

THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Austin Genealogical Society Meeting Tuesday, April 23, 2013

KELVIN L. MEYERS

How Great Thou Art! How Great They Are! Church Records

This vast group of underutilized records can be a challenge to the “un-churched.” Determining the denomination in which your ancestor was a part can be the biggest challenge. The second challenge is to find those records. With these two things accomplished, many genealogical questions can be answered.



Kelvin Meyers is a fifth generation Texan. He has been a professional genealogist for the last twenty-five years as well as an avid researcher-historian for thirty-three years. He is a frequent speaker to many genealogical societies and family associations in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. He was employed for ten years in the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library. Now he contracts with attorneys, banks, the US Immigration Service, and energy companies as a forensic genealogist, searching for missing or unknown heirs to estates and oil and gas leases. Kelvin is a 1989 and 1990 alumni of the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research at Samford University. He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, a past President of the Lone Star Chapter of APG, and currently is serving as chairman of the Advocacy committee. He also serves on the board of the Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy. Kelvin is a member of First United Methodist Church in Dallas, where he is the chairman of the History and Archives Committee.



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AGS Business: *From the Minutes of the Board Meeting*

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, March 26, prior to the regular AGS meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as submitted. The following items were discussed.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was submitted and accepted.

Publicity

Jennifer Whitely reported the March meeting was published in a number of venues. It was dropped from KXAN, and Texas Monthly has stopped its online calendar. The Intro Classes have been added to FGS and Face Book.

Heritage Day

Anne Mamiya reported that the day was a success though fewer people attended than last year. A free admission to the AGS mini-seminar was given to a person whose name was drawn.

Perry Castenadas Library Tour

Jacque Wilson reported the tour would take place on March 30th.

Introduction to Genealogy (Beginner's Class)

Leslie Inman reported there are 8 or 9 registrants at this point.

Membership

Missy Harris reported that AGS has a total of 295 members, 22 life members, and 9 institutional members.

Baseball Event at Dell Diamond

Reserved seats, ticket costs, t-shirts, and general planning were discussed, regarding the June 12th AGS event at Dell Diamond when the Express plays the Isotopes.

By-Laws

Carolyn Gresham advised the by-laws are still a work in progress, and she will reconvene the By-Laws Committee.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Carolyn Gresham reported she had talked to other groups about the policy and recommended we have a policy. A committee was formed.

April AGS Meeting

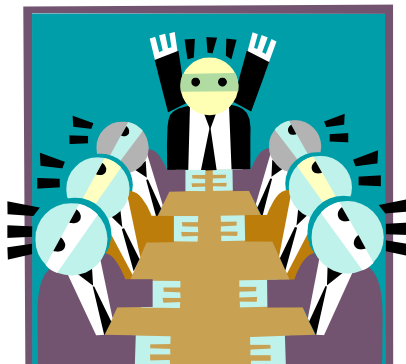
Mileage reimbursement and hotel expenses for April speaker Keven Meyers was discussed, and the expense allowance was determined.

Mini-seminar

Jacque Wilson will lead a committee to discuss options to be offered.

Financial Examination Committee

The annual financial review will be conducted by Bob Tieman, Clarence Guelker, and Mary Todd .



Non-genealogy news. AGS member Barbara Innes' husband George won volunteer of the year from St David's Medical Center at a surprise ceremony attended by his family. He was one of three recipients of the 2013 Frist Humanitarian Award Winners at St. David's Medical Center. Congratulations!



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Members!

What a busy month for our Society. Earlier this month a lucky few toured the Perry-Castaneda Library on the UT campus focusing on the maps collection. At the end of the month many will be making the pilgrimage to Salt Lake City to immerse themselves in intense research for a week. Of course, we are looking forward to hearing Kelvin Meyers, who is joining us from Dallas for our monthly meeting.

