colony did your ancestor reside in? Which county?

Remember, many soldiers were foreigners – your ancestor did not have to be born in the American Colonies to serve in the war.

Question	Your Information
1. Name	Full name: _____ Surname variations / phonetic spellings: _____
2. Age	Approx. birth year: _____ Age in 1775: _____ Old enough to enlist later in the war? Yes / No / Unknown
3. Residence	Colony: _____ County: _____ Town / parish / municipality: _____
4. Relatives or neighbors who served	Names and relationships: _____
5. Occupation / special skills	Trade: _____ Ex: blacksmith, carpenter, leatherworker, wagoner, gunsmith
6. Death & burial	Death date/place: _____ Cemetery / grave marker information: _____
7. Possible officer service	Checked Heitman's Historical Register of Officers? Yes / No Rank / unit found: _____
8. Militia service	Possible local militia: _____ Captain / commander: _____
9. Continental Army clues	Possible company / regiment / commander: _____
10. Muster rolls	Found a muster roll? Yes / No / Not searched Name spelling, unit, date, or notes: _____
11. Pension records	Pension application found? Yes / No / Not searched Applicant / widow, file number, or notes: _____
12. Other military records searched	☐ Fold3 ☐ NARA ☐ FamilySearch ☐ DAR ☐ State archives ☐ Other: _____

BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



Calendar of Events

September 2026

SEPTEMBER

3	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
5	2:30p	Education Spotlight: <i>Find Your Revolutionary War Patriot</i> @ Friendswood Library
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	In-person Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
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 Bryan Museum – 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
13	10:30a	Family Tree Maker @ Friendswood Library
15	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
16	10:30a	Family History Day @ Friendswood Library
17	9:30a	Clayton Library Bus Trip
19	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
20	10:00a	In-Person Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
25	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch @ Mia's Table
26	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
27	10:30a	Family Tree Maker @ Friendswood Library
30	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom) <i>Immigration & Naturalization: Texas Style</i>

NOVEMBER

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
10	10:30a	Family Tree Maker @ Friendswood Library
16	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
17	10:00a	In-person Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
19	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
20	7:00p	BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom) <i>Online Resources for Researching British Ancestry</i>
23	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
24	10:30a	Family Tree Maker @ Friendswood Library
30	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2

DECEMBER

3	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom)
5	12:00p	BAGS Holiday Luncheon - TBA
7	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
8	10:30a	Family Tree Maker @ Friendswood Library
14	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
15	10:00a	In-person Research Session @ Friendswood FamilySearch Center
17	1:30p	Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
22	10:30a	Family Tree Maker @ Friendswood Library
21	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2
28	10:00a	Research Assistance #1
	7:00p	Research Assistance #2