Austin Genealogical Society (AGS)

Next Meeting: March 22, 2016

Mining a Goldmine: Research in Courthouse Records, by AGS Member Teri E. Flack

There’s a goldmine in records waiting at the county courthouse. Records that tell you names, dates and places, relatives and relationships, neighbors and neighborhoods, and friends and acquaintances. Records that establish births, marriages, and deaths when vital records don't exist. Records that can solve your thorniest problems if you know how to interpret what they’re telling you. Discover how to mine these records for every nugget of information.

About Teri

Teri E. Flack is a genealogical and historical researcher, consultant, and lecturer who has been researching family history for over 30 years. Teri chairs the Texas State Genealogical Society's Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) and serves as the Texas state liaison to the national RPAC. She serves on the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board, a state-level board dedicated to the preservation and use of Texas' documentary heritage. Teri is the first genealogist to sit on the board in over a decade. She is a member of the Travis County Historical Commission and is the Travis County historical marker chair. Teri is a director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and served as national co-chair for the 2014 FGS annual conference in San Antonio. Formerly, Teri was the AGS treasurer. Teri spent much of her career in Texas government (with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Attorney General's Office) as a liaison to the Legislature.

Working with the Texas genealogical community in 2013 and 2015, she used that experience to prevent legislation from passing that would have further restricted access to Texas birth and death records. Teri is a volunteer archivist at the Texas State Archives, processing over 1,000 volumes and 300 cubic feet of Galveston County records and creating finding aids to make them accessible to the public. For her work in records preservation and access, the Texas State Genealogical Society recently elected Teri a Fellow of the society. Teri holds a Master's degree in History, with a concentration in Public History, an MBA, a Paralegal Certificate, and a B. S. in Education from Texas State University.

March 22, 2016
Social Time 6:30 p.m. / Program 7:00 p.m.
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731
AGS 2016 Writing Contest
Submit an article to the Quarterly!
Articles must be published in the AGS Quarterly during the calendar year 2016. Articles must be at least 500 words written by the author (not including words in transcriptions or family trees.) Articles considered will include original research, case studies, personal memoirs, educational columns, essays and narratives on a genealogical subject. Articles must be submitted by a member of AGS in 2016, and winners must be a member at time of the award announcement in 2017. Prizes will be announced in a future newsletter. Quarterly guidelines: austintxgensoc.org/quarterly-guidelines
Questions: quarterly@austintxgensoc.org

Do you have a genealogical blog or website? Let us advertise it for you in our newsletter! Contact newsletter@austintxgensoc.org

AGS Donation to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission
AGS purchased the Passenger and Immigration Lists Index 2015 Supplement and provided it to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (www.tsl.texas.gov) as part of our 2015 donations. Thanks to Missy Harris for providing the photos!

AGS Donation to the General Land Office
Last year, AGS provided $2000 to the Texas General Land Office toward the conservation of the Austin City Lots collection. In recognition of our support, our logo has been added to the GLO sponsors page as a Bronze Level supporter. http://www.glo.texas.gov/save-texas-history/donate/index.html

Beattitudes of the Family Genealogists
Submitted by AGS Member Sara Shaw
Blessed are the great grandmothers, who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters, For they tell the story of their time.
Blessed are all the grandfathers who filed every legal document, For this provides proof.
Blessed are the grandmothers who preserved family Bibles and diaries, For this our heritage.
Blessed are fathers who elect officials that answer letters of inquiry, For some, this is their only link to the past.
Blessed are mothers who relate family traditions and legends to the family, For one of her children will surely remember.
Blessed are the relatives who fill in family sheets with extra data, For them who owe the family history.
Blessed is any family whose members strive for the preservation of records, For theirs is a labor of love.
Blessed are the children who will never say, "Grandma, you have told that old story twice today." written by Unknown
AGS 2016 Classes

Genealogical Education Opportunities both Online and Off  
April 9, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Hampton Branch at Oak Hill  
Instructor: Cari Taplin, CG

Cari will take the audience through a tour of various genealogical educational opportunities available both near and far. There are a lot of educational opportunities for genealogists and the differences between them might be confusing. This program will examine: Online classes and programs such as NGS, Boston University, NIGS through Toronto University, ProGen, GenProof Study Groups; institutes, such as IGHR, GRIP, SLIG, Gen-Fed, and the British Institute; and webinars, such as those by Legacy Webinars, Dear Myrtle, FamilySearch, state societies, and others. Cari will discuss the differences, costs, pros and cons of each.