Our Society's BIGSIG, the Britain Ireland Genealogy Special Interest Group met earlier in April to enjoy lunch, success stories, and resources for furthering research across the pond. It would be great if more SIGs were formed to unite those researching in a specific area of the United States or in other countries. Think about volunteering to head up a group. The BIGSIG has met via email since October of last year. You may not think you have much to offer, but just sharing one resource may be the key to smashing someone's brick wall.

Thank you for attending our monthly meetings when possible, contributing to the Quarterly, and volunteering your time and talent to so many projects.

MEET A BOARD MEMBER

Having recently retired, Carolyn Gresham wanted to become more active in the Austin Genealogical Society and is currently serving as the 1st Vice President/Parliamentarian for AGS. Carolyn's interest in genealogy began when she was 2 years old and her maternal grandmother, who lived next door to her family in Fort Worth, would frequently tell her stories of family members and events. As a young adult, Carolyn renewed her interest in those family stories and has been researching her family for over 40 years.

Carolyn is a certified paralegal and notary and has worked in the legal field for over 30 years in Texas and New Jersey, specializing in real estate/title work. In addition, she was Senior Loan Closer for Associates National Mortgage Corporation in Las Colinas, Texas, for over 10 years. While in New Jersey, she helped to form the Genealogical Society of the West Fields, in Westfield, NJ, which has a rich Colonial and Revolutionary War history.

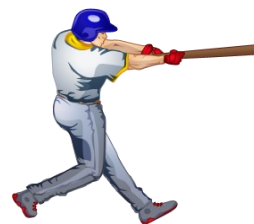


Carolyn has helped numerous friends by providing "roadmaps" of their ancestry for them to follow and finalize with additional documentation. She plans on pursuing certification as a professional genealogist in the near future. She was a Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Webelos leader, and taught skills for earning the Genealogy badge to various scouting groups. Carolyn is also a member of the Williamson County Genealogical Society. Through Family Search, she enjoyed helping to index the 1940's census and is a Find a Grave volunteer. Research road trips are one of her favorite pastimes. Carolyn also enjoys playing bridge, cooking, and international travel.

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday evening, June 12, AGS will be the featured non-profit at a Round Rock Express baseball game ... and you're invited!

To help spread the word about genealogy and our society, we'll have a booth on the main concourse, a live interview broadcast on the field during the pre-game show, and a special PA announcement at the end of the third inning.

And for our members, we're able to sell reduced-price reserved seats to the game for only \$7.00. Plus, the Express has reserved a section of the stadium where we can all sit together. Come join us to support your society — and enjoy a baseball game, a hot dog, and the wonderful camaraderie of your AGS friends!



Gates open at 5:30 p.m., we'll be interviewed at 6:30 p.m., and the game starts at 7:05 p.m. We'll be sitting in Section 111; the Express is scheduled to play the Albuquerque Isotopes that evening. For more information on the Dell Diamond, including directions, parking, and seating charts, visit <http://roundrock.express.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t102>

Keep an eye on your email, our website, and our Facebook page ... ticket sales will open soon. See you at the ballpark!

Local Genealogy Opportunities

There are many opportunities to participate in genealogical activities in Austin and in nearby communities. The list below includes information on regularly occurring meetings in which AGS members may wish to participate.

AGS British Isles Genealogy Special Interest Group meets via email to exchange information. Contact Jane Schwendinger at janesca@earthlink.net.

Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group meets from 1:00- 3:00 P.M. the second Saturday of the month at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Drive. <http://www.austingensig.com/> **April 13-Publishing or Distributing Your Family History**

Austin Legacy Users Group meets on the third Saturday of the month from 1:00-3:00 P.M. at the Querencia at Barton Creek, 2500 Barton Creek Blvd., Austin. Rjenkins7@austin.rr.com

Bastrop Genealogy Society meets at 1:00 P.M. on the second Saturday of the month at Pressley Meeting Room, Bastrop Public Library. <http://www.bastroplibrary.org/>

genealogy/bastrop-genealogical-society-monthly-meeting.html

Burnet County Genealogy Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:15 in the meeting room at the Herman Brown Free Library on the square in Burnet. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txburnet/BCGS.html>

