

BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



BAGS Members Meeting

Friday, November 22nd, 2024
at 7:00pm

*Genealogy Writing and
Artificial Intelligence*

With Speaker — **Nicole Dyer**



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Special Points of Interest

*Research &
Learning Opportunities*

Social Media Links

Upcoming Events

December Holiday Luncheon

Writing about your genealogy research can be challenging. Assembling genealogical conclusions requires time, persistence, and dedication. Learn how generative AI tools can help - whether you're writing a biography, research report, or proof argument. Tools like ChatGPT and Claude can turn research logs into reports and timelines into narrative. Providing text to the AI tools helps increase accuracy and limit errors. Generative AI tools can increase your writing efficiency, but your personal style may be lost. Learn how to maintain your unique voice while increasing productivity. We will also discuss when to disclose writing assistance from AI tools and how to cite them.

Nicole Dyer is a professional genealogist specializing in Southern US research and genetic genealogy. She is the creator of FamilyLocket.com and the Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast. She co-authored *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* and *Research Like a Pro with DNA* and is an instructor for the study groups of the same name. She lectures at conferences and institutes including the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research. Nicole has a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in History Teaching. At Family Locket Genealogists, Nicole is a project manager, editor, and researcher. *This will be a live, virtual presentation.* [Register here](#) to attend

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2025

It's time to renew your membership with the TX Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS)! The new membership year starts January 1, 2025. You can renew your membership anytime between November 1, 2024, and February 28, 2025, without any loss of membership privileges.

Why should I renew my membership with BAGS now?

- ✓ BAGS is able to include **genealogy experts** from outside the Houston area to speak at our **virtual monthly general meetings**. This provides you with the benefit of national speakers and a wider range of genealogy topics. We also work with other regional genealogical societies to give you access to their resources and presentations.
- ✓ Our private **Facebook** group is engaging, and active with regular postings about webinars and expanded online resources (many of them free) to help you with your research.
- ✓ **Members Helping Members sessions** are expanding and include both virtual and in-person meetings. You can join in the group sessions or request an individual, one-on-one session. These sessions can help you with “how to” questions about using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker software or other tools. These sessions can help you learn how to analyze the genealogical information you already have and show you how to research new sources.
- ✓ Informative **Education Spotlight** sessions are held at the Friendswood Library.
- ✓ Organized **meetups** at the Clayton Library Family History Research Center.
- ✓ **Special events** are planned for the upcoming year and include awesome guest speakers plus door prizes, drawings, and delicious food!
- ✓ Three **in-person General Meetings** (BBQ buffet or potluck) and a Holiday Luncheon.
- ✓ Free access to all past publications including **Quarterlies, Journals** and monthly **Newsletters**.
- ✓ A complementary listing in our **Membership Yearbook**.
- ✓ The **opportunity to serve the Society** by joining one of our committees.

Renew your membership NOW – 2 options:



**KEEP
CALM
AND
RENEW YOUR
BAGS
MEMBERSHIP**

ONLINE – You can fill out a membership form online and make your payment via PayPal with a credit or debit card, or a PayPal account, if you have one. **To renew online, [click here](#)**. You will be directed to the “Membership Application Page” at the BAGS website. After filling out the form online, click the **Submit** button at the bottom. This will take you to PayPal where you will make your payment. You do not need to have a PayPal account to complete the transaction.

Paper form and check – If you would rather pay by sending a check through the regular mail, you can fill out a printed membership form. [Access the form here](#). This will open a PDF file which you can print and fill out. Mail this to the address on the form along with your check made payable to “BAGS.”

If you have questions on the registration process or if you want to verify your membership status, please contact our Registrar via email, registrar@txbayareagen.org.

BAGS INFORMATION

2024 BAGS OFFICERS

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Teresa Rundell

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Publicity Coordinator

Terri Myers

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Mark
Your
Calendar

BAGS Holiday Luncheon

December 7th @ 11:30am

South Shore Grille

2800 Marina Bay Drive,

League City, TX, 77573

[RSVP here to attend!](#)

This event is "Dutch-treat."

Spouses/significant others are welcome to attend!



welcome new BAGS member:
Barbara Mueller!

Statement of Activity as of October 1, 2024

Checking Account	\$2,520.22
Saving Account	\$12,166.18
PayPal/Undeposited	\$87.00
Total Monetary Assets	\$14,773.40



Additional points of contact:

Don't know the Members Page password?

registrar@txbayareagen.org – George Porterfield

Research questions or to provide research assistance:

education@txbayareagen.org – Kathleen Williams

Have an article or idea to share with the Society?

newsletter@txbayareagen.org – Cindy Austin

Submit information for the Journal:

journal@txbayareagen.org – Todd Roberts

Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS:

publicity@txbayareagen.org – Terri Myers

Not receiving emails?

emailcoord@txbayareagen.org – Fred Roe

Give
Thanks



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.

