

August 2024  
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# BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



## BAGS General Meeting

**Friday, August 23rd, 7:00pm**

Speaker: John Sellers – *Researching Your  
Ancestor's Plot of Dirt:*

*The Adventures of Courthouse Land Research*

**John Sellers** is a fifth generation native of Hopkins County, Texas. He has been doing genealogical research since 1985. His most favorite area of research is in the courthouse. He has visited courthouses in several southern states and has conducted extensive research in Texas and Louisiana.

John is an active member of the Hopkins County Genealogical Society, has served fifteen years on the executive board and is currently the HCGS President. He has presented at the FGS National Conference in 1997 and 2004, and NGS Conference in 1994. John has also been the featured speaker for more than 70 all day seminars located in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

Registration for this meeting is located on the [BAGS website](#).

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# MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS GROUPS

## IN-PERSON Education Spotlight Members Helping Members



**Aug 7th, 10:30am – Newspapers**

**Sept 18th, 1:30pm – HistoryGeo**

**Oct 15th, 10:30am – Find Your Ancestors in Cemeteries**

**Nov 6th, 10:30am – Genealogical Writing**

At **Education Spotlight** MHM meetings, topics are introduced with a brief presentation, followed by hands-on “how to,” and then attendees can practice what has been presented. Several hosting members will be on hand to help attendees and a handout will be provided. **Education Spotlight** meetings will be held at the **Friendswood Public Library, 416 S Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546**

## Members Helping Members (MHM) – Online Research – Session #1 & #2

**#1 Mondays, 10:00am to 12:00pm**  
with [Reneé Ball](#) & [George Porterfield](#)

**#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 MHM sessions via *Zoom*. Participants share their screens and demonstrate research finds. Details for connecting to a *Zoom* MHM link are available on the [Members Helping Members page](#).

## Members Helping Members – FOCUSED Research Session #2

**#2 – Mondays, 7:00pm to 8:00pm**, with [Kim Zrubek](#) & friends



Monday evening MHM sessions, after a General Meeting (via *Zoom* or in-person), focus on the topic from the previous general meeting. These focused sessions will provide a more detailed overview of specific topics from the general meeting to allow participants to ask additional questions about the presentations. The group will use information and techniques presented in a hands-on approach to participants' actual experiences. The next focused sessions is:

**August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm – Courthouse Land Research** follow-up to the [John Sellers 8/23](#) presentation

More information is available on the [Members Helping Members page](#).



## Family Tree Maker – *by Appointment Only*

If you would like help with Family Tree Maker MHM 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 on BAGS [Members Helping Members page](#).

### Still Need Help?

Complete the [BAGS Help Desk Form](#) and email it to [Kathleen Williams, Education Chairman](#). She'll respond to discuss your research needs!

Bay Area Genealogical Society is proud to be members of:  
National Genealogical Society,  
Texas State Genealogical Society, Clayton Library Friends,  
and  
International German Genealogy Partnership



INTERNATIONAL GERMAN  
Genealogy Partnership

# BAGS EVENTS and OPPORTUNITIES

## EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

### NEWSPAPERS!

Wednesday Aug 7th, 10:30am at the Friendswood Library

We'll be discussing the major commercial newspaper websites, how to locate lesser-known newspaper websites, and different searching strategies. Please bring your laptop or other device and your research.

### HistoryGeo

Wednesday Sept 18th, 1:00-4:00pm – Friendswood Library

HistoryGeo.com is a family history software service for linking old maps and land records to genealogy research. HistoryGeo is best known for its revolutionary First Landowners Project. Instead of looking at landowner maps township by township, the First Landowners Project is like having a single, INTERACTIVE MAP containing over 12+ million landowners among 30 states - all 29 of the public land states in the Continental U.S. plus Texas. FLP is constantly expanded map coverage along with the ability to keep track of all the early homesteaders you're researching. Please bring your laptop or other device and your research.

### Meet Carl Smith!



Carl Smith is the new Manager of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus. Carl will be presenting the Annual State of the Clayton Library Report in August.

Carl's passion for family history research began as a child growing up and listening to stories that his grandparents would share during summer vacations.

A native of Mesa, Arizona Carl received his Bachelor's degree in Family History/Genealogy from Brigham Young University and his Masters of Library and Information Science from Syracuse University in Upstate New York.

Before coming to work at the Clayton Library Carl was the Genealogy Librarian for the Montgomery County Memorial library system in Conroe, Texas as well as branch manager for the Aldine Branch Library in Harris County, Texas. When not working and doing genealogy Carl enjoys hiking and camping, singing with the International Voices Houston (a local choir), playing piano, and spending time with his family. (Courtesy of Clayton Library Friends)



Our BAGS German Special Interest Group is **currently on hiatus**. For questions/information you may contact [George Porterfield](#). Members are encouraged to utilize our other [Members Helping Members](#) events for further research help with German Ancestry.

### 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)

### 2024 Meetings

August 19

September 23

October 21

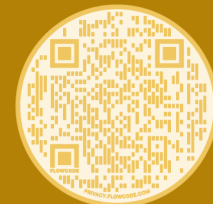
November 18

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

Follow BAGS on Facebook!

[Facebook Group \(members only\)](#)

[Facebook Page \(public page\)](#)



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

# JULY RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES



## BAGS Day at Clayton Library

**Saturday, September 7th, 9am - 3:30pm**

Mark your calendars and meet us at the [Clayton Library](#) to do genealogy research! We have booked the conference room, at the front of the library, just for BAGS members. Please email, text, or call [Kathleen Williams](#) if you need a ride. Several members have offered to drive and will meet you at a local library (Freeman or Friendswood) to carpool into Houston together!