WCGS meetings are held the third Thursday of each month (except August and December). Meetings are held at the Round Rock Public Library. Snacks and mingling begin at 7PM, and the meetings start at 7:30PM. **April 18th program: "Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Using Court Records in your Research"** Karen Matheson

This One-Time Event Requires Registration
The Texas General Land Office Archives is offering a genealogy workshop on Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 8:30 am — 5 pm. It is limited to the first 20 registrants. Cost is \$50 if registered by April 29, \$60 for late registration. Contact: Kevin Klaus at 512.463.5277 or kevin.klaus@glo.texas.gov or James Harkins at 512.463.3289 or james.harkins@glo.texas.gov

GOT



????

SEND IT IN!



Members are encouraged to provide interesting hints, links to good websites, good articles, and other brief items that may benefit fellow AGS members.

Since our June program is “World War II Records,” we thought perhaps you’d like to explore some general sites that pertain to military records of several of our 20th Century conflicts and wars.

World War II Indexes & Records

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwartwo/>

<http://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/>

Korean War Records

<http://www.archives.gov/research/military/korean-war/>

Vietnam War Records

<http://www.archives.gov/research/military/vietnam-war/>

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/vietnamwar/>

World War I Records

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone/index.html>

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/military/ww1/>

Jacquie Wilson, AGS Program Chair, needs some help from our members in two areas.



Jacquie is forming a Seminar Planning Committee and would like to have a few volunteers for this committee. This is a short term commitment. Your assistance and fresh ideas are needed. Contact Jacquie at programs@austintxgensoc.org.

The other area where Jacquie needs help is in **finding locations** where AGS events, other than monthly meetings, can be held. She needs non-library locations such as churches, schools, fraternal organization lodges, etc. Venues that have reasonable fees are desired. One of the ongoing problems that AGS always faces is in finding good locations for events. Please send your suggestions to Jacquie at programs@austintxgensoc.org.



CEMETERY CORNER

One of our favorites—the name, the inscription of “A Legend of His Time”, and a Kirby vacuum cleaner engraved on the side of the stone. Hmmm! The male editor can easily identify with a portion of his epitaph. Oxford Cemetery, Johnson County, Iowa.

(Members: Let us feature your favorite tombstone. Please submit to sharonkfoley@gmail.com or robertfoley@gmail.com.)

Hospitality Report

Greeters for the **March** meeting were Chris Bond and Marcia Arn.

Refreshments were provided by Inez Eppright, Maureen McCormack, Nancy Stevens, and Ursula Gaines. Suzy Snyder brought plates and napkins.

Sheila Sargent presided over the refreshment table.

Registration Table were Ann Cooper, Jean Marostica, Arlene Zirkel, and Cynthia Rodriguez.

A big “Thank You” to all of you.

Attendance Report for March: We had 73 members and 5 visitors at our meeting.

VISITORS:

Sue Ellen Jeffers (Austin)	Surnames: Jeffers (Indiana), Perez (Tamaulipas, Mexico)
Erin Garcia (Austin)	Surnames: Bassman, Hand, Halloran, Murphy, Moriarty, O'Connell, Wilkerson, Overby, Routh, Ott
Connie Gray (Austin)	Surnames: Coy, Gray, Lackey, Kessler, Meyer and Menger
Austin Kessler (Austin)	Surnames: Coy, Gray, Lackey, Kessler, Meyer and Menger
Chris Collins (Round Rock)	Surnames: Conrad (von) Stromberg (Germany and Wisconsin)

April Greeters will be Lucy Duncan and Shirley Meyer

Refreshments will be provided by Linda Miers, Robin Raben, Shirley Roberts, and Chris Bond



ANY WW II VETS IN THE FAMILY HISTORY?