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

IN-PERSON Education Spotlight

Nov 6th, 10:30am – Genealogical Writing

At **Education Spotlight**, 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.

Online Research – Session #1 & #2

#1 Mondays, 10:00am to 12:00pm

with [Renée 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](#).



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 are:

Nov. 25th at 7pm – Genealogy Writing & AI

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

Family Tree Maker – *by Appointment Only*

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, [Renée Ball](#). Help with technical concerns, such as software upgrading and exporting files, is also available. Connection details are on BAGS [Members Helping Members](#)



BAGS German Special Interest Group

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.

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

November
Educational Spotlight

Genealogical Writing –

Climbing the Mountain One Step at a Time

Wednesday, Nov 6th, 10:30am – Friendswood Library

Do you want to leave a narrative of the ancestors discovered while researching your family history? Have you ever asked the question, “Where do I start?” This Genealogical Writing Spotlighting will begin to provide pointers and guidance to help bring a plan together for you!

Join BAGS VP Becky Jones and other society members as we collaborate on best methods for tailoring your family history. Please bring your laptop and your family research to begin this journey!

BAGS Meet ‘n Munch

Our Meet ‘n Munches are always well attended! BAGS members and their families share delicious meals and socialize on beautiful Sunday afternoons!

Please join us at the next Meet ‘n Munch:

Sunday, November 17th, 4:00pm

Kelley’s Country Cookin’

1502 W. Main St., League City, TX

BAGS Members, family, and guests are always welcome to come!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2025!

BAGS NEEDS YOU!

Serving on the BAGS Board is an amazing experience, both personally and genealogically. Volunteering with BAGS can be meaningful for someone who wants to make a difference in helping this community. Please consider volunteering your talents (and a little time) to help BAGS be more effective and efficient next year! BAGS needs volunteers in the following areas:

County Coordinator	Hospitality Committee
Journal Editor	Programs Committee
BAGS Website	Telephoning Committee
Social Media	Education Committee
Newsletter Editor	Proofreaders
Yearbook Editor	County Coordinator

Committees typically work together for about an hour (or less) each month! Board/committee meetings are held via Zoom. You can email your interest newsletter@txbayareagen.org, let the telephone committee know your interest, note your interest on your membership renewal form, or speak to another volunteer at one of our many events! Your help is vital in making BAGS thrive and grow!

Board Meetings

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

2024 Meetings

November 18

December – no meeting

2025 Meetings

January 20

February 24

March 24

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/

NOVEMBER LIBRARY UPDATES



Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person MHM Research Session

November 15th

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

The Friendswood FamilySearch Center is located at *505 Deseret Dr*, in Friendswood. The entrance to the building is on the side furthest from the street. 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 below.

Tues, Thurs, & Fri	10:00am – 2:00pm
Tues evening	7:00pm – 9:00pm

This center has access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, which gives free access to premium family history software and websites that generally charge for subscriptions.

League City FamilySearch Center

The League City FamilySearch Center is located at *4655 South Shore Blvd*, in League City. The entrance to the FamilySearch Center is on the SE corner, at the back of the building, away from the street. Use the first entrance off South Shore Blvd.

The League City FamilySearch Center is open to the public for research:

Tuesday	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday	10:00am – 12:00pm

This center has access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, which gives free access to premium family history software and websites that generally charge for subscriptions.

Clayton Library Friends and Clayton/HPL Events

- ✓ **November 2nd, 1:00pm, Clayton Library – Show & Tell Veteran's Day - Honoring our Veterans** (Zoom) In honor of Veterans Day, we invite attendees to share, honor and give thanks to any man or woman who have served or are serving in the US Armed Forces along with supporting genealogy material. [To register or learn more click here](#)
- ✓ **November 8th, 2:00pm The Genealogy Do-Over: A Year of Learning from Mistakes (Hybrid) - Thomas MacEntee.** Frustrated with the way you originally researched your genealogy? Were you a name collector? Did you not care or not even know about citing sources? Now there's hope and you get a "do-over." Follow Thomas as he basically starts his genealogy research from scratch but includes sound research practices and methodologies as well as new templates, tools and the latest technology to create a better body of family history research. [To register or learn more click here](#)
- ✓ **November 16th, 10:30am, Clayton Library Friends Meeting -(hybrid); The 1870's Community-Cluster: Gateway to Your Ancestor's Enslavement - Franklin Carter Smith.** Researching enslaved African American ancestry can be extremely challenging and daunting. Clues from the 1870 US Census community hold the keys to unlocking their pre-Civil War history. Author and genealogist Franklin Carter Smith will suggest tips and strategies on how to use these clues to open a gateway that leads to their enslavement history. [To register or learn more click here](#)
- ✓ **November 26th, 2:00pm, Using ArchivesSpace Database** (online with Microsoft TEAMS) Join us for an orientation and best practices presentation for navigating our online database: ArchiveSpace! Attendees will learn how to locate items for research and explore the different uses of this unique resource. Take part in the live Q&A following the presentation for clarification and individualized help. [To register or learn more click here](#)

