

## Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

**Next Meeting: January 22, 2018**

### **Discover Austin's Genealogical Treasure – The University of Texas' Briscoe Center for American History by Ben Wright**

Kick off 2019 with a bang and discover that genealogical treasure on the UT campus, the Briscoe Center for American History. Telling you all about what the center offers will be Benjamin Wright, the center's Assistant Director for Communication.

As a genealogist, it should be one of your frequent stops. The center is a very user-friendly resource. Its staff welcomes anyone who wants to access and research their collections, which for the genealogist includes a newspaper archive on microfilm that is second to none, old USGS maps going back to the start of the 20th century (great for tracing old roads and communities in Texas that no longer exist), a huge collection of books and journals covering every aspect of Texas and U.S. history that you might be interested in. And that's just a short overview.

[Read more](#)

6:30 p.m. Doors Open  
7:00 p.m. Presentation begins  
Highland Park Baptist Church  
[5206 Balcones Dr., Austin, TX 78731](#)

### **Welcome to the January edition of the AGS Newsletter**

Read about the [latest news](#) this month, including . Find out about [AGS sponsored events](#). Learn how you can [volunteer](#). [Publish](#) your work. Find out about [online resources](#). Read about several [Non-AGS events](#) you may want to participate in. Enjoy!

**Welcome new members!**

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## News Articles

### Time to Renew Your Membership

It's that time of year again! If you haven't already done so, you can renew your membership on our website, or Jean Marostica and Erin Garcia will be available at the January meeting to take your money or credit card. If you're a renewing member, check your email from Nan Kilkeary for your discount code. <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/membership-account/membership-levels/>

### In Memoriam



We are saddened to report that longtime AGS Member, Colonel (Ret.) Clarence William "Gil" Guelker has passed away peacefully with his family at his side Tuesday, the 1st of January, 2019. He was born in Westlake, OH on June 26, 1926, the son of William Frederick Guelker and Flora (Ohlrich) Guelker. He grew up on a farm in Westlake, OH. His father passed away when Gil was four years old. The family later moved to Cleveland, OH, where he graduated from West Tech High in 1944, showing an aptitude for mechanics.

In August 1944, Gil volunteered for the U.S. Army where he honorably served our country for 31 years. He began his career in the South Pacific during WWII, followed by other tours of duty in Germany, Japan, Korea, and throughout the U.S.A., where he commanded tank battalions in the armored division and led efforts in Counter Intelligence. During this time he earned a degree in Military Science from the University of Maryland. Among numerous awards, he was decorated with a Bronze Star and an Army Commendation Medal. He competed on the U.S. Rifle and Pistol Team where he won national recognition. He retired as a Colonel from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX in 1975.

After moving to Austin, TX, Gil was a faithful member of Hyde Park Baptist Church for 42 years. He worked at Metropolitan Life for 10 years. He enjoyed reading historical literature, researching family genealogy, and bowling in various leagues. He loved God and drew on the strength and peace his faith gave him.

Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation from 4-7 pm on Wednesday, January 16 and his funeral service will be held at 3 pm on Thursday, January 17, both at Cook-Walden Funeral Home, 6100 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX. A burial service with full military honors will be held 10:30 am Friday, January 18 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX.

The complete obituary can be found here: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/austin-tx/clarence-guelker-8107676>

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### **Freshman legislator has introduced restrictive bill**

Freshman Representative Cory Harris has filed a bill restricting the access to Texas birth records an additional 50 years, from 75 years to 125 years. In fact, the bill that he filed is the 75-year bill, with 75 years scratched out and 125 marked in over it, without other changes. It still has the Genealogical Society of Utah instead of Ancestry as a repository for records (but not for their release).

Legislative experts believe that the bill is to protect privacy in adoptions, since Harris is parent to an adoptive child. They are working to verify his reasoning.

We are monitoring this, and at some point in the future, may want to recruit members to lobby in different ways . . . visits to Harris, visits to your representatives, letter to either or both, opinion letters to media.

We recognize that only about one out of five bills filed becomes law, and that bills get varied consideration in committee, if they get considered at all. We will quickly get more involved if the bill becomes more active.

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### **Federal Judge blocks citizenship question**

In round one of what is sure to be a lengthy journey through the court system, Judge Jesse Furman of the U.S. District Court of Manhattan has blocked the Commerce Department from adding a question on American citizenship to the 2020 census.