Missy Harris and Kay Boyd will be doing special decor and exhibits for the June WWII meeting. One of the things they plan to do is to create a display board of family members of AGS members for those who served in WWII. If you had a family member serve in WWII, Kay and Missy would like you to bring copies (no originals, please) of relevant photos to the April meeting with the information stating who brought them, who the ancestor is, where he/she served and any other special information on the person. Kay will provide a basket for you to deposit the photos and information in. Kay and Missy need time to organize the display, so please bring the photos to our April meeting. Please do not email them to Kay or Missy. There is no limit on the number of photos as long as they are closely related. For example, Kay has five uncles who served. Many of you may also have a number of close relatives who served, and you may bring photos of all of them. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor them.



THANKS!

On Wednesday, April 3, the Texas Legislature held hearings on HB 3252. If passed, it would greatly limit any access to birth and death records in Texas. As genealogists know, this is a huge problem. Several TSGS members spoke in favor of maintaining the access that Texans now have. They did a stellar job. The decision on the bill won't be made for some time yet, but we want to thank TSGS for making it's presence known.

A FEW COMMENTS FROM THE EDITORS

AGS has a large membership, and this is a valuable information source as well as numbers on a list. We know many of you have good ideas, know of good web sites, and have “pointers” and suggestions that we would really like to include in future issues of the Newsletter. So don't be bashful – send them along to us at sharonkfoley@gmail.com and/or robertlfoley@gmail.com.

We also initiated “Cemetery Corner,” which we plan to include in future issues. Send those photos and comments to us as well. Otherwise, you will be seeing a lot of our personal choices, which isn't nearly as much fun as your input might provide. Meanwhile, we're waiting!

And, as always, we are open to suggestions regarding the Newsletter.

INTERESTED?

- **BYU has an ongoing project-2013 FGS Conference Registration is Open.** Online registration is now open for the 2013 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, scheduled for 21-24 August 2013 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Register at <http://www.fgsconference.org> by 1 July 2013 for an early-bird discount. This year's conference theme is “Journey through Generations.”

Business Tagline or Motto

2013 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2013:	Term Ending 2014:
Inez EPPRIGHT	Carolyn GRESHAM
Teri FLACK	Missy HARRIS
Dona KURTZ	Leslie INMAN
Randy WHITED	Anne MAMIYA
Jennifer WHITLEY	Karin NELSON
Jacquie WILSON	Jane SCHWENDINGER

2013 Officers

President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
1st Vice President	Carolyn GRESHAM
2nd Vice President	Jacquie WILSON
Secretary	Inez EPPRIGHT
Treasurer	Teri FLACK

If you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to share those with us.

AGS REGULAR MEETINGS

2013 Program Schedules

Tuesday, January 22

“No Vital Records? Locating Birth and Death Substitutes” presented by Teri Flack

Tuesday, February 26

“Finding Friends and Fritz: Identifying Immigrant Origins”
presented by Karen Matheson

Tuesday, March 26

“What My Great-Great Grandpas Taught Me” Presented by Joyce Wans

Tuesday, April 23

“How Great Thou Are! How Great They Are! Church Records” presented by Kelvin Myers

Tuesday, May 28

“Your English Ancestors: Upstairs or Downstairs?” presented by Ed Dorroh

Tuesday, June 25

“World War II Research” presented by Lisa Sharik

Tuesday, July 23

“Digital Legacy, Preserving the Past for The Future” presented by Roberta Pryzbylski

Tuesday, August 27

“Member-to-Member” Special Topic Tables—AGS Members

Tuesday, September 7

Seminar presented by Lisa Alzo

Tuesday, September 24

“Social Media: Cousin Bair and Partners in Crime” by Randy Whited

Tuesday, October 22

“Texas Archive of the Moving Image”
Presented by Elizabeth Hansen

Tuesday, November 26

Fall Festival—“I Bet You Didn’t Know That” presented by AGS members

Newsletter editors

Sharon & Bob Foley

Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
(except December)

Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00

Highland Park Baptist Church

5206 Balcones Drive

Austin, TX 78759

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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