Forensic Genealogy, Finding the Living by Kelvin L. Meyers

A fifth-generation Texan and professional forensic genealogist since 1990, Kelvin is a frequent speaker to genealogical societies and family associations throughout the United States.

As a graduate of Texas Tech University with a history major, Kelvin is an avid research-historian. After being employed for ten years in the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, Kelvin now has a solo practice as a forensic genealogist serving clients that include probate attorneys, trust department of banks, the US Immigration Service and energy companies. Kelvin is a 1989 and 1990 alumni of the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University and has returned to IGHR as a lecturer. He is a past board member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), a past president of the Lone Star Chapter of APG, and a founding member for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy. Kelvin currently...
serves as the chairman of the history and archives committee for First United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Social Time 6:30 p.m. / Program 7:00 p.m.
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731

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Welcome New Members!
Kim Peoples Bacon
Lewis Barba
Craig Enerson
Camay Jennings
George & Kay Kitzmiller
William Needham

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Genealogy Conversation Starters
*By AGS Membership Chair Debbe Tipping*

In response to the member questionnaire and the comments about wanting to socialize more, the Genealogy Conversation Starter concept was born. This idea was sprung on the members at the May meeting. Members found the outline of all 50 states posted on the white board with a question, “Where did your ancestors come from?”

The states were posted on the wall for people to write surnames they are studying in the location they are from. Members were encouraged to take notes or photos of our Julyspeaker,had to reschedule,so for our July meeting we have decided to have topic tables on different regions of the US and possibly regions of the world.

If you weren’t at the May meeting, we posted maps for members’ to write ancestor’s names where they lived. Those maps will be up at the June and July meetings too, so be sure to attend and put a note of your ancestors there, with your name. If you have several names from the same location you might want to use a post-it note. We hope you will connect with others of the same region or even same surname!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR JULY.**

We want to build on the maps, and plan to have topic tables for each region of the map. We want to have at least one person at each table, someone that can help or guide members with research in that region. We will have a handout with links and possibly book titles. We need volunteers to help at the tables. If you have expertise in one state in a region you can assist at the table for that region and talk about that state.

Please let me know if you
sections of the boards if they found a potential match. These state shape boards will be posted again over the next two months so you can add your families to them or add your name if you already posted your families so you can be contacted.

AGS Members placing their family surnames on the posted maps at the May meeting

In the June meeting, I will bring a poster board time line. Please bring your Surnames and latest date you have researched. Here are some examples from my families:

- 1856 Jorgensen Waushara Co., Wisconsin/Denmark
- 1822 Evans Fond du Lac Co., Wisconsin/Wales
- 1850 Tracey Niagara Co, NY stuck
- 1814 Felch Addison Co., NY

For the Jorgensen family, I will draw a line near 1856, write Jorgensen Waushara Co., Wisconsin/Denmark, and write my initials DAVT. At the top or bottom of the poster board I will write DAVT – Debbe Tipping. For my Tracey family, I am stuck in New York. I have exhausted online sources for searching.

The idea for this timeline is that if you see someone who is stuck and you have expertise, let them know. If you see a familiar surname in the same location as your family, then you can find that person at the meeting or look them up in the member directory behind the member wall on our website to contact them later.

If you were at the meeting, you know what I mean by

We also need your suggestions of websites you use that are helpful with your research. They can be broad or area specific. Send those suggestions to either of the emails listed above.

US Regions will be:

- New England
- Mid Atlantic
- South
- Midwest
- Northwest
- Southwest

If anyone wants to do a specific state, we will either have you with that region, or if there is room, at a table of your own.

Other regions if there is interest could be:

- Mexico, Central and South America
- Scandinavia
- Great Britain
- Europe
- Italy, Germany, France or other specific countries
- Asia
- South Pacific

Thank you for your support of AGS!

Clean out your bookshelves and bring them to the July Meeting!
psychedelic sheep. If you were not there, you will have to wait until next month! In a future month, I have an idea that we all share family members that served in the military. If you have an idea of a genealogy conversation starter, please let me know at dtipping@att.net.

Thanks!

