

LYNNA KAY SHUFFIELD will speak **at the Oct. 27 BAGS meeting** on the "The Value of Newspapers in Genealogical Research". If you are not doing it, shame-shame on you! Find out why these labor-intensive newspaper resources will benefit your search for family and local history.



First of all what information can you find in newspapers? Most genealogists immediately think of obituaries or birth and marriage notices. In areas where no vital records were kept before the 20th century, the use of newspapers is essential in genealogical research. Even in areas where vital records once existed, fire or other disasters have frequently destroyed the records. Many southern records were lost when the county courthouses burned.

The role of newspapers in genealogical research is not limited to vital statistics. Newspapers included advertisements, legal notices, editorial comments, local news, high school graduation lists, arrest reports, and "gossip".

Newspapers in port cities often printed lists of ships that were arriving or departing. These reports included the ship's name, its captain, the type of vessel and the port of origin or in the case of an outbound vessel its destination. Sometimes the names of the persons importing the cargo and the cargo itself were identified.

"Newspapers on Microform" (3 vols.) tells which issues and what newspapers were published near the town and the time period your are searching in order to identify the correct newspaper and it can be found on LDS microfilm #1145942.

Lynna K is a native Houstonian, and is a former Major in the State Military Forces of Texas and a graduate of the Military Officers Basic and Advance courses, Combined Arms and Staff Course and the U.S. Marine Corps Command & General Staff College. She writes the "*Our Loose Ends*" genealogy column that is published weekly in several Texas newspapers, has written and published over fifteen books, and is the TXGenWeb County Coordinator for Milam County and San Jacinto County websites. Lynna Kay received the Outstanding Genealogy Website in Texas award, presented by Texas State Genealogical Society, for her Milam County TXGenWeb site in 2003 and 2004. In 2004, the Texas State Genealogical Society also honored her as Volunteer of the Year, the highest award that is presented to a genealogist in Texas every year. Her current major projects include the "Milam County, Texas War Dead Project" and Texas Cemetery Preservation. Lynna Kay is a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, International Society of Family History Writers and Editors and many local and state genealogical societies, including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She lectures frequently at major colleges and universities throughout the United States as well as for genealogy and historical societies and veteran groups.