Intermediate Concepts in Genealogy  
July 9, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Yarborough Branch APL  
Instructor: Cari Taplin, CG

Learn intermediate research concepts such as the FAN Club principle (Friends, Associates, Neighbors) also called “cluster research,” using maps to understand and analyze your research, and we will conclude with a case study demonstrating these concepts with real examples.

A Tour Through Major Record Types  
August 13, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Austin History Center  
Instructor: Cari Taplin, CG

There are certain record types that genealogists need to be sure to explore. This class will take students through a brief description of a variety of major record types such as the census, vital, land, tax, naturalization, and church records. The class will also include some hands-on work with real-life case studies.

October Class TBD

AGS Member Brick Walls - Can You Help?

Millijon Crowell: billnmila@sbcglobal.net

"Kemper County, Miss. - Nat Spear (Speir, etc.) was killed in the Battle of Corinth, Miss., 1862. Trying to find his wife Mary's parents. Probably Washington and Eleanor Dunbar. Eleanor was a Peden."

Elaine Powell: ep2cats@gmail.com

"My earliest ancestor from genealogy research (especially censuses) is Nicholas Powell, who married Sarah (family name probably Hoy) but I cannot find Nicholas now in Ancestry or Family Search. Any ideas on other sources or ways to research without traveling to West Virginia?"

Linda Weseloh: Linda.Weseloh@sbcglobal.net

I have a brick wall that I have been working on for some time. I'm searching for the evidence of my grandparent's marriage. The facts are as follows:

Frank Martin Worden  
Florence Gertrude (Shaw-maiden) Sanford (1st marriage)  
Married June 19, 1930.  
Both are on the 1930 census in Flint, Michigan  
"Domicile" at time of marriage: Flint, Michigan (from estate documents)  
"Location" of marriage: UNKNOWN  
Their daughter Ann Worden (my mother) was born 11 months later in Provo, Utah.  
It's apparent that they were heading “west” during the depression. They ended up in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1932.

I've looked everywhere in Michigan but have come up empty. Could they have gone into Ontario, Canada, to get married, maybe through Port Huron into Sarnia?

Any help would be greatly appreciated. Sure wish I had thought to ask that question before my grandma died in 1988. Who knew it would be this hard?"
FROM THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

As we are headed into Spring it is time to think about our annual seminar. Our speaker this year is Thomas MacEntee. The seminar will be on Saturday, May 21, and registration is now open! AGS members will receive a $10 discount off the registration fee if you pre-register. There is a registration form in this newsletter or you can register online at http://www.austintxgensoc.org/seminar. Also visit this link to learn about the 4 topics he will be presenting. This should once again be a great seminar! If you have any questions, please reach out to our seminar chair, Teresa Devine at seminar@austintxgensoc.org.

I also want to remind everyone to take advantage of our free classes and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). There is a calendar of meeting times in this newsletter as well as on our website.

On another note, we have been without a Publicity committee for quite a while now. I would like to invite anyone with an interest in writing press releases, contributing to a blog or social media to think about getting involved. This is a great opportunity to learn some new skills. This does not need to be a one-person job and I would really like to see our online presence grow! Please let me know via email at president@austintxgensoc.org if you have some interest. I will have a sign-up sheet available at our March meeting and will also be available to talk with you then. Take advantage of these volunteer opportunities to build your resume!