2024 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

Navigating YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

NOVEMBER 1-2

VIRTUAL



www.txsgs.org

#txsgs

Join TxSGS for the 2024 TxSGS Family History Conference to explore resources and techniques for *Navigating Your Family History*. This virtual event will feature *TxSGS Live!* on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1-2, 2024, and offer an additional 31 pre-recorded lectures for more than 40 sessions designed to help you discover resources and develop skills to pursue your family history. Registrants will be able to access these recordings through midnight on Feb. 2, 2025. [Registration and more information are found here!](#)

This year's Family History Conference promises opportunities for learning in a variety of areas, or tracks. Use the tracks to plan your conference experience. View the recordings of the 2024 Family History Conference lectures as often as you like during the replay period.



Artificial Intelligence: Explore the intersection of genealogy and artificial intelligence as you discover how AI is transforming the field of family history research. From automated record transcription and indexing to predictive analytics and record matching algorithms, this track showcases the latest advancements in AI-driven genealogical tools and technologies. Learn how AI can streamline your research process, uncover new connections, and unlock hidden insights in your family tree.



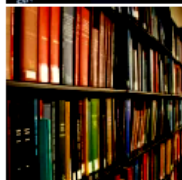
DNA: Unravel the mysteries of your genetic heritage with expert insights into DNA testing and analysis. This track offers a comprehensive exploration of genetic genealogy by examining ways to use different types of DNA and leveraging advanced techniques for identifying genetic matches. Whether you're just starting your DNA journey or seeking to refine your skills, these sessions provide invaluable guidance for tracing your ancestry through DNA.



Ethnic: Embark on a journey of cultural discovery as you explore the diverse heritage of your ancestors. This track delves into the unique research challenges and resources associated with different ethnic groups including African American, Hispanic, and Irish. Uncover strategies for tracing your family's migration paths, identifying ancestral homelands, and preserving cultural traditions through genealogical research.



Methodology: Master the art and science of genealogical research with sessions focused on effective research methodologies. Learn proven strategies for analyzing records, resolving research challenges, and documenting your family history. Whether you're investigating female ancestors, navigating urban genealogy, or honing your research writing skills, these sessions provide practical tools and techniques to enhance your genealogical journey.



Records & Resources: Unlock the wealth of genealogical information hidden within historical records and repositories. Explore a diverse array of records, from land deeds and tax records to religious documents and voting registers. Discover strategies for accessing and interpreting genealogical sources and gain the skills to navigate archives and repositories with confidence.

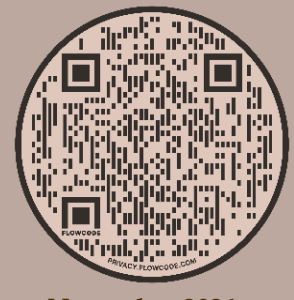


Technology: Harness the power of technology to revolutionize your genealogical research. From utilizing online databases and search tools, to leveraging mapping software and social media platforms, this track explores innovative ways to uncover and share your family history. Learn how to optimize your research workflow, collaborate with other researchers, and preserve your findings for future generations using cutting-edge digital tools and techniques.



BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



November 2024

Calendar of Events - 2024 and 2025

NOVEMBER

- 4 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 6 10:30a Education Spotlight: *Friendswood Library Genealogical Writing*
- 11 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 17 4:00p Meet 'n Munch - *Kelley's Country Cookin', League City*
- 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 (Zoom)
Nicole Dyer - Genealogy Writing & AI
- 25 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
11/22 follow-up: Genealogy Writing & AI

DECEMBER

- 2 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 7 11:30a BAGS Holiday Luncheon
South Shore Grille, League City, TX
- 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
- 23 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 30 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2

JANUARY 2025

- 6 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 13 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 20 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 21 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC (new day/time)
- 25 12:00p BAG Members Potluck @ *University Baptist Church*
- 27 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2

FEBRUARY

- 3 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 10 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 17 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 18 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC (new day/time)
- 24 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 28 7:00p BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom) -
Researching Your Ancestors Plot of Land: Adventures in Courthouse Records w/John Sellers

MARCH

- 3 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
2/28 follow-up: Courthouse Records
- 10 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 17 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 18 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC (new day/time)
- 24 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 28 7:00p BAGS Members Meeting (Zoom)
Invisible No More: Revealing the Lives of Our Female Ancestors w/ Stephanie O'Connell
- 31 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2