November 25
Fall Festival & How Austin Came to Be

The AGS Fall Festival is a tradition that was started a number of years ago and has become a wonderful way to share the bounty and the warmth of the holiday season with many AGS friends. We will eat and socialize at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 we will have our program. Many members have signed up to bring their favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert. If you haven’t signed up, be sure to RSVP to Kay, at mkdb1405@gmail.com , no later than Sunday, November 23rd.

Many AGS members live in Austin, but have no roots in Austin or in Texas. Then there are those members who are from Austin and always have been. Do both groups of people know how Austin came to be? Teri will share her knowledge of this as we have our last AGS meeting of 2014.

Long-time AGS member, Teri E. Flack, is a genealogy and historical researcher, consultant, and lecturer. Preserving records and ensuring access to them is one of her passions. She chairs the Texas State Genealogical Society’s Records Preservation and Access Committee and serves as the Texas state liaison to the national RPAC. She’s a member of the Travis County Historical Commission and serves as the Travis County historical marker chair. Teri volunteers at the Texas State Archives, working on a project to preserve and make accessible to the