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting in March!
Anne Mamiya
president@austintxgensoc.org

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<th>2016 Board of Directors and Officers</th>
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<td>Terms Ending 2016</td>
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<td>James E. Bridges</td>
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<td>Karin Nelson</td>
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<td>Robin Raben</td>
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Local Genealogy Meetings & Resources

- **AGS British Isle Genealogy Special Interest Group** meets via email to exchange information. Contact Jane Schwendinger at janesca@earthlink.net.
- **AGS DNA Special Interest Group**, Monday, April 18, 6:00-8:15 p.m. Spicewood Springs Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd., Austin, TX, 78759. Contact Randy Whited at whited.randyl@gmail.com.
- **AGS Writing Special Interest Group**, 2nd Thursday of the month 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Buildasign, 11525 Stonehollow Dr., Austin, Texas 78758. Contact Robin Raben at mrsraben@austin.rr.com or Jim Bridges at bridgwork@aol.com.
- **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. Website: austingensig.com/ Indicates an official AGS activity
- **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. Jenkins7@austin.rr.com Website: AustinLUG.weebly.com
- **Texas State Library** 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 to reference.desk@tsl.texas.gov. Website: tsl.texas.gov
- **Williamson County Genealogical Society** meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Round Rock Public Library. Social time at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Website: williamsontxgenealogy.org/
- **Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources** Website: library.austintexas.libguides.com/genealogy

Indicates an official AGS activity
### AGS 2016 Calendar

#### C AGS Classes
Classes begin at 10:00 AM
- [ ] Sat, 9-Apr Genealogical Education Opportunities both Online and Off
  Hampton at Oak Hill
- [ ] Sat, 9-Jul Intermediate Concepts in Genealogy
  Yarborough
- [ ] Sat, 13-Aug A Tour Through Major Record Types
  Austin History Center
- [ ] Sat, 15-Oct TBD
  Yarborough

#### SIG AGS Special Interest Groups
- DNA SIG - Contact Jane Schwendinger or Randy Whited
  Mon, 14-Mar Spicewood Springs, 6:00 to 8:15 PM
  Mon, 18-Apr Spicewood Springs, 6:00 to 8:15 PM
  Mon, 9-May Hampton at Oak Hill, 6:00 to 8:00 PM
  Sat, 11-Jun North Village, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
  Mon, 18-Jul Howson, 6:15 to 8:30 PM
  Mon, 15-Aug North Village, 6:00 to 8:30 PM
  Wed, 14-Sep North Village, 6:00 to 8:15 PM
  Mon, 17-Oct North Village, 6:00 to 8:15 PM

- AGS Writing SIG - Contact Robin Raben or James Bridges
  2nd Thursday (no meeting in December), 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, BuildASign

#### M Meetings
- [ ] Sat, 21-May Featured Speaker: Thomas MacEntee

#### Locations (Classes and SIG Meetings):
- **Austin History Center**, 810 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX 78701
- **BuildASign**, 11525a Stonehollow Dr. #100, Austin TX 78758
- **Hampton at Oak Hill**, 5125 Convict Hill Rd, Austin, TX 78749
- **Howson**, 2500 Exposition Blvd, Austin, TX 78703
- **North Village**, 2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78703
- **Spicewood Springs**, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78759
- **Yarborough**, 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756

**AGS Meeting Location:**
- **Highland Park Baptist Church**, 5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731

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*Antique postcard from the collection of Robin Raben, probably circa 1910*
Upcoming Events

**Williamson County Genealogical Society Annual Seminar**
Saturday, March 19, 8:00 a.m.
First United Methodist Church, Round Rock, TX
Speaker: Curt Witcher, Allen County Public Library
[williamsontxgenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=18]

**Twelfth Annual Hill Country Family History Seminar**
Saturday April 30, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Boerne, Texas
Guest Speaker - Dr. Michael Lacopo
For more information: [gskctx.org/cpage.php?pt=66](gskctx.org/cpage.php?pt=66)

**AGS DNA Special Interest Group**
The purpose of the DNA Special Interest Group is to help participants learn how to use DNA tests for genealogical purposes, share strategies and tools for understanding their results, and how to incorporate genetic genealogy with traditional genealogical research.
Everyone interested in DNA for genealogy is welcome.
**Monday, April 18, 6:00-8:15 p.m. (or later if the group desires)**
Spicewood Springs Branch Library,
8637 Spicewood Springs Rd., Austin, TX, 78759
Bring your questions to the meeting!