## Friendswood FamilySearch Center

**In-Person MHM Research Session**

**August 21st and September 18th**

**9:30am to 11:30am (for BAGS Members only)**

The [Friendswood FamilySearch Center](#) is located at *505 Deseret Dr*, in Friendswood. This MHM session is open to BAGS members ONLY for research. The center is also open to the public for research during the listed visitor hours:

**Tues, Thurs, & Fri**      **10:00am – 2:00pm**

**Tues evening**            **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:

**Tuesday and Wednesday**      **7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Saturday**                      **10:00am – 12:00pm**

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

## Clayton Library Sponsored Events

The **Family History Center at the Clayton Library Campus** is open for research! Staff are available to help you get started and to assist you in locating books, microfilms, periodicals, and databases to further your research. You can even visit their YouTube channel [here!](#)

**USA and The Spanish Fascination** (hybrid) – **August, 6th, 2-4:00p.** The Influence on the American Way of Living: A conversation with author and journalist Paco Reyero. More [information here](#). This event is in-person or online. Registration is required.

**CLF Donated Duplicate Book Sale and Scanning Saturdays** – **August 17th, 11:00am – 3:00pm,** Call 832-393-2600 to reserve your spot to scan photos and documents! (repeating events)

**Clayton Library Friends General Meeting** – **Saturday, August 17th, 10:30am – 12:00pm, (hybrid)** “State of the Library at Clayton.” Carl Smith, the new Manager of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus, will be presenting the Annual State of the Clayton Library Report.

Clayton Library Friends Partner Societies | [The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society](#) | [The Bay Area Genealogical Society](#) | [The Baytown Historical Preservation Association](#) | [Galveston County Genealogical Society](#) | [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 BUSINESS | INFORMATION

## 2024 BAGS OFFICERS

**President**

*Teresa Rundell*

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

**First Vice President**

*Jane Martin*

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

**Second Vice President**

*Becky Jones*

[vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org](mailto:vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org)

**Treasurer**

*Todd Roberts*

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

**Registrar**

*George Porterfield*

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

**Secretary**

*Kitty Olson*

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

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*George Porterfield*

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

**County Coordinator**

*vacant*

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

**Social Media Administrator**

*Kathleen Williams*

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

**Publicity Coordinator**

*Terri Myers*

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

*Statement of Activity as of July 1, 2024*



Checking Account	\$3,180.58
Saving Account	\$12,163.12
Undeposited funds	\$35.00
PayPal	<u>\$74.03</u>
Total Monetary Assets	\$15,452.73

## Volunteer Opportunity – County Coordinator!!

BAGS needs a County Coordinator! The County Coordinator schedules 4-6 bus trips per year. Two BAGS members currently serve as backups and assist the County Coordinator as needed.

### The County Coordinator:

- Works with Harris County to schedule each bus trip.
- Communicates upcoming dates to the board for publications.
- Maintains all usage agreements and emergency forms.
- Tracks attendance, sends reminders, and takes attendance (beginning and end of each trip) to ensure all attendees are present.

**A minimum of ten attendees is required for Harris County bus usage guidelines.**

Interested? Please contact Kathleen at [education@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org) for more information.

## MEET 'n MUNCH (*locations*)

**4pm Sundays** (*food on your own*)

**August 25th – Red River BBQ, 1911 E Main, League City**

**September 29th – King's Bierhaus, 828 FM 646 Rd, League City**

**October 27th – Craft 96, 2575 E League City Pkwy, League City**

### Additional points of contact:

Don't know the Members Page password?

[registrar@txbayareagen.org](mailto:registrar@txbayareagen.org) – *George Porterfield*

Research questions or provide research assistance:

[education@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org) – *Kathleen Williams*

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) – *Todd Roberts*

Ideas for BAGS advertising:

[publicity@txbayareagen.org](mailto:publicity@txbayareagen.org) – *Terri Myers*

Not receiving emails?

[emailcoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:emailcoord@txbayareagen.org) – *Fred Roe*

Want to go on the Clayton Bus trip?

[countycoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:countycoord@txbayareagen.org) – *for reservation*

Submit your pedigree chart to:

[pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org](mailto:pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org) – *pedigrees/questions*

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.



# BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



August 2024

## Calendar of Events - 2024

### AUGUST

- 5 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 7 10:30a Education Spotlight, *Friendswood Library, Newspapers*
- 12 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 19 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 21 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 23 7:00p August Members Meeting – *John Sellers; Researching Your Ancestor's Plot: The Adventures of Courthouse Land Research (Zoom)*
- 25 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – **Red River BBQ**
- 26 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2  
*8/23 Focused follow-up: The Adventures of Courthouse Land Research*

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 9 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 16 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 18 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 23 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 28 12:00p September Members Meeting @ *UBC Members Show & Tell Presentations & Potluck*
- 29 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – **King's Bierhaus**
- 30 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2

### OCTOBER

- 7 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 14 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 16 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC

### OCTOBER – cont.

- 21 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 25 7:00p October Members Meeting (Zoom) – *TBA*
- 27 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – **Craft 96**
- 28 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2  
*10/25 Focused follow-up: TBA*

### NOVEMBER

- 4 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 11 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
6:30p Members Helping Members #2
- 18 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 20 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 22 7:00p November Members Meeting – *Nicole Dyer Genealogy Writing & Artificial Intelligence (Zoom)*
- 24 4:00p Meet 'n Munch, *TBA*
- 25 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2  
*11/22 follow-up: Genealogy Writing and AI*

### DECEMBER

- 2 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 9 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 16 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting
- 30 10:00a Members Helping Members #1  
7:00p Members Helping Members #2