From the President's Corner

Anne Mamiya, AGS President
president@austintxgensoc.org

First of all, I would like to thank our Financial Review Committee, Lise Doss, Susan Tyler, and Ann Elbert, for taking time to review our financial records for calendar year 2016 and providing their report, which is published in this newsletter. I am grateful for the time they took with this review. The Board has reviewed their findings and is making an action plan based on their recommendations. I do want to make note that there were a couple of bank statements noted in their report as missing from the transfer of records from one treasurer to another. We have since recovered the statements and completed the 2016 set of records.

As we are heading into the second half of the year, it is time to start thinking about nominations to the Board of Directors for next year. In July, we will form a nominating committee, which is comprised of a Chairperson, 2 board members and 2 general members. I will appoint the Chairperson and the Board will elect the 2 members. We will hold an election in the July meeting for the remaining 2 members. Please think about serving on this committee. It is a committee that exists for about 2 months and is very important in determining our Society leadership.

We are planning a book sale for the July meeting. Members can donate books to be sold at the meeting with proceeds going to the Society. There will be a table for the books, priced modestly at $1 to $5, for genealogy or history books that you no longer wish to keep. Any left over books will be donated to a local thrift store or used book store, unless you request we return them. For questions, contact newsletter@austintxgensoc.org.

AGS 2017 QUARTERLY VOL. 3 DEADLINE AUGUST 20
Click here for submission guidelines.

AGS Education Instructors

If you are interested in teaching or assisting with a genealogy related class either at a public library or for the next session of LLI (Lifetime Learning Institute), please contact Cari Taplin at education@austintxgensoc.org.

AGS on FaceBook

Austin Genealogical Society - Posts on this
Speaking of the Board, we will be having a mid-year retreat to do some additional planning for the rest of the year and review in detail some of the suggestions provided by our member survey. Thank you to everyone who provided input! I can’t tell you how happy I am with the board members this year and their dedication to AGS!

That’s it for now and I'll see you at the June meeting!

Report from the Financial Review Committee

15 May 2017

Board of Directors
Austin Genealogical Society (AGS)
PO Box 10010
Austin, Texas 78766-1010

Re: 2016 Financial Records of AGS

Dear Board of Directors:

On Thursday, May 11, 2017, Susan Tyler, Ann Elbert and I, Lisa Doss, met to examine the financial records for FY2016. Together, the three of us each examined a third of the year's minutes, bank statements, financial reports, invoices, emails, etc.

The general program we followed was:

a) For each of us to read each monthly Board of Director minutes and to note any items of a financial nature.
b) For us to individually examine four months of financial records, including bank statements, treasurer's reports, invoices, deposits and payments.
c) To compare all significant expenditures to the authorization in the Board of Director minutes.
d) To compare the beginning and ending cash balances between the bank statements, the treasurer's report and the bank reconciliation.
e) To look over all other documents within the four months we individually were assigned for any unusual or unexpected transactions.
COMMENTS

We were impressed with the good stewardship of AGS funds (for example, when membership dues declined, budgeted expenses were adjusted downwards).

We still have not seen the sales tax exemption certificate. A copy should be kept in the files.

The May bank statement was missing, and we would have liked to have seen the January 2017 statement and financial statements in order to examine any transactions originating in December 2016.

Due to the significant cost of meeting space rental expense, it should be mentioned in the minutes that it was budgeted and the dollar amount.

There should be a procedure for the timely transfer of financial records upon assignment to a new treasurer.

We were glad to see that suggestions made in the 2015 audit were adopted in FY2016.

Sincerely,

Lise Doss
Chair, Financial Committee

Ann Elbert
Member, Financial Committee

Susan Tyler
Member, Financial Committee

AGS DNA SIG
First Tuesday of every month. Next meeting (no meeting in July): August 1, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Pok-E-Joe’s
2121 Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78727
Three blocks east of Mopac on Parmer Lane

There will be no AGS DNA SIG in July since our regular meeting date falls on July 4th. In August, we will begin chapter 5 of Genetic Genealogy in Practice. This chapter covers autosomal DNA (atDNA) which is most commonly tested for genealogy. You do not need to have the book to attend the next meeting on August 1st, but it is advised. If you have tested your DNA or are thinking about it, join us in August. See the AGS website to register and obtain more information.

The book is available from Amazon for $36 paperback or $9.99 for the Kindle edition. If you are a member of NGS, it is available for $30.06, or $36.06 for non-members.