**AGS Writing Special Interest Group**
The group was formed to support members in writing their family histories. Our successes thus far: a published book, several blog entries, several memoirs, and a regular article published in the newsletter! Come and get inspired with the rest of us!
**2nd Thursday of the month**
April 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Buildasign
11525 Stonehollow Dr.
Austin, Texas 78758

**Genealogical TV Shows - Have you been watching?**

**Long Lost Family - Sundays at 9:00 p.m. on TLC**
See what happens when families are reunited - after a lifetime apart.
[Read more](#)

**Who do you think you are? - Season 8 to begin on April 3 on TLC**
Follow celebrities as they trace parts of their family tree.
[Read more](#)

**Genealogy Roadshow - Season 3 to begin on May 17 on PBS**
Combines history and science to uncover fascinating stories of diverse Americans.
[Read more](#)

**Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates Jr. - Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. on PBS**
Henry Louis Gates, Jr. unearths the family histories of influential people helping shape our national identity.
[Read more](#)

**Relative Race from BYUtv - watch it online**
Produced by Brigham Young University TV: Four teams race from San Francisco to New York in 10 days to find unknown relatives, and complete challenges
[Read more](#)

**AGS Volunteer Opportunities**

**AGS Education Instructors** - If you are interested in teaching 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](mailto:education@austintxgensoc.org).

**Publicity Chair** - The Publicity Committee's function is to promote the society, its mission, and activities to the general public, as well as foster engagement and participation by the society's members. Contact Anne Mamiya at [president@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:president@austintxgensoc.org).

**Meeting Host/Hostess** - A good way to meet people while helping to make our meetings more enjoyable. Meet the Hospitality Chair at 5:30 on meeting day and setup the food table. Responsibility ends when the meeting starts, at 7:00. (Does NOT require staying after the meeting to help cleanup!) Contact Missy Harris at [missy_harris@att.net](mailto:missy_harris@att.net).
UNT Libraries asks for public's help to win $500,000 NEH challenge grant
From AGS Member Liz Hicks

DENTON, Texas (UNT) -- The University of North Texas Libraries is asking for the public's help to receive a $500,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over the next five years, the university is tasked with raising $1.5 million – funds that would expand an endowment for the library's most popular resource: the Portal to Texas History website.
Donation here

The University of North Texas is the home of Portal to Texas History. This is a FREE site with digitized Texas newspapers, City Directories, photographs, letters, lots of "goodies" for genealogists. I recently did a search for Texas Germans and was amazed at the numerous materials viewable on this site.

Genealogy vs. Family History
By AGS Member John Marostica

For many people, the terms Genealogy and Family History are interchangeable. If you think of genealogy as answering all six research questions [who, what, where, when, why and how] then I guess you could use the two terms interchangeably. But that overlooks the difference in documents needed to answer these questions, and the outcome of your research.

Let me clarify.

**Genealogy** answers the first four questions: who, what, when and where. Some people call these the *Basic Research Questions*. These questions are answered by information found in census records, vital records, courthouse records, and church records as well as information found in genealogical, state, federal or local archival libraries; in other words, official or vital records.

The information in these official records helps us recreate our family structure. These records make it possible to identify and prove our lineage, a necessity for legal reasons and to gain admission into many organizations and lineage groups. They help us differentiate our ancestors from our relatives. It is the lack of, or inability to find these records that is the cause of all the “brick walls” we encounter and struggle with.

**Family History**, on the other hand, answers the questions “why” and “how.” These two questions, sometimes called Advanced Research Questions, cannot be answered through the use of official records. Why and how are open ended questions and require analytical and critical thought in order to be answered. Along with knowledge of history, the answers to these questions will add a new dimension to the results of our research. Instead of just the bare facts gathered from vital records, we find insight into the daily lives of our ancestors.

So where do you look for answers to your why and how questions?

