

April 2025
Volume 25
Issue 4



Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter



**BAGS Spring Potluck
and General Meeting**
Saturday, April 26, 12:00 Noon
Carl Smith presents:
*GenZ and Genealogy: Getting the Next
Generation Interested in Genealogy*

- 11:30am** Set up your side dishes and desserts, grab a beverage, find a comfy chair, and socialize with great genealogy friends!
- 12:00pm** Welcome BAGS members and guests, opening remarks, and lunch blessing from our BAGS President, Teresa Rundell.
- 12:15pm** Members enjoy the delicious buffet with meats provided by TX Bay Area Genealogical Society!
- 1:00pm** Presentation by Carl Smith, Manager – HPL Clayton Library

In an era dominated by technology and instant gratification, it seems challenging to pique the interest of GenZ in genealogy. However, understanding one's roots is an invaluable journey that can greatly enrich their lives. By leveraging modern tools and approaches, we can successfully engage the next generation in the exploration of their heritage.

Carl Smith's passion for family history research began as a child growing up and listening to stories that his grandparents shared. A native of Mesa, Arizona, Carl received his bachelor's degree in Family History/ Genealogy from BYU and Masters of Library and Information Science from Syracuse University.

Prior to his position with The FamilySearch Center at the Clayton Library, Carl was the Genealogy Librarian for the Montgomery County Memorial Library System in Conroe and Branch Manager for the Aldine Branch Library in Harris County. His research interests include Southern USA, Mexico, Brazil, and Scandinavia. He's also passionate about digitization and record access, and library advocacy.

When he's not working and doing genealogy Carl enjoys hiking, camping, singing with the International Voices Houston, playing piano, and spending time with his family.

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Special Points of Interest

[Social Media Links](#)

[BAGS Partnerships](#)

[Clayton Library Partner Links](#)



BAGS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education Spotlight Presentation

Online Resources

April 9th, 7:00pm

Online library resources have revolutionized the way genealogists access and utilize historical records, making the process easier and more accessible. These library resources encompass a wide range of databases, digital archives, and catalogs that store historical documents, books, periodicals, and records. These resources are often available through public libraries, academic institutions, and specialized genealogical websites. Understanding the types of resources available and how to access them is essential for efficient genealogical research.

This session will provide you with detailed steps and tips on how to effectively use online library resources for genealogical research. Kathleen Williams, Education Coordinator, will cover multiple resource types available to any genealogist with a library card and a computer! [Zoom registration available here!](#)

This is an updated encore presentation from 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/SBOwFQ7xQsqowkRFO1VgkQ>

For more information contact Becky Jones at:

vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org

UPCOMING DATES 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

April 21

May 26

June 23

July 21

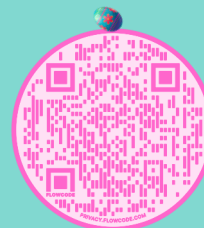
Aug 25

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/

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS GROUPS

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

April 9, 7:00am, 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. This **Education Spotlight** meetings will be held virtually on the Zoom platform. To register, check the [BAGS website](#) > **Members Only**> **Members Helping Members** for the registration link. Presentation details are available on page 4 of this newsletter!



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 BUSINESS | INFORMATION

County Coordinator Training Available

Teresa Rundell announced a volunteer is needed for BAGS **County Coordinator** position, the person who schedules all bus outings to places like the Clayton Library in Houston and the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. Several BAGS members currently serve as backups to assist the CC as needed.

Training for interested volunteers will be April 10th at 10am at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E NASA Pkwy, Seabrook, TX 77586. For details please contact Teresa at president@txbayareagen.org with question or to receive more information.

2025 Password Change!

A new password is needed for access to the BAGS "**members only**" website page. The password changes yearly with 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.**



Statement of Activity as of March 1, 20225

Checking Account	\$4,147.44
PayPal Account	\$773.25
Undeposited Funds	\$85.00
Saving Account	\$12,171.20
Total Monetary Assets	\$17,176.89



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

2025 BAGS OFFICERS

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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.

APRIL RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES



Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person MHM Research Session

TUESDAYS: Apr 15th, May 20th, Jun 17th,
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.

Clayton Library Treasures - The Cuban Papers – **April 3, 1-3pm**, (hybrid)

Was your ancestor in British West Florida from 1763 until 1781 when Spain reclaimed the region? Did they migrate into this region before 1821? Were they in the upper Mississippi Valley up to present day Missouri before 1821? There might be something related to them in this Clayton Collection. Come hear an overview of how to search and not be intimidated by this important collection; *Papeles Procedentes de Cuba* – part of the *Archivo General de Indias* in Seville, Spain. related to the Gulf Coast region.

Mary Anthony Startz has a BA degree from Randolph College. In retirement, she spends her time researching Spanish documents, writing, and volunteering. She holds both GPHR and SHRM-SPC certifications. She is a member of NSDAR, Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, Clayton Library Friends, Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston, Rio Grande Valley Genealogical Society and Texas State Genealogical Society. She has also written **The Papers of Joaquin Ortega**.

CLF Book Sale and Scanning Saturdays – **April 19th, 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

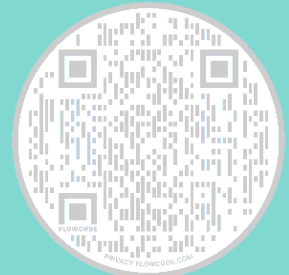
281-482-7135 / www.friendswood.lib.tx.us





BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

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



April 2025

Calendar of Events - 2025

APRIL

- 3 10:30a Writing SIG – new (Zoom)
- 7 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 7 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 9 7:00p Education Spotlight: *Online Library Resources* (Zoom)
- 14 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 14 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
- 21 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
- 28 7:00p Members Helping Members #2

MAY

- 1 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 5 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 5 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 12 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 12 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 15 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
- 19 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 19 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 20 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 26 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 26 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
- 2 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 5 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 9 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 9 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 16 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 16 6:30p Members Helping Members #2

JUNE cont'd

- 17 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 19 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
- 23 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 23 6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 28 7:00p BAGS Members Meeting: TBA
- 29 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – *Mia's Table*
- 30 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 30 7:00p Members Helping Members #2

JULY

- 3 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 7 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 7 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 14 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 14 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 15 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 17 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
- 21 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 21 6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 26 7:00p BAGS Members Meeting: TBA
- 27 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – TBA
- 28 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 28 7:00p Members Helping Members #2

AUGUST

- 4 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 4 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 7 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom)
- 11 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 11 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 18 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 18 7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 19 10:00a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 21 10:30a Writing SIG (Zoom and in-person)
- 25 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
- 25 6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 29 7:00p BAGS Members Meeting: TBA
- 31 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – TBA