Austin Genealogical Society (AGS)

Next Meeting: May 24, 2016

One Person, Two Birth Certificates; Texas History of Adoption and Birth Certificates by Connie Gray

This talk is a lively historical overview of adoption practices and amended birth certificates in Texas. Attendees will learn why there was a historical movement to alter birth certificates, discover the many problems adult adoptees have with “government sanctioned falsified documents”, learn why national organizations support equal access to original birth certificates and hear the facts about restoring access to original birth certificates (OBCs) for those who were adopted as minors. Of particular interest will be how to search the Texas birth books and “code” names for adoptees. There will be a brief mention of why adoptees no longer need access to OBCs in order to locate biological family members due to advancements in DNA testing, yet it remains a coveted document.

About Connie

In 1961, after a state social worker illegally terminated her mother’s parental rights, Connie and her sisters entered foster care and eventually were each adopted into different families. Upon turning 18 in 1976, she petitioned the Travis county court, obtained her original birth certificate and within 2 years located her entire biological family.

As a Search Angel, someone who helps people reconnect who have been separated by adoption, Connie was recognized with a national award in 2013 by Spokeo. She was the Texas representative for the American Adoption Congress 2013-2015 and is a board member of Adoptee Rights Coalition. After founding Texas Adoptee Rights in 2013, Connie spearheaded the thwarted efforts to restore access to original birth certificates during the 2015 Texas Legislative session. Further information and email signup may be found at texasadopteerights.org.

May 24, 2016
Social Time 6:30 p.m. / Program 7:00 p.m.
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731

Missing the Newsletter?

We’ve had reports from a few members that the Newsletter email is not making it to their email inbox, but is instead landing in their “junk” email folder. If this is happening to you, try adding “Newsletter@austintxgensoc.org” to your contact list. Still having problems? Please send a note to newsletter@austintxgensoc.org so we can help!

Did you know?

You can change your contact information or surnames on your profile page on our website? Click on the “membership account” button at the top right corner after you’ve logged in.
austintxgensoc.org

AGS 2016 QUARTERLY Vol. 2 DEADLINE MAY 21
Want help? Have Questions?
Quarterly@austintxgensoc.org

AGS Website
Did you forget your login or password to the Members Only section? Problems renewing a membership?
Contact: webmaster@austintxgensoc.org
AGS News

Send in a Question for our July Topic

Our July presenter, Nick Cimino, will be talking about mid-19th century immigration from European countries into the Philadelphia, New York and Galveston ports. If you have a question or interest related to the topic, he is open to addressing them. Please send your query to programs@austintxgensoc.org no later than June 18. He will do his best to include as many of them as he can although, depending on the number of queries, he may not be able to address them all. Please include "July AGS Query" in the subject line of your email.

Nick Cimino is a professional genealogist researching in North America, Italy, the United Kingdom and Ireland. He is a native of California and has resided in Texas since 2010. He conducts research on a wide variety of families including those of European, African American and Hispanic ancestry. Nick is Vice President of the Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Nick has a passion for genealogy that he expresses through consultations, presentations and his weekly blog at ancestrypuzzles.com.

AGS 2016 Writing Contest
Submit an article to the Quarterly!

We have identified the prizes to be awarded with this year’s writing contest. We look forward to reading your submissions!

- One Year Fold3 subscription
- One Year Newspapers.com subscription
- One Year HistoryGeo.com subscription
- Free 2017 AGS Seminar Registration
- 2017 Save Austin's Cemeteries annual membership and a copy of the book Austin's Historic Oakwood Cemetery: Under the Shadow of the Texas Capitol

Contest rules and quarterly guidelines can be found on our website: austintxgensoc.org/quarterly-guidelines

Questions: quarterly@austintxgensoc.org

AGS on Facebook

Austin Genealogical Society
facebook.com/AustinGenealogicalSociety?fref=ts

Posts on this site include information about the AGS monthly programs, the annual AGS seminar, and AGS classes.

Austin Genealogical Society Members helping Members
facebook.com/groups/643600238984459/

Posts on this site include genealogy-related topics such as webinars, websites, and classes not sponsored by AGS. Members of the group may request help with any particular issue they are experiencing with their own research.

“Liking” the pages helps get our message out to more people on Facebook! Please like posts when you see them to help market our Society.

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.

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Robert Casey will be assisting you with your DNA through examples. Drop in for a while. You do not need to stay the entire 4 hours!

North Village Library,
2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757

AGS Writing Special Interest Group

The group was formed to support members in writing their family histories. Come and get inspired with the rest of us!

2nd Thursday of the month
June 9, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Buildasign
11525 Stonehollow Dr., Austin, Texas 78758

In Memoriam

Our condolences go out to the families of these current and former AGS members.

Carol Dahnke Lutz passed away on May 1, 2016. She was 80 years old. She was dearly loved by her family who attended a graveside memorial. Carol was a former AGS board member and program chair.

Life member Marti Jean Valiant McLain passed away May 1, 2016. Services were held on May 15. Obituary: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/marti-jean-valiant-mclain-obituary?pid=100000179887523

Husband of former AGS member Suzy Snyder, Bryan Snyder III, passed away on May 5, 2016. Funeral services were held on May 10. Obituary: http://wcfish.tributes.com/obituary/charities/Bryan-Snyder-103549027#view_donations
AGS 2016 Classes

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.

Beginning Concepts (or a Refresher) in Genealogy
September 12, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Old Quarry Branch Library
Instructor: Cari Taplin, CG
Learn how to get started (or get a refresher) on some basic genealogical concepts such as 5-steps to quality genealogy research, developing a beginning researching plan, gathering and organizing information, and some genealogical websites to use.

More than Daughters: Using the DAR's Genealogical Research System (GRS)
October 15, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Yarborough Branch Library
Instructor: Teresa B. Devine, Lineage Research Committee, Andrew Carruthers Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
The DAR has made more than a century's worth of genealogical records accessible to all researchers. A variety of records have been digitized and made available through many databases and resources using the DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS). This presentation will help researchers understand how to access and search the GRS and how to evaluate the different types of records found within.

Books with a Genealogy Theme
by AGS Member Trisha Thompson

The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton is a fun read about an unexpected inheritance of a cottage which holds secrets. As the family ancestors are discovered, the truth about the family comes to light. One cannot read this book without creating the family tree.

Another delightful and thought provoking book, Family Tree, by Barbara Delinsky, raises questions about family, race, and choices made in times of crisis which affect future generations. The use of DNA proves parentage in more than one situation. Because of secrets kept by previous generations, family trees are destroyed and recreated. It's a mystery to the very end of the book!

I picked up the Family Tree for $1 at the Half Price Books sale recently and will gladly pass it along to whoever wants to read it.

2016 Board of Directors and Officers

Our governing body is a Board of Directors composed of twelve members. Their terms of office are two years beginning January 1st. Officers are elected each year to serve for a term of one year.

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<th>Terms Ending 2016</th>
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our annual seminar is this month and I hope everyone takes the opportunity to come out and hear our speaker, Thomas MacEntee. The seminar will be held on Saturday, May 21. Online registration is open until May 19th and AGS members will receive a discounted price if registered by this date. Registration is available at the door for $45 (no member discounts at that time.) Registration is available on our website austintxgensoc.org/event/2016-annual-seminar/?instance_id=343.

Last month 10 of us spent a week at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. I would encourage everyone to take a group research trip at some point. Even though we spent about 11 hours a day at the library, we still had time to get to know one another better, learn from each other, and have some laughs. It truly was a great experience! Here are a few pictures from the trip.

Anne Mamiya
president@austintxgensoc.org

Do You Have a Brick Wall? A Genealogical Question?

Feel free to send it in for the newsletter to newsletter@austintxgensoc.org or post it to our Facebook page, “Austin Genealogical Society Members helping Members.”

You can also attend our next AGS meeting and ask at the member table - our volunteers are ready to help you!

Serendipity and FindAGrave

From AGS Member and First Vice President James Bridges

A note from the Veep. I just experienced serendipity (again,) and this time it came from the land of the not living. Findagrave.com has a procedure for corrections, and I received a note from a descendant of my 3x Great Grandfather Guildford's second wife. This gave me additional clues to the second wife but also to a new part of my own ancestry. Both of Guildford's wives were from Tennessee. The first a member of the Winters family and then the Robison family. Both of these families were prominent in the very early development of Tennessee. Findagrave.com is more than a collection of tombstones. It can also be a connection to the living and a source of unexpected information.

Check out this blog!
From AGS Member Nan Kilkeary
thegeticgenealogist.com is a blog by Blaine Bettinger, co-author of The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy (to be released in October of this year) along with Debbie Parker Wayne. He runs workshops at SLIG and GRIP and is a master teacher. He also has a law degree.
AGS 2016 Calendar
For the latest information about AGS events, visit our online calendar at austintxgensoc.org/calendar-of-events/

Locations (Classes and SIG Meetings):
- **Austen 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 78757
- **Old Quarry Branch**, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin, TX 78731
- **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

### AGS Classes

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**C AGS Classes**

Classes begin at 10:00 AM

**Sat, 9-Jul** Intermediate Concepts in Genealogy
Yarborough

**Sat, 13-Aug** A Tour Through Major Record Types
Austin History Center

**Mon, 12-Sep** Beginner Concepts (or a Refresher) in Genealogy
Old Quarry Branch

**Sat, 15-Oct** More than Daughters: Using the DAR’s Genealogical Research System (GRS)
Yarborough

**SIG AGS Special Interest Groups**

**DNA SIG** - Contact Jane Schwendinger or Randy Whited

**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

**Sat, 21-May** Featured Speaker: Thomas MacEntee

**M Meetings**

4th Thursday (no meeting in December), Networking: 6:30 PM / Program: 7:00 PM

**24-May** One Person, Two Birth Certificates; Texas History of Adoption and Birth Certificates
Connie Gray

28-Jun African American Research, History and Resources at the George Washington Carver Genealogy Center, Cynthia Evans

26-Jul Jumping the Pond in the 19th Century: 19th Century Immigration from Europe to North America, Nick Cirmino

23-Aug Software for Genealogists TBD

27-Sep Member Topic Tables
AGS Members

25-Oct HistoryGeo.com: Unlocking the Past with Original and Early Landowner Maps including New Features, Gregory Boyd (Arphax)

22-Nov Fall Fest Potluck Dinner, Texas Rangers Michael Cox
Help the Texas General Land Office and Get a T-Shirt
Commissioner George P. Bush today announced the beginning of a month-long Save Texas History program campaign to help raise awareness and funds for historic document preservation.

“Our history is at risk of being lost forever,” said Commissioner Bush. "That history shows us not only how we got here, but also gives us the knowledge to understand what here means. If we don’t preserve Texas’ precious historic documents—documents that show men and women rising to extraordinary heights—our past is essentially erased. Texans deserve better than that."
Throughout the month of May, individuals who donate $30 or more will receive a Save Texas History kit, including a limited-edition t-shirt bearing the phrase, “I saved Texas history.”
Donations to the Save Texas History program are tax-deductible and can be made at SaveTexasHistory.org.

Ancestor Seekers - A Research Week at the Salt Lake City Family History Library
Spend a week at the Salt Lake City family history center, with research experts (one professional researcher for every six guests,) and optional evening events.

An event is scheduled during each month, currently May, June and August are sold out, so plan early. There are spaces available in July and September. See the website for more information and to register.
ancestorseekers.com/slcrt/

FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies)
August 31 - September 3 Springfield, Illinois
FGS 2016 National Conference - Celebrate our 40th Anniversary with us and local host Illinois State Genealogical Society as we return to the Land of Lincoln in 2016!
More Information: https://www.fgsconference.org/

THE WITTE MUSEUM: MAJOR NEW MAP EXHIBIT OPENED APRIL 29
The Witte Museum and Texas General Land Office leaders are excited to announce Mapping Texas: From Frontier to the Lone Star State, a once-in-a-generation, collaborative exhibition covering nearly three hundred years of Texas mapping. The maps, dating from the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries, document the birth of Texas, the evolution of the physical and political boundaries of the state and the rise of the Alamo and San Antonio Missions.
https://medium.com/save-texas-history/mapping-texas-from-frontier-to-the-lone-star-state-ae941c8d0809#.t177t7izo

NGS Introduces Two New Research in the States Books: Florida and Texas
The National Genealogical Society (NGS) is pleased to announce the publication of two new books as part of its Research in the States series. The newest volumes are Research in Florida by Ann Staley, CGSM, CGLSM, and Amy Giroux, PhD, CG, CGL, and Research in Texas, by Kelvin L. Meyers. The books will be available for purchase in the NGS store beginning 10 May. NGS store: nsgsgenealogy.org/cs/research_in_the_states

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.

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.

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.
"Their Children Sleep Around"
From AGS Member Nan Kilkeary

This headstone is in the Lexington National Cemetery, part of a monument of the Hunt family, early founders of Lexington and still a prominent name in the city. Their many descendants are buried in three concentric circles around the monument . . . they literally “sleep around.” The statement doesn't have the same meaning then as now.

Got German Ancestors?
By AGS Member Robin Raben

If you have German ancestry like I do, you would have found Alan Rabe's presentation last month very informative! As a follow-up to

The Genealogical “Hail Mary!” Search
Leland Meitzler looks at German surname distribution maps for locating where your family may have lived

that here are a couple of resources you might be interested in.

An AGS member, Erin Garcia, sent in the above article she came across in Internet Genealogy magazine. It’s about some websites that help you figure out what town in Germany your surname is from. She thought it would be an interesting follow-up to the last meeting’s speaker who focused on German genealogy. For more information, see yourgenealogytoday.com

Have you tried the Ancestry Academy? I found a free webinar, Finding Ethnic Origins and Passenger Arrival Records, at ancestry.com/academy/course/ethnic-origins. This presentation is designed to guide you through the maze of records and policies that can lead you back to your ancestral homeland.

Join the German Genealogy Group at germangenealogygroup.com/. This website invites anyone with a Germanic heritage to join and share experiences as well as search their online databases. They were selected by Family Tree Magazine as one of the 75 best websites for US state research in 2015.

Want more? Check out Cyndi’s list of German genealogy sites on the internet at: http://www.cyndislist.com/germany/

Do you have a resource that you recommend for learning about and/or researching Germanic heritage? Please send it in to newsletter@austintxgensoc.org

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, Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. North Village Library, 2505 Steck Ave., Austin, TX 78757. 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/

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 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.austintxlibrary.org/genealogy

Indicates an official AGS activity
Hospitality Report from the April Meeting

**Topic:** Octoberfest and Researching Your German Genealogy
**Presented by:** Alan Rabe
**Attendance:** 78

**Welcome New Members!**
- Lenn Keller
- Paul Schumann
- Kathy Taylor

**Visitors:**
- Kristen Bell, Austin
- Carol Fritz, Austin
- Bonnie L. Miller, Austin
- Doris Peters, Georgetown

**Thank you to those who supported the April meeting!**
**Greeters:** Lori Henry and Glenda Martin
**Member to Member Table:** Nancy Stevens and Kay Boyd
**Sign-in Table:** Jean Marostica, Gary Pemberton, and Carol Mason
**Audio-visual guru:** John Marostica
**Hospitality/Food:** Shelley Augustin, Erin Garcia, Carolyn Gresham, Ron Richardson, Mary Root
**Hospitality Set-up:** Nancy Stevens and Carol Mason

I particularly thank John Marostica for his continued support with the Power Point, screen, microphone---all audio equipment and anything needed! -- **Missy Harris, Hospitality Chair**

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I particularly thank John Marostica for his continued support with the Power Point, screen, microphone---all audio equipment and anything needed! -- **Missy Harris, Hospitality Chair**
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
Registration at the door will be $45. For further info, contact seminar@austintxgensoc.org
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
Indicate Amount
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

Make checks payable to AGS. Your check is your receipt.
Mail to: AGS, Box 10010, Austin, TX 78766-1010

Total Amount Enclosed: ________
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