"The Commerce Secretary broke a veritable smorgasbord of federal rules," Furman's decision said. He also criticized Secretary Ross and his aides for giving misleading statements under oath. The Census Bureau itself recommended against adding the citizenship question.

The ruling is certain to be appealed by the administration.

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### **You Don't Have to Take Clients to Be a Genealogy Professional – Why you should consider APG and Lone Star Chapter APG**

by: Dianne Holley, V.P Membership, Lone Star Chapter APG and AGS Member

Sometimes an activity chooses us. There is no decision to do it - it just happens, and we jump in. Genealogy may not have required you to make a decision. You may have fallen into it through family research. Perhaps you succumbed to its intrigue when you realized you knew neither who your great grandparents were nor where they originated. However it happened - a coincidental clue or a new found cousin, and you were on your way to, well, becoming a genealogist! You've likely come to the realization by now that there is always more to learn – more history, more sources, more methodology, more people, for Pete's sake! It can be fascinating, and for some it becomes an all-encompassing endeavor.

Whatever your level of participation, there are organizations, societies, and educational opportunities to encourage and support your work (I do hesitate to call it "work" when it is just so much fun!) An outstanding one of these is The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG). Now, don't be put off by the term "professional." If other folks aren't paying you to do research, you do have a client and that is YOU. Your time is your currency. You deserve a "best efforts" genealogy product, and you deserve opportunities to learn what "best efforts" means in the field.

Whether as a researcher, writer, publisher, librarian, teacher, or more, if you seek to elevate your knowledge and participation in this diverse field, The Association of Professional Genealogists and Lone Star Chapter APG offer

opportunities for you to grow. Webinars, course offerings at genealogy conferences, business processes, and vendor discounts are some of the things you'll enjoy as a national member. If local support, information sharing, collaboration, promoting standards and networking are important to you, the Lone Star Chapter APG is an excellent place to be.

The Lone Star Chapter APG (LSCAPG) is a regional organization under the umbrella of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG). Membership in APG is open to any person or institution willing to support the objectives and the APG Code of Ethics. Membership in the Lone Star Chapter is open to any APG member from Texas or its bordering states.

Find out more about APG and membership here:

<https://www.apgen.org/membership/index.html>

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<https://www.apgen.org/index.html>

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## **Volunteer**

### **Help with a monthly meeting**

Each meeting is supported by members who are willing to help. Can we count on you? Please contact Ann Kippen at [akippen@gmail.com](mailto:akippen@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping in a future meeting. Ways to help:

- Greeter - meet folks at the door and hand them the materials for the meeting.
- Food - bring a light snack (bring a light snack (crackers and cheese, cold cuts, fruit and veggies, or cookies).
- Setup - you will be given detailed instructions on where the setup materials are - might require some moving of tables and a cart.
- Cleanup - you will be given detailed instructions on where to put things away after the meeting - might require some moving of tables and a cart.

### **Help with the annual seminar**

Volunteers help at our annual seminar in various ways - from support on the day of the seminar (i.e. the nametag table, selling raffle tickets, handing out lunch, etc.) to helping prepare for the day (i.e. getting donated items for raffles, driving the speaker to and from the airport, printing nametags, etc.) If you are interested in helping out, please contact our 2019 Seminar Chair, Karen Liston, at [mom2mischief@gmail.com](mailto:mom2mischief@gmail.com).

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## Publish

**The AGS Quarterly** is accepting submissions for the 2019 Spring Edition. **Deadline is FEBRUARY 22.** We share copies of the Quarterly with several institutions to preserve in their collections, including: The University of Texas @ Austin - Texas State Library Genealogy collection, Familysearch library in Utah (some of our editions appear in their online collections,) Allen County Public Library Genealogical Periodicals in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) library in Washington, D.C. Preserve your research today - send in an article for the AGS Quarterly to [quarterly@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:quarterly@austintxgensoc.org).

**The AGS Newsletter** includes short articles of interest - are you working on a project that others might want to know about? Perhaps you've had an exciting find in your family tree? Send in an article for the newsletter (or "just the facts, ma'am" and we can help turn your facts into an article) to [newsletter@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org).

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## AGS Sponsored Events

### AGS January Meeting

**January 22, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

### Discover Austin's Genealogical Treasure – The University of Texas' Briscoe Center for American History

Kick off 2019 with a bang and discover that genealogical treasure on the UT campus, the Briscoe Center for American History. Telling you all about what the center offers will be Benjamin Wright, the center's Assistant Director for Communication.

The Briscoe Center is located on the UT campus right beside the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library. We are extremely fortunate to have it in Austin and open to genealogists. It is a research center with few peers. And being near the LBJ Library makes parking especially convenient for visitors, especially on weekends.

As a genealogist, it should be one of your frequent stops. The center is a very user-friendly resource. Its staff welcomes anyone who wants to access and research their collections, which for the genealogist includes a newspaper archive on microfilm that is second to none, old USGS maps going back to the start of the 20th century (great for tracing old roads and communities in Texas

that no longer exist), a huge collection of books and journals covering every aspect of Texas and U.S. history that you might be interested in. And that's just a short overview. There is much, much more to explore at the Briscoe Center for the genealogist and for the historian. Ben Wright will explain the center's history, give an overview of its resources and share some of his favorite stories from his own historical research at the center, which has included work in the Hope Family Plantation Records, the Natchez Trace Collection and the University Archives.



Speaker: Ben Wright

Ben Wright, our speaker, is originally from England. He has a BA and MA in History from Kings College in London has been in Texas since 2003, working mostly at the state capitol and the university. (He would have made it to Texas sooner but his ancestors moved from Scotland, Ireland and Wales to the English midlands rather than crossing the Atlantic.) By day Ben is a curator, researcher, and media relations specialist at the Briscoe Center. He's also a PhD student at UT's history department and writes about politics, travel and faith in his spare time. When not writing, he enjoys traveling, arguing about things, being jumped on by his children, and getting injured playing soccer.

Highland Park Baptist Church, [5206 Balcones Dr., Austin, TX 78731](#)

6:30 p.m. Social time

7:00 p.m. Presentation begins.

**January Volunteers:**

Snacks: Shelley Augustin, Judith Morris, Beverly Pritchett, Dianne Holley

Setup: Shelley Augustin, Jim Bridges, Nan Kilkeary, Rob Richardson

Gusto Restaurant Meet-up Coordinator: Karen Liston

Greeter: Kay Boyd

Clean up: Nan Kilkeary, Robin Raben

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## January Conversation Starter: What is Your Family History Resolution for 2019?

We begin the New Year with a fresh burst of energy and intentions—vows to purge closets, learn Spanish, stay away from Twitter!



But do you have any family history resolutions? What would you like to achieve as a genealogist in 2019?

Perhaps you're determined to do field work, to dive into local libraries and archives in other towns or states. Perhaps 2019 is the year

you'll venture even further - to the British Isles, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Africa or Spain.

Maybe you're content to stay home—to reach out to more cousins you've found online, watch more webinars, become more expert with DNA and genealogical software. Maybe you'll create a family website in 2019!

Perhaps you're excited to begin writing your family story. Or if you've stalled, you're ready to pick it back up, breathe new life into it again.

Or maybe you'd be thrilled just to get the whole mess organized, with all your photos and documents scanned to their proper files, with source citations in place!

The AGS community supports you in your genealogical resolutions!

Please join us at 6:30 pm for snacks and socializing on Tuesday, January 22nd. We will be pleased to welcome our speaker Ben Wright at 7:00 for his talk on "The University of Texas Briscoe Center: A Great Resource for Genealogists."

See you then!

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**Review Book “After You’re Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research”**

**Saturday, January 19, 10:30 a.m. - noon**

**By John Marostica**

Little Walnut Creek Library Branch, [835 W Rundberg Ln, Austin, TX 78758](#)

John will be doing a review of the book “After You’re Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research” by Thomas MacEntee. The book is full of valuable information about what it takes to make sure your genealogical materials and artifacts find a great home after you are gone.

It also discusses things that can be done before you are gone – like donating your collection before you die – don’t leave it up to your estate...

It’s an interesting and thought provoking book that will generate a lot of discussion.

*Registration is closed.*

Class information here: [http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/book-review/?instance\\_id=571](http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/book-review/?instance_id=571)

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**AGS/AGE Fourth Saturday Class**

**Saturday, 26 January, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Austin Computer Labs, [3710 Cedar Street, Austin, TX, 78705](#)

Radical Research – How to Maximize YOUR Time on Location –  
*(a different approach to recording and processing research)*

On-location:

Find it. Source it. Record it,

Back at your home computer:

Process it. Analyze it. Report it.

With a smart phone or camera and a free PC application, you’ll learn a fast and efficient way to work through multiple sources, manage your findings, and create a usable reference for your project.