Face-to-face interviews with family members, collateral relatives and family associates is probably the best place to start. Be sure to bring a recording device, but ask permission to use it. Some people can be intimidated by recording devices, either audio or video.

Search for family letters, diaries or collections of written material. Someone in the family may write a family newsletter or keep the family updated by e-mail. These individuals usually have access to more information or knowledge of people who do. You may discover that there is a genealogist or writer in your family that is working on or has written (maybe even published) a book.

Don't overlook county history books; your ancestors may have been mentioned or had a paragraph or more written about them, especially if they were prominent in some way or lived in the county a long time, owned or operated a business, or had a lot of land.

Look at residences, jobs and military records. Your ancestors did not live in a vacuum; they had friends and associates that knew them - better than you did. Finding just one friend or acquaintance that knew someone in your family will tell you a lot and lead you to others.

Be imaginative, patient and persistent as you search to better understand your family and assemble your family's story.
In mid-January, I packed my warmest sweaters, wool socks, and boots and headed for Salt Lake City and the weeklong Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, affectionately known as "SLIG." There were 13 courses offered with topics ranging from genetic genealogy to writing a family history as well as genealogy and the law and using different types of records like church and land records. Nationally recognized genealogy instructors, such as Judy Russell, Thomas Jones, John Phillip Coletta, Angie Bush and Blaine Bettinger, coordinated many of the courses. SLIG courses are in great demand and many of them fill up soon after registration opens. For those who miss the cutoff for their preferred courses, there is a waiting list signup. Having ancestral roots that extend back more than 200 years in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas, I registered for the course "Swing Across The South." I felt that I needed to expand my knowledge base if I hoped to solve several of the brick walls I've been working on with no success.

The course was designed to provide an understanding of how Southern records were created, and how they have been maintained. In an area prone to burned courthouses and natural weather disasters, strategies for researching in areas with lost or missing records were also included. Major repositories and record collections were highlighted for each of the 12 Southern states. At the end of each daily session, homework was assigned to help students put the day's lessons into practice. The course coordinators were J. Mark Lowe and Kelvin L. Meyers. They were joined by instructors Deborah Abbott, PhD; Michael Hait, CG; Kelvin Meyers; and, Anne Gillespie Mitchell. All of them are excellent instructors and great fun to interact with.

No self-respecting genealogist could visit Salt Lake City and not spend as much time as possible at the Family History Library. SLIG made it easy with "SLIG Night at the Family History Library." Several hour-long classes were given by Library staff on using the Library's resources with six different research topics. Free 45-minute one-on-one consultations were offered for specific research problems.

All work and no play might make the week tedious even for genealogists, so the SLIG organizers provided many opportunities to socialize. SLIG officially started with a Sunday night opening reception with light appetizers and a few door prizes. Course coordinators and instructors were introduced. Monday's keynote address “Thinking Genealogically” with Rev. Dr. David McDonald, CG, was entertaining and thought-provoking, made even more enjoyable when the good reverend shared our table at Friday's banquet. None other than the esteemed Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL, closed the banquet, leaving many of us with a lump in our throats as she exhorted us to "Suffer the Little Children." She reminded us that as our families' historians, it is up to us to tell the stories of the children who might be unknown to future generations but for our efforts.

Courses and instructors for SLIG 2017 were announced during the last official remarks of the week, giving many attendees something to look forward to next year. Thomas Jones, Judy Russell and John Phillip Colletta will be back with different topics and will be joined by D. Joshua Taylor, CeCe Moore, Cindi Ingle and other notable instructors. SLIG 2017 will take place 22-27 January, a couple of weeks later than in 2016, with registration opening on 9 July, 9:00 am MDT.

