Have You Found the "Schatz" in Your Family Tree? by Cindy Foreman and Beverly Herring

The process of seeking and finding a “Schatz” in your genealogy research can be both very rewarding and frustrating at the same time. This presentation will provide two different paths on how to narrow your research, and focus on what you can find versus what you cannot find doing remote research.

Speakers: Cindy Foreman & Beverly Herring

Cindy Foreman grew up in Michigan but moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1974 where she attained her B.S. degree from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, in History Education. She moved to Texas, and in 2003 she was approved to be a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) member. She was President of the Austin Genealogy Society, 2008-2010, and Vice President of the West Virginia Genealogical Society.

Clean out your bookshelves!

We are planning a book sale for the August 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.
She has been actively researching her ancestors for the last 20 years, and in 2014 she spoke at the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference in San Antonio. Currently, she and Beverly Herring lead the Interactive Genealogy Group (IGG), a special interest group for genealogy.

Beverly Herring was born in Baytown, Texas, has lived in Texas her entire life, and couldn’t think of any other place to live other than Maui, Hawaii. She has spent over 32 years in the real estate industry as both a realtor and loan officer. Her interest in genealogy began 10 years ago when she joined the Wimberley genealogy group. She served as Treasurer of that group 2013 – 2015 and taught beginner classes for 3 years. In July, 2015, she and Cindy Foreman began the Interactive Genealogy Group (IGG) which meets in various libraries and/or facilities in the central Texas area doing interactive presentations and beginner genealogy classes.

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.

Welcome New Members!

Susan Fenner, Becky Kenin, Carolyn Rijos & Lisa Toth Salinas

AGS on FaceBook

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AGS 2017 QUARTERLY

VOL. 2 DEADLINE MAY 21

Click Here for submission guidelines.
Update on our Spring 2017 Member survey
by AGS Member Nan Kilkeary

Wow! 92 members replied to our request for feedback and insight. That's practically unheard of in the survey world, and is a testament to your involvement.

We'll be reporting in more detail at the May meeting, but here, briefly, is what you said:

Families generate genealogists. Most of you had genealogists in your family, or became curious about your family stories and got into genealogy.

You are much more interested in genealogy than in Texas genealogy. Our board members said "of course," since so many genealogists had moved to Austin for Austin, and not for Texas ancestors.

You want to know more about how to use Austin and Texas resources.

Most of our members are approaching intermediate status, are intermediate, or are somewhere between intermediate and advanced.

You come to meetings for the education. You would like to socialize more.

The meeting location, the nighttime schedule, driving at night and driving on Austin expressways are problematic for many members and inhibit their ability to attend meetings.

You gave us a lot of ideas. More research trips to distant archives are at the top of your want list.

If this brief list shakes something loose in your head you want to share, email me! (My email is in the membership directory.)

From the President's Corner

Writing SIG (private group) -
AGS Members interested in writing a personal or family history are encouraged to join this Facebook group and attend the monthly meetings (see below for details.)
“Liking” our pages helps get the message out to more people on Facebook! Please "like" posts when you see them to help market our Society.

CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR!
The latest schedule for AGS events is always available on the website here.

AGS DNA SIG
First Tuesday of every month. Next meeting:
June 6th, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Pok-E-Joe's
2121 Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78727
Three blocks east of Mopac on Parmer Lane

Meetings will be based on the book: *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* by Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne. The June meeting will focus on chapter 4.

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
We had an awesome seminar with Thomas Jones last month! I personally want to thank Dianne Holley for doing a tremendous job coordinating this event. I also want to thank all the volunteers who assisted her in making it such a success. An event like this does not happen by itself. I witnessed many dedicated and hard-working members pull together where needed and with a smile on their face while doing it. What great members we have!

Nan Kilkeary has been working hard on the membership survey she sent out in March and April. You will find her initial results in an article in this month’s newsletter. Thank you to all of you who took time to send in your feedback!

As always, don’t forget to check out the calendar of events on our homepage www.austintxgensoc.org That is where you’ll find information about our meetings, SIGs, and classes.

I hope to see you at our May meeting!

It’s time to renew, if you haven’t.

If you (or someone you know) hasn’t renewed your AGS membership for 2017, we miss you and we want you to be part of the group.

Where else can you get all the genealogy help and history, along with like-minded associates who think your family search is fascinating?

We’ve just had two wonderful workshops and a whole day of inspiration from Thomas Jones, renowned

$36.06 for non-members.

Everyone interested in DNA for genealogy is welcome.