More information

Upcoming Events and Resources

JVFOA (Joseph Vick Family of America)
Annual Meeting in Suffolk Virginia
June 23 - 25

In 2006 JVFOA started a DNA project and have tested 50 their ancestors. They've helped find adoptees' parents and corrected errors that had been previously published. They've reached out and tested other Vick's around the world. An important new finding will be highlighted at the JVFOA annual meeting where the community and Vick descendants will be educated on family genealogy, and DNA test results.

More Information

Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend
Finding our Female Ancestors
Friday and Saturday, August 4 & 5, 2017
Walker County Genealogical Society and the Huntsville Public Library
1219 13th Street, Huntsville, TX 77340

Includes speaker sessions both days, dinner Friday evening, "lock-in" research time at the library and a silent auction.

More Information

AGS Writing SIG
Second Thursday of every month - no meeting in December
Thursday, July 13, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
IHop, 1101 S. MoPac Expressway, Austin, TX 78746 (MoPac at Bee Caves Rd.)

The group was formed to support members in writing their family histories. We meet once a month and have member discussions, presenters, and a place to share our work and give and receive critiques. Our successes thus far: a self-published book, several blog entries, several memoirs, and a regular article published in the newsletter! Come and get inspired with the rest of us! Open to members of AGS.

More Information

Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin

38th Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference
Texas State Cemetery Historical Designation for Rector Cemetery

Press release from the Shadow Glen Golf Club, Manor, Texas

The Shadow Glen Golf Club is proud to announce the Texas State Cemetery Historical Designation for the 165 year old Rector Cemetery, located on the course near hole #10. A dedication will be held at the cemetery entrance at 10 am, Saturday June 24th. Shadow Glen Golf Club is located at 12801 Lexington St., Manor, Texas. Attendees will be allowed to tour the site and will be encouraged to make charcoal rubbings of certain headstones.

The Rector cemetery was established with the burial of Millennium K. (Jenkins) Alexander, it's first resident, in 1855 and became the resting place for many others until its final addition of James Mason Rector in 1957.

The history of the lives represented is a cross section of the pre- and post-Civil War era. They include early settlers who traveled in covered wagons, Confederate War veterans, druggists, Masons Lodge founders, retired Judges, farmers, ranchers, elected officials, plantation

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

AGS 2017 Calendar
Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday (no meeting in December), Networking: 6:30 PM / Program: 7:00 PM Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731

27-June Forensic Genealogy, Finding the Living by Kelvin Meyer

25-July US Region (and more!) Topic Tables by AGS Members

22-August The Importance of Mapping Cemeteries, Not Just Recording the Names by Dale Flatt

26-September More than Daughters: Using the DAR’s Genealogical Research System (GRS) by AGS Member Teresa Devine

24-October I’ve Got My DNA Results. But How Do I Use Them? by Sara Gredler

28-November Fall Fest,
owners, farm hands, and John Manor’s first wife, Phoebe. She traveled to Manor with her husband from Tennessee to negotiate with area Native American Indian tribes on behalf of President Andrew Jackson. Almost half of those buried are children under the age of 10, and half of those were infants, which is representative of the hardships and difficulties these founding Texans endured.

During their lives, many of them experienced events such as the Independence of the Republic of Texas and it's evolution into a U.S. State; the industrial revolution which brought about the Texas railroad, the first Texas air flight, electricity, and the telegraph; the Civil War and abolition of slavery; the completion of the current State Capitol building; prohibition on alcohol; and the discovery of oil in Texas.

The Rector Cemetery was restored as part of a 2012 Boys Scouts Eagle project by Zachary Givens of Troop 214 in Pflugerville. The project included over 250 hours of work from over 25 scouts, local Free Masons, and ancestors of the Texans buried there.

Please RSVP to KenGivens@USmsTexas.com or call 512-848-1069.

Slide show of markers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg7iZpVUDi4&t=10s to see more slide show of markers
KVUE story prior to restoration: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1MAtcp4g8g&t=17s

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**Easy Ways for Members to Support AGS Online**

By AGS Volunteer Coordinator, Debbe Tipping, dtipping@att.net

We have many opportunities for our members to participate in support of the Society and our events. For this month, let's look at the publicity positions. I have two very easy tasks that every member of AGS could do to help invite more people to join us.
Facebook Page “Likers”
Join our Facebook group by liking it when this page opens. Click the down arrow next to “Following.” Click next to “See First.” Each time you see a post on the AGS Facebook page, Click Like. This increases our visibility on Facebook.