As a first time SLIG attendee, I learned so much and met many others who share my passion for genealogy. If you are looking for an opportunity to take your research skills to the next level and have a great time while doing it, consider attending SLIG 2017.
Hospitality Report from the February Meeting

**Topic:** Helpful Tips & Tricks to use FamilySearch
**Presented by:** Cherie Bush of FamilySearch
**Attendance:** 79 attending

**Welcome New Members!**
Pat Brandenburg
William Houlihan

**Visitors:**
Jim Todd, Austin
Carol McCollum, Austin
Tracey Marcelo, Cedar Park
Pamela Vigil, Round Rock

Thank you to those who supported the February meeting:

**Greeters:** Sue Ellen Jeffers, Lise Doss and Betty Jean Steinke

**Membership/Brick Wall/Information Table:** Kay Boyd and Sharon Foley

**Sign-in Table:** Jean Marostica, Gary Pemberton, Kathy Pemberton, Judi Williamson, and Arlene Zirkel

**Audio-visual guru:** John Marostica

**Hospitality/Food:** Shelley Augustin, Karin Nelson, Betty Jean Steinke and Marsha Patterson

**Hospitality Set-up:** Sheila Sargent

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Kay Boyd and Sharon Foley at the Member Table

Betty Jean Steinke makes an announcement while Anne Mamiya looks on

Alyssa Behr and Robin Raben

Nametag Table: Jean Marostica (standing), Arlene Zirkel, Judi Williamson, Kathy and Gary Pemberton

Speaker: Cherie Bush of FamilySearch
Member Appreciation
Pat Oxley
By Robin Raben

Pat Oxley is a Lifetime Member of AGS. She found out about AGS through FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) and joined in 2000. She served on the AGS Board in various capacities as well as President for three years (the longest term for an AGS President thus far!) She is moving to Virginia and plans to continue her membership and support of AGS. She has provided award-winning volunteer service to both FGS and TSGS (Texas State Genealogical Society) and is committed to continuing her contribution through societies.

A Pioneering Father
Pat was born in Ottawa, Illinois, the only child of Harry & Betty Farmer. She lived the first nine years of her life in Illinois, and then her father took a job with Reynolds Metals in the Shenandoah Valley. Reynolds was just getting into plastics at that time. Her father became one of the pioneers in the plastic food wrap industry with several patents. His career moved her family around the country including the cities of Howell, Michigan, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

A Distinguished History with FGS
As her daughter was finishing high school and starting college, Pat pulled out the papers her mother had left her with some family information. The rest is history as far as her love of genealogy is concerned. Around 2000, she started volunteering in the FGS office and eventually became the exhibits chair for the 2004 FGS conference in Austin. AGS and TSGS had co-hosted the conference, and this is when she joined AGS. She was then appointed to the Board of Directors of FGS in 2005 and has remained on the board, serving in many positions, including VP of Administration and President. She is currently finishing her term as Past President and will go off the board at the end of this year. During this time she won several awards, the most significant being the David S. Vogels, Jr. Award: an award presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding career contributions to FGS.

Pat is a strong believer in societies and she is starting one at her new residence, a retirement community in Virginia. They have not yet had a meeting, but she already has 25 people signed up!

Other FGS Awards
Distinguished Service Award - 2008
President's Citation - 2006
Certificate of Appreciation - 2006
Award of Merit - 2004

Her Family
Fifty years ago in July of 1966, she met Don Oxley when they were both camp counselors at Massanetta Springs Presbyterian Camp in Harrisonburg, Virginia. It is right across the road from Sunnyside Retirement Community, where they are now retiring. Don and Pat started life together in Blacksburg, Virginia, and moved on to several places; she attended LSU for a couple of years. He was drafted and eventually landed at Ft. Hood for his short two years of service during the Viet Nam war. They lived in Temple, Texas, and fell in love with Central Texas. After he finished graduate school in Champaign, Illinois, Don was offered a job at Texas Instruments in Austin, where he worked for 18 years. He then formed his own company. During this time, their daughter, Suzi, was born and Pat was mostly a stay at home Mom and a volunteer Mom.

Pat's Research
Pat's ancestors on her father's side came into Jamestown in the 1600s probably from Ireland. Her mother's side comes from Italy (maternal) and Wales (paternal.) She has researched in both countries and traced her Italian roots back to 1755 and her Welsh line back to 1800. One of her favorite research trips was to Italy with her cousin and her cousin's husband. She had met a young lady online who turned out to be the organist at the church where Pat's family had attended for centuries. The priest let her take them into his office with all the records going back "forever." They went. Her cousin's husband, who could read both Italian and Latin, helped them work their way back to 1755!