More information

AGS Writing SIG
Second Thursday of every month - no meeting in December
Thursday, June 8, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Mimi’s Cafe, 10515 N. Mopac Exp’y, Austin, TX 78758 (in the Arborwalk)
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
genealogy teacher and author of the essential *Mastering Genealogy Proof*.

Next year’s seminar speaker is Blaine Bettinger, who is probably the leading authority on using DNA in genealogy. As a special bonus, he has a gift for making the subject accessible to folks who have just recognized that DNA can help them find their families. Members get a discount to two days of his expertise.

Our programs continue to be outstanding. Looking ahead, we’ll be focusing a little more on genealogy techniques and a little less on Texas ancestors, since so many of our Austin-area immigrants love Texas but don’t have family connections here.

Our recent member survey indicated that more research trips to prominent archives are at the top of the want list. We’re looking for trip leaders and have started planning. Members only.

Let us put your name back on the membership rolls! A little price for a lot of benefits.

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**Upcoming Events and Resources**

**Texas General Land Office**

![Save Texas History and Get a T-Shirt!](image)

**Save Texas History and Get a T-Shirt!**

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.”

**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*

- **23-May** Have You Found the “Schatz” in Your Family Tree? by Cindy Foreman & Beverly Herring
- **27-June** Forensic Genealogy, Finding the Living by Kelvin Meyer
- **25-July** Building a Family Web Site by Sandra Crowley
- **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, The Archives Wars by James Harkins

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**More Information**
A new DAR Chapter is forming NOW in Williamson County!

Informational Meeting
Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 2:30 pm in Cedar Park
You may be eligible to join the DAR if you believe you have an ancestor who participated in or contributed to the Revolutionary War effort, or if your mother, grandmother, aunt or cousin was a member of the DAR. If you believe you are eligible, you are cordially invited to an informational meeting. We will have members on hand to answer any questions you might have. Please call or email Sally Hunt, Organizing Regent, to reserve your seat and get location information at 512-868-5369 or CedarParkDAR@gmail.com.

That She May Marry Again: Private Laws of Federal and State Government
Bastrop Genealogical Society
Bastrop Public Library, 1100 Church St, Bastrop, TX 78602
Saturday, June 10, 1:00 Meeting / 2:00 Program
Guests welcome!

More Information

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 of 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
38th Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference
September 28 – 30, 2017
Crowne Plaza Hotel
6121 North IH-35, Austin, Texas 78752
Celebrate 500 years of Tejano history!

AGSContributes to the Austin Tejano Society

The AGS board at its last meeting approved a $500 grant to the Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin, in keeping with our mission of community outreach.

The money will delay advance costs for the their hosting of the Texas Tejano societies conference being held here in Austin September 28 to 30 this year.

All AGS members are invited to attend.

State Button Society Elects Austinite (and AGS Member) as New President

Austinite and AGS Member Mary Todd is the newly elected president of Texas State Button Society (TSBS). Before retiring, Todd was Director of Public Sector Campaigns for Capital Area United Way, and previously with the United Way of Tarrant County. Her non-profit work followed a 30-year career in the United States Air Force, which gave her the opportunity to travel and live in various parts of the world.

Todd said, “During my two-year tenure as TSBS president, I hope we can increase the visibility of the society and of the 10 local clubs throughout Texas. We

Monday, June 12, 10:30a-Noon
Using FamilySearch.org - Dianne Holley
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 May 12.

FamilySearch.org – it’s all about the records and this genealogy site is FREE – the world’s largest free genealogy website is as close as your internet-connected computer. In this class you will learn how to begin to use this site to support your research. From family trees to census records to church and tax records, and much, much more, learn how and why this source is a genealogy researcher’s best friend.

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.
Registration will open on June 1.

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
wish to inform the public about the joy of collecting these little pieces of art, of displaying them in a variety of ways, of discovering their history, and of meeting others who share our hobby."

Established in 1971, TSBS encourages and promotes collecting buttons for educational and historical purposes; for personal enjoyment; and to preserve for future generations all that is beautiful and historical in buttons.

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 genealogically rich record.

"I inherited hundreds of buttons from my mother, Hazel Witzel, a collector for 70-plus years. I always loved her stories about the collections and was fascinated by the art of button design and manufacture.

"After retiring in 2005, I discovered the Austin Button Club and the joy of adding to her collection. I joined the club and later the Texas State Button Society and the National Button Society. Button collecting blends well with another hobby, family history: Both involve thoughtful research and exciting discoveries," she added. "I am also a member of the Austin Genealogical Society."
Active clubs associated with TSBS are in Austin, Burnet, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Angelo, San Antonio, Temple, Waco and Whitewright. For more information, visit the website texasstatebuttonsociety.com or contact Mary Todd, President, 512-892-4265, witzel.todd@gmail.com.

(TSBS photo) TSBS officers: Secretary Judye Stewart (Llano); Treasurer Sadie Jackman (Dallas); Vice President Barbara Hefner (Llano); President Mary Todd (Austin).

AGS Volunteers - Can You Help Us?
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 research trip coordinator positions. Our recent membership survey noted that several members asked for more research trips. We need people to volunteer to coordinate these trips. Here is a short description of the two types of trips we have sponsored in the past.

Within Texas Research trip coordinator(s)
2-3 month commitment; 20 – 30 hours over that time
Duties: We have great research libraries in Texas. Would you be interested in coordinating a day research trip to one of them? You research the library, pick a date, secure board approval, advertise to AGS members, and have fun on the trip.

Long Distance Research trip coordinator(s)
6-8 month commitment; 30 – 40 hours over that time
Duties: We have great research libraries all over the US.

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 will open on August 16.

Have you ever wondered how to draw those land descriptions from the rectangular survey system? This system was used in the Federal Land states to survey and sell the land to private citizens. 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, October 28, 10:30a-Noon
DNA for Beginners - Instructor TBD
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 September 28.

This class will go over some of the basics needed to get started with DNA testing for genealogical purposes.

Saturday, December 9, 10:30a-Noon
How to Teach a Genealogy Class – Panel and Workshop
North Village Branch Library
2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757
Would you be interested in coordinating a week long research trip to one of them? You research the library, pick a date, work with the board, advertise to AGS members, and have fun on the trip.

I put "(s)" at the end of these positions because it is always easier when two people work together. It takes the pressure off because you can help each other and cover for each other when life happens. There are AGS members who have coordinated these trips in the past, and you can be put in contact with them for pointers. If you are interested, please contact me, Debbe Tipping, at dtipping@att.net or 512-341-7932.

Please refer to our February Newsletter at this link for more information about the other volunteer opportunities:

- Greeters
- Meeting Desk Check-In
- Publications Review Team (proof readers)
- Newsletter (contributors)
- Set Up and Clean Up (snack table only)
- Snacks
- Publicity Chair(s)
- Publicity - Austin Genealogical Society Facebook Page “Likers” and "Clickers"
- Publicity – Community Calendars
- Publicity – Community Newsletter Liaison(s)
- Grant Coordinator(s)
- Message Board Moderators
- Web page help(ers) with WordPress

**Resources on the AGS Website**

By AGS Member John Marostica

I have recently discovered that not many AGS members are aware of the research information that can be found under the RESOURCES tab on the AGS website. Over the years, AGS members have taken the time to research and compile historical Travis county and local information in order to make it available to everyone on our website.

The RESOURCES tab provides listings of Local Genealogy Resources and Other Major Genealogy Resources on the AGS Website.
Libraries in Texas, where you can find information for Austin and surrounding counties, links for major Texas libraries, the German and Czech heritage and even a link for free, useful genealogy forms.

Under CEMETRIES you will find the results of extensive work done by AGS members on the Travis County Cemetery Project; a work still in progress. You will find an alphabetical listing of persons buried in these cemeteries.

PIONEERS will get you to a list of 55 or so persons that have been awarded a Pioneer Certificate. To earn a certificate, a person must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who lived in Travis County on or before December 31, 1880.

RECORDS contains so much information that I decided to list the contents available on the opening page [see below]. These are Travis county records that have been compiled by AGS members, and represent the county's earliest records. Travis County is one of the oldest counties in Texas created in 1840, and named for William Barrett Travis. Every one of these links opens to its own set of page(s). There is a lot of information here!

Austin and Travis County Records
Vital Records: Birth, Marriage, Death
- Early Travis County Births
- Travis County Marriages, 1846-1882
- St. Mary’s Catholic Church Austin Texas Marriage Records, 1853-1875
- AGS Travis County Cemeteries
- Oakwood Sexton Records, 1859-1866
- Travis County Obituaries

Census & Voter lists
- 1850 Texas Census Records
- 1860 Travis County Mortality Schedule
- 1870 Travis County Mortality Schedule
- 1873 Voter Registration List
- 1875 Austin Census
- 1892 Voter Registration List

Church
- Baptisms and Burials for St. David's Episcopal

A genealogist’s filing system usually incorporates the floor.

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

What’s on the AGS Website?
Have you ever wanted to look at a handout from a meeting you attended but just can’t find it? Never fear - we post them on the Members Only page of our website! austintxgensoc.org/members-only/#handout

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.
Church, Austin, Texas: Parish Register 1859-1866

School
• The Texas German and English Academy, 1876-1902
• Graduates of Austin City Schools

Miscellaneous
• Travis County Naturalization Records
• Travis County Poor Farm Ledger
• Austin History Center Newspaper Index, July 26, 1871-Dec 21, 1877
• 1872 Austin City Directory
• 1903 Austin Confederate Veterans

Lastly, is the SURNAME tab. This is an alphabetical list of surnames, submitted by AGS members, showing the area of interest for the search and the name of who is looking for that surname. Perhaps someone else is looking for the same surname you are – perhaps you could compare notes and help each other…

You are encouraged to make use of this valuable information and let others know it is here!

C.A.R. Organization Inspires Today's Youth
Submitted by Heidi Slocum, Membership Services
N.S.C.A.R. Headquarters

Have you heard about the C.A.R. (Children of the American Revolution)? C.A.R. is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1895 to instill patriotic values in our country’s youth. They are a member-driven organization with members from birth to 22 years of age who are descendants of Revolutionary Patriots. C.A.R. strives to teach children about American history, public speaking, and leadership. They have approximately 600 local societies nationally and internationally for children to be involved with, as well as state societies and a national society. For each member position, they have a senior counterpart to guide the member in leading the direction of their society.

2017 AGS Board of Directors

Terms ending 2017:
Marcia Arn
Teresa Devine
Erin Garcia
Jean Marostica
Anne Mamiya
Cari Taplin

Terms ending 2018:
James E. Bridges
Dianne Holley
Nan Kilkeary
Rob Richardson
Jean Shroyer
Debbe Tipping

2017 AGS Officers

President Anne Mamiya
1st VP Nan Kilkeary
2nd VP Marcia Arn
Secretary Debbé Tipping
Treasurer Erin Garcia

Got something for the newsletter? Submissions are welcome - due the first day of the month for each submission. newsletter@ austintxgensoc.org
Each year, they have a National Project. This year’s project, led by National President Connor Jackson, is called Freedom’s Thunder, with the goal to raise funds for the artillery firing station at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. More details on this exciting project can be found on their website http://www.nscar.org/Documents/NationalProgramProject/201617Packet.pdf.

April Meeting Recap

Topic: Who Were the Wends?
Speaker: Weldon Mersiovsky P.B.D.
is wearing a traditional Wendish costume

**Meeting in Review**
By AGS Board Member Rob Richardson

The AGS monthly meetings are a great way to expand your genealogical skill-set while connecting with like-minded people. The April meeting was a prime example of that. Speaker Mersiovsky provided AGS attendees with a valuable case study of how genealogy was used as a vital tool in the preservation of the culture and tradition of a group of early Texas immigrants, the Wends.

The presentation showcased exactly how a group of dedicated people with a passion for genealogy and history can work together to preserve the story of their ancestors; in this case, a people who migrated together, settled together, and worked to sustain their old traditions in their new Texas home.

The Wend's original home was Lusatia, in Eastern Germany. But the Wends are Slavic, not German. In Germany, the Wend's ethnic identity was constantly under threat from the dominant German culture. As a consequence, they immigrated to Texas beginning in 1854 in order to save their faith, their language, and their culture.

Today the Wendish Society continues that good fight. Their museum is located a few miles south of Giddings in Serbin, Texas, not too far from the primary Wendish church, St. Paul's Lutheran. The results of the research done by Wendish genealogists and historians have been placed on the website of the Wendish Research Exchange (www.wendishresearch.org).

Thanks to Mr. Mersiovsky for a colorful and informative presentation.
April Meeting Attendance

Thanks to our volunteers!
Sign-in table - Judith Morris, Thomas Morris & Judith Williamson.
Set Up - Shelley Augustin
Snacks - Shelley Augustin, Carolyn Cobb, Teresa Devine, & Betty Jean Steinke.
Greeter - Susan Shaw
Clean Up - Robin Raben
Looking Up Family Trees.

Ahem! An amusing and somewhat judgmental article submitted by Debbe Tipping. She says, "I found this article on a research trip before I knew how to properly cite newspaper articles. It is a second run article. I found it in a Wisconsin newspaper." Thanks Debbe!