Nextdoor App Posters
Do you use the Nextdoor App? If so, about a week before the AGS meeting post an invite to your neighbors to our next meeting. Here is a sample text you can use in June:

"Join the Austin Genealogical Society on June 27th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm for, 'Forensic Genealogy, Finding the Living' with speaker Kevin L. Meyers. We meet at the Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Dr., Austin, 78731. This is a free event."

That’s it. If you can help with one or both of those each month you have done a lot to help us get the word out about AGS. I hope that was really easy!

Please see our February Newsletter (http://www.austintxgensoc.org/data/agsfeb17newsltr.pdf) for additional volunteer opportunities.

Make a Hit at this Summer’s Family Reunion!

Saturday, July 1, 10:30a-Noon
Georgia Headrights and Bounty Land Grants: From Scandal to Settlement - Teresa Devine
North Village Branch Library
2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757

Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts.

Register here.

The acquisition and control of land has played a major role in American history not only on a national level but for states and individuals as well. One of the earliest problems faced by Georgia was the inability to attract men who were willing to settle on the land, create homes, and produce crops. Georgia passed its first headright law in 1777, which was intended to facilitate the transfer of land ownership to individuals to "strengthen the state."

However, the headright grant process was fraught with problems and after years of scandal, fraud, speculation, and political embarrassment, Georgia passed the Land Lottery Act in 1803. Seven lotteries were held to distribute land from the Creek and Cherokee, leaving behind a
By AGS Member John F. Marostica

Nothing brings a group of people together faster than a discussion about ‘who's related to whom.’

I have never been to a family reunion where I knew everyone in the room. Families change; they grow and shrink, all at the same time. Marriages, births and deaths are only a few of the things that instigate change in the family.

I have also never been to a family reunion where people did not show interest in genealogical displays. People love to look at pictures, read family histories and view family artifacts. Displays of almost any type are welcome.

One of the things people love to look at is family charts. Printed charts displayed at reunions have always been a big hit. People always have additions and changes to suggest and valuable corrections.

But how do you create them, and better yet, how do you print them? The samples below are from Legacy 9, but all chart creating programs have similar features and capabilities.

![Legacy 9 Family Chart Types](image)

Legacy 9 Family Chart Types

![Legacy 9 Menu Ribbon](image)

Legacy 9 Menu Ribbon

Creating family charts is relatively easy with most genealogically rich record.

**Saturday, September 16, 10:30a-Noon**
Land Workshop Pt. 1 – Metes and Bounds -
Cari A. Taplin, CG
North Village Branch Library
2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757

Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts. Registration will open on August 16.

Have you ever wondered how to draw those land descriptions from the Metes & Bounds survey system? This system was used primarily in the original thirteen colonies and so is mostly found when dealing with land in the east. This workshop will describe the system and then take the students through some real examples teaching them how to draw the land shapes as described in old deeds.

**Saturday, September 23, 10:30a-Noon**
Land Workshop Pt. 2 – Rectangular System -
Cari A. Taplin, CG
North Village Branch Library
2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757

Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts. Registration
software programs. I have used Legacy and Family Tree and while they differ a bit, they are just variations of a theme. Any good genealogical software program can generate a variety of charts. Producing the chart to view is not a problem. All programs have defaults, so all you really have to do is choose an individual in your database, select the type of chart you want to create and the program will do the rest.

While that is enough for some charts, there is much more you can do to enhance your chart. You can set the number of generations your chart displays, set privacy options, decide what items go in each box, set colors, font size, box and line shapes, and even background. You can also add pictures and text to the chart background, define the chart title and adjust spacing between people and generations, both manually and to set as the default.

Once you have finished creating your chart, it may be time to have it printed. You can go "old school" and send the chart to your printer; you will have to cut, align and tape the pages together to make your chart. If it is a large chart, that could be tedious and time consuming. If you choose to order your chart through a chart printing service, they will let you know the size and cost for printing. It will be priced by the square foot and depend on colors and backgrounds. There are many companies that do great work printing your charts.

If you want to be a bit more hands on, there are local companies that can print your charts for you. Office Depot (starts at 0.49 sq/ft) and FedEx Office (starts at 0.75 sq/ft) are the first two companies that come to mind. They are both very helpful and do a good job. Just export your chart to a PDF or JPG file and save it onto a flash drive. They will look at the file, tell you what size the final chart will be and how much it will cost to print. They discuss paper quality, color printing, and help you to get the print just right. When you leave, you will have the chart on a single sheet of paper, neatly rolled up and ready to take to your family reunion.

Your family and friends will get to see, graphically, family relationships, and if you created the chart with enough room and the intention for it to be written on, you family...
can make additions or corrections – what a way to get everyone involved in genealogical research!

So create your chart and if you have questions or need help, feel free to contact me at john.marostica@gmail.com.

A Thank You to AGS
From Mike Miller at the Austin History Center

Some time ago I promised that I would send some pictures of the AGS 2014-2015 gift to the Austin History Centery (AHC) “in action.” I have attached a few pictures with our Reference Intern, Sammy Cook, using the new polysonic sealing machine you donated to us. We have been able to make great use of the machine, primarily to help us preserve a collection of maps from the Pease Family Papers. The maps document their land holdings as well as the Enfield Realty Corp. and their development of Enfield, Westfield, and Tarrytown. The maps include information about property owners. We expect to continue using the machine in our efforts to preserve the records in our care for many years to come.

Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts. Registration will open on November 9.

This will be a panel discussion and workshop for anyone interested in learning how to teach their own genealogy class. There will be a short lecture, a panel discussion with local genealogical speakers, and then a workshop period to help attendees develop their ideas for teaching a class or get tips on public speaking.

Do You Have a Brick Wall? A Genealogical Question?
Feel free to send it in for the newsletter to newsletter@austinxgensoc.org or post it to our Facebook page, “Austin Genealogical Society Members helping Members.”

Local Genealogy Meetings and Resources

Austin Gen SIG, meets from 1:00–4:00 p.m. the second Saturday of the month at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin. Part of the Computer Club of Austin. Click here for website.

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. Click here for website.
Intern Sammy Cook at the Austin History Center using a polysonic sealing machine donated by AGS

Again, we are very thankful to the Austin Genealogical Society for making the gift.

Mike Miller, CA
Manager & City Archivist
Austin History Center/Austin Public Library
mike.miller@austintexas.gov

May Meeting Recap

**Topic:** Have You Found the "Schatz" in Your Family Tree?

**Speakers:** Cindy Foreman and Beverly Herring

**Texas State Library** is open from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. 1201 Brazos in Austin. Questions concerning Second Saturdays may be sent here. Click here for website.

**Williamson County Genealogical Society**
meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Round Rock Public Library, 216 E Main Street, Round Rock. Social time at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Click here for website.

**Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources**
Click here for website.

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**Got something for the newsletter?**
Submissions are welcome - due the first day of the month for each submission. newsletter@austintxgensoc.org
Speakers Cindy Foreman and Beverly Herring

Meeting in Review
By AGS Board Member Rob Richardson

Cindy and Beverly's fast-paced and entertaining presentation laid out strategies for finding "Schatz" (German for Treasure). "Schatz", as they described it, was that hard-to-find information used to break through seemingly impenetrable genealogical brick walls. It was the information that allowed them to discover long-forgotten stories of their ancestors' lives in Germany and in the United States.

Cindy and Beverly used two case studies to reveal how using readily accessible on-line tools to clarify hidden truths embedded in old family stories, in letters, and in obscure church and government records. Based upon their experience they had many good suggestions to aid in research of immigrant ancestors.

April Meeting Attendance
50 attendees, with visitor: Toni Ericson.

Thanks to our May volunteers!
Technical setup and support - John Marostica
Set Up - Mary Todd
Nametag table - Gary Pemberton, Kathy Pemberton and Dee Sanchez.
Snacks - Inez Eppright, Glen Harrison, Jane Schwendinger, Susan Shaw
Greeter - Robin Raben
Clean Up - Marcia Arn

**Sign-Ups for June Meeting**
Set Up: Shelley Augustin & Rob Richardson
Clean Up: Kay Boyd & Robin Raben
Greeter: Lise Doss
Snacks: Gayle Boyce, Kay Boyd, Nan Kilkary, Dianne Holley