*Registration closes January 24*

Register here: <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/classes/>

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### **February Writing SIG meeting**

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month (no meeting in December). Next meeting: February 12, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

NORTH AUSTIN IN FEBRUARY: La Madeleine Bakery and Cafe, [9828 Great Hills Trail #650, Austin, TX 78759](#)

The purpose of the Writing SIG is to support members in writing family histories and genealogical articles. We meet once a month and have dinner together while we discuss genealogical topics. Those of us that are ready read aloud our latest work. Come and get inspired with the rest of us! Open to members of AGS. You are welcome to purchase dinner (at your expense) but that is not required. We will meet in the small room at La Madeleine, rotating between the north and south side of town.

[http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/ags-writing-sig-5/?instance\\_id=579](http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/ags-writing-sig-5/?instance_id=579)

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### **DNA SIG**

This SIG (Special Interest Group) will focus on how DNA is being used for genealogical research. Topics and schedule for 2019 are in the planning stage. Watch the website and announcements where we will post the next meeting location and date.

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### **November Fall Fest meeting recap**

There were about 70 in attendance.

The Fall Fest involves quite a bit more than the usual monthly meeting. We appreciate Ann Kippen for all her work to prepare - taking headcount, ordering food, purchasing the lovely plates and everything else involved!!

Thanks also to the following for their help:

Set-up - Karen Liston (who decorated the tables - weren't they beautiful?),  
Deborah Glenn, Nan Kilkeary, Terri Mirke, Shelley Augustin  
Clean-up - Carol Darst, Lise Doss, Caroline Sinclair, Elizabeth Price, Richard  
Gruetzner  
Sam Martin did a ton of work. He picked up the BBQ, among other things.

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It only took ten minutes to find  
him, and I love the search!

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## Non-AGS Events

### COME JOIN THE GENEALOGY CLUB!

Austin Groups for the Elderly, [3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX 78705](#)

The Genealogy Club at Austin Groups for the Elderly (AGE) is now open to registration for 2019 – and you don't have to be elderly. It is your interest in all things genealogy (and a membership fee) that gets you in the door.

Membership is \$75.00 for the year - that entitles you to eleven 2-hour sessions with genealogists of all levels of experience.

This is a computer-based club. We talk about / learn / share any and everything genealogy, and Family Tree Maker is the primary application. Family Tree Maker sessions are led by FTM super-user Reneé Lasswell. Facilitated by

Dianne Holley, the Genealogy Club meets the third Tuesday of every month (except December) from 10:00 A.M. to NOON.

Register here: <http://www.agecomputer.org/clubs/Clubs2019.php#genealogy>

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### **Austin Gen SIG**

[Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin](#)

Genealogy interest group with interesting speakers and topics, meeting monthly. Join us as we explore, discuss and learn together...

<http://www.austingensig.com>

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### **Austin Legacy Users Group**

Meets on the third Saturday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

[Querencia at Barton Creek, 2500 Barton Creek Blvd., Austin](#)

<http://austinlug.weebly.com/>

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### **Texas State Library and Archives Commission**

Open during the week from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. the second Saturday of each month.

[1201 Brazos St., Austin](#)

Questions concerning Second Saturdays may be sent to

[reference.desk@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:reference.desk@tsl.texas.gov).

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/genfirst.html>

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### **Genealogy Online**

#### **Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources (online)**

<http://library.austintexas.gov/database/genealogy-and-people-search-guide>

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**Civil War Photo Sleuth**, <https://www.civilwarphotosleuth.com>

Maureen Taylor, Photo Detective, Podcast and Facebook Live review, <https://maurentaylor.com/episode-24-civil-war-photo-sleuth>

Submitted by Robin Raben

Maureen Taylor is an internationally recognized expert on photographic identification and genealogy. She finds clues in photographs as if she were a private detective. As I caught up on my podcast feeds over the holidays, I was very excited to hear about this new database discussed on an episode of Maureen's podcast. It's a FREE website for searching images from the Civil War period. The site can also help you identify your Civil War ancestor's uniform in a picture, provides facial recognition to help you compare your photo to others in the database. You might find an image of your Civil War soldier uploaded by someone else. You are asked to register in order to use the site. You are able but not required to add your photos to the database. This is a resource that will grow more valuable over time!

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**Index to genealogical resources and family search tips.**

<https://www.genealogyinc.com/>

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Do you have a useful online resource for genealogical research? Send it to [newsletter@austintxgensoc.com](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.com)!



AGS Classes



AGS SIGs



AGS Online

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