

March 2025
Volume 25
Issue 3



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter



BAGS General Meeting

Friday, March 28th, 7:00pm (Zoom)

Stephanie O'Connell presents:

*Invisible No More: Revealing the Lives
of Our Female Ancestors*

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Special Points of Interest

Social Media Links
BAGS Partnerships
Clayton Library Partner Links

Researchers often encounter unique challenges when tracing the lives of their female ancestors. March's presentation will explore both traditional and creative strategies to reconstruct their lives, share their stories, and recognize women's rightful place in history.

Stephanie O'Connell is a professional genealogist who holds Certified Genealogist credentials from the Board for Certification of Genealogists. She specializes in British Isles research and is passionate about incorporating social and women's history into family narratives.

At the heart of Stephanie's work is her love for genealogy research, a passion that drives her to delve deep into the archives of history. Specializing in Irish research, her journey began with a fascination for her own family history, leading to a profound understanding of the complex migration patterns, social histories, and ancestral connections between Ireland and England. Stephanie's education in advanced methodologies and evidence analysis, empower her to dissect complex historical records with precision. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and insights through lectures and serving as a ProGen Study Group Mentor.

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

BAGS BUSINESS | INFORMATION

ATTENTION ALL BAGS MEMBERS!

A new password is needed for access to the "members only." The password changes yearly due to the new membership year. Those members who have already renewed received a 2025 BAGS members guide with a new password via email in late January. Those renewing later will receive the new members guide shortly after their 2025 renewal is processed. If you need help, please contact the registrar at registrar@txbayareagen.org.

A Volunteer Opportunity for YOU!!

President Teresa Rundell announced a volunteers is needed for an important BAGS positions as County Coordinator. The County Coordinator schedules trips to the Clayton Library. Two BAGS members currently serve as backups to assist the County Coordinator as needed. If you are interested the position, you can contact Kathleen Williams at education@txbayareagen.org for more information.



Statement of Activity as of February 1, 20225

Checking Account	\$4,14.34
PayPal Account	\$516.97
Saving Account	\$12,170.27
Total Monetary Assets	\$16,091.72

2025 BAGS OFFICERS

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Kathleen Williams

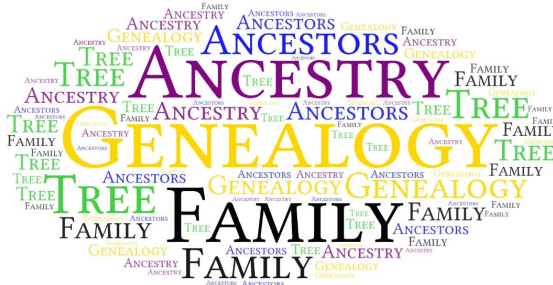
socialmedia@txbayareagen.org

Publicity Coordinator

Terri Myers

publicity@txbayareagen.org

A warm welcome to our
newest members!
Joel & Letha Meier



Additional points of contact:

Don't know the Members Page password?

registrar@txbayareagen.org – George Porterfield

Research questions or provide research assistance:

education@txbayareagen.org – Kathleen Williams

Have an article or idea to share?

newsletter@txbayareagen.org – Cindy Austin

Submit information for the Journal:

journal@txbayareagen.org – Todd Roberts

Ideas for BAGS advertising:

publicity@txbayareagen.org – Terri Myers

Not receiving emails?

emailcoord@txbayareagen.org – Fred Roe

ConferenceKeeper.org

The most complete calendar and collection of genealogy events on the Internet!



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 GROUPS

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

March 19, 10:30am, Friendswood Library – **HistoryGeo**

April 9, 7:00om, Zoom, online only – **Online Library Resources** (encore presentation)

At an **Education Spotlight presentation**, 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 in-person** meetings will be held at the **Friendswood Public Library**, 416 S Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546. Check the [BAGS website](#) for Zoom link connections.

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](#).

NEW Genealogy Writing Special Interest Group

The BAGS Writing Special Interest Group meets **virtually, via Zoom**, 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. See page 4 for more details!



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, [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](#).

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.



Need Help?

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

BAGS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education Spotlight Presentation

HistoryGeo

Wednesday, Mar 19th, 10:30am
Friendswood Public Library

[HistoryGeo.com](https://www.historygeo.com) is a family history software service that links 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 FLP 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 expanding map coverage and the ability to track all the early home-steaders you're researching. HistoryGeo is a free, online access through HPL! Please bring your [Houston Public Library card](#), laptop or other device, and your research.

This session is a encore presentation from September 2024.

The new BAGS' *Genealogy Writing Special Interest Group* (SIG) sessions are on the first (*virtual only*) and third Thursdays (*virtual or in-person option*) of each month from 10:30am for two hours. All current Writing SIG members and those wanting to join must **REGISTER** to receive the access link to the virtual sessions. Note: Contact *Rebecca "Becky" Jones* to attend in-person on the third Thursday of the month. She will provide location details.



Link to **REGISTER** -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/SBOwFO7xOsqowkRFO1VgkQ>

For more information contact Becky Jones at:

vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org

UPCOMING DATES **Mar 6 & 20 - Apr 3 & 17 - May 1 & 15 - Jun 5 & 19**

Come prepared to write! Bring your research notes, files, photos, or any items to guide your writing flow. This is a designated writing and group discussion time!

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

2025 Meetings

March 24

April 21

May 26

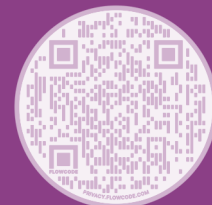
June 23

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/

MARCH RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES



Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person MHM Research Session

TUESDAYS: Mar 18th, Apr 15th (NEW DAY and TIME)

10:00am to 12:00pm

Now meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month! This MHM session is open to all BAGS members for research. The Friendswood FamilySearch Center is located at *505 Deseret Dr*, in Friendswood. The center is also open to the public for research during the listed visitor hours:

Tues, Thurs, & Fri 10:00am – 2:00pm

Tuesday evenings 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:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am – 12:00pm

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

Sugarland FSC, 602 Eldridge Rd, Sugarland TX, 77478 Wednesdays 10am – 5pm

These centers have FREE access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, with premium family history software.

HPL Clayton Library for Genealogical Research (FSC) Events

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.

Delving Into Divorce: Finding Details in Civil Court Dockets – Mar 6th, 1-3pm, Susan Bell, TxSGS Pres. – Early divorce records shine a light on dark times in our ancestor's lives. Many marriages were short-lived, lasting on average about 6 to 8 years. Consequently, case files may provide a critical source of information about a family that formed and dissolved between census years. While divorce is an unhappy event, the records left behind are a silver lining for researchers. Susan shares information found in divorce case files and where these records may be found. [Registration and information](#)

Tho' They Were Poor, They May Have Been Rich in Records – Mar 28th, 2-3pm, Paula K Stuart-Warren – Focus on helping researchers remove the notion that poorer ancestors are untraceable because they left no paper trail. Many researchers put up artificial brick walls because their ancestors weren't landowners, were renters staying one step ahead of the bill collector, or didn't leave behind a long will listing all the children. Some researchers figure the trail runs cold, but that's far from the truth.

[Registration and information](#)

CLF Book Sale and Scanning Saturdays – Mar 15th, 10:30a–4:30p, Call 832-393-2600 to reserve your spot to scan photos and documents. Bring a flash drive to save all your scans! (*repeating events*)

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

**Begins
Tuesday, February 11**

Genealogy Software Classes

Learn to use Family Tree Maker 2019 Software presented by Renee Ball

Whether you are a beginner or have been using the software a long time, there may be something for you in this 24-week course which will build on each session.

**2nd and 4th Tuesday each month
10:30 am to 12:00 pm**

**Q&A sessions on the 3rd Thursday each month
10:30 to 11:00am**

Learn how to

- Start a new tree, import an old tree or download a tree you have been working on from Ancestry into Family Tree Maker.
- Add people and relationships, create timelines, add facts about ancestors.
- Use the maps to see where people migrated in your family, add citations and sources to documents, use publish features to create reports and charts of your family and much more.
- Use the Web Search feature to find information on your family and merge information into your tree.
- Use color coding and filters.
- Learn how to share, back up, and resolve errors in your tree.

You are encouraged to bring your laptop or mobile device to participate. Renee will share tips and tricks for beginners and advanced genealogists.



Friendswood Library

416 S Friendswood Dr, Friendswood, TX 77546

281-482-7135 / www.friendswood.lib.tx.us





BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



March 2025

Calendar of Events - 2025

MARCH

- 3 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 6 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 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)
- 19 10:30a Education Spotlight, *Friendswood Library: HistoryGeo*
- 20 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 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
- 30 4:00p Meet 'n Munch - *La Brisa, League City*
- 31 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2

APRIL

- 3 10:30a Writing SIG - new (Zoom)
- 7 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 9 7:00p Education Spotlight: *Online Library Resources* (Zoom)
- 14 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 15 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC (new day/time)
- 17 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 21 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 26 12:00p BAG Members Potluck @ University Baptist Church: *GenZ + Genealogy - Getting the Next Generations Interested in Genealogy* with Carl Smith
- 28 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2

MAY

- 1 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 5 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 12 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 15 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
- 19 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 20 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 26 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 25 4:00p Meet 'n Munch - *Kings Bierhaus*
- 30 7:00p BAGS Members Meeting: (Zoom)
Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist with Annette Burke Lyttle

JUNE

- 2 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 5 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 9 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 16 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p Members Helping Members #2
- 17 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 19 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
- 23 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 27 7:00p BAGS Members Meeting: TBA
- 29 4:00p Meet 'n Munch - *Mia's Table*
- 30 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2