Finding Unknown Relatives
Pat relays this touching story: “My big aha moment was connecting with my grandfather’s ‘other family.’ I knew my grandfather had been married and divorced before he married my grandmother in 1925, but the families never knew each other. Back in the 1980s, I put out a query on RootsWeb, and suddenly, in the year 2000, I received an email with my grandfather’s name in the subject line. It gave me chills. I read -- ‘Dear Pat, My name is John Matthews and my Grandmother, was married to a man named Evan Samuel Matthews and they divorced in 1921 in Joliet, IL. I think we’re related.’

“I happened to be online when receiving the email (you remember dial-up – it was a miracle I was online!) I emailed back and asked John to please send me his phone number. He and his sister are now my friends. His dad would have been my mother’s only sibling and vice versa. It’s so sad they never met. They died two years apart at the very young ages of 54 and 61. John has three wonderful sons of his own. His sister shares breast cancer with my mother – being diagnosed at the same age. Life is funny. I wish my parents had lived to know John and Mary Ellen. John and I connected the year after my dad died. I discovered answers to many genealogy mysteries the year following my dad’s sudden death. Who says we don’t have angels?”

Pat and Don Oxley and Luci – their 83 lb. Bernese Mountain dog.

Pat Oxley

By Robin Raben

Pat Oxley is a Lifetime Member of AGS. She found out about AGS through FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) and joined in 2000. She served on the AGS Board in various capacities as well as President for three years (the longest term for an AGS President thus far!) She is moving to Virginia and plans to continue her membership and support of AGS. She has provided award-winning volunteer service to both FGS and TSGS (Texas State Genealogical Society) and is committed to continuing her contribution through societies.
What happens when a “tech guy” with a love for history gets laid off during The Great Recession of 2008? You get Thomas MacEntee, a genealogy professional who’s also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, marketer, network builder and more. After a 25-year career in the information technology field, Thomas began building his genealogy-related business, High Definition Genealogy. He also created an online community of over 3,000 family history bloggers known as GeneaBloggers. Thomas believes in success, and that we all succeed when we help each other find success.

Seminar Topics

- Genealogy Do-Over™: A Year of Learning from Mistakes
- Successful Collateral and Cluster Searching
- Building a Research Toolbox
- Managing the Genealogy Data Monster

Registration is also available online at AustinTxGenSoc.org with PayPal or credit card through May 19, 2016. Pre-registration is $35 for AGS members, $45 for non-members. Optional box lunch is $10. You may also bring your own lunch. Light refreshments will be served in the morning. COMPLIMENTARY BAGS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS

Registrations by mail must be received by May 10, 2016. We are unable to offer refunds. Please plan accordingly.

Name ___________________________________________ Phone __________ Email ____________________________

Address __________________________________________ City __________ State __________ Zip __________

Seminar Attendees will have their contact information (name, email, phone) printed in the syllabus along with up to 4 surnames if registration received by May 10, 2016.

If you do not wish to have your contact information published, check here_____

Surnames (list up to four surnames)
1. __________________________ Location__________ 3. __________________________ Location__________
2. __________________________ Location__________ 4. __________________________ Location__________

Registration Fees

Seminar Fee: AGS Member: $35 Non-Member: $45 [________] (required)

2016 AGS Membership: Individual: $20 Family: $30 [________] (optional)

(If you are not a 2016 AGS member you may join/renew here)

Optional Box Lunch (includes sandwich, chips, and cookie): $10 [________] (optional)

You may also bring your own lunch – Beverages will be provided

Please select your sandwich choice:

___Turkey  ___ Tuna Salad  ___ Chicken Salad  ___ Vegetarian

Total Amount Enclosed: _______

Mail to: AGS, Box 10010, Austin, TX 78766-1010
Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
(except December)
Social time at 6:30 p.m.; Program at 7:00 p.m.
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, TX 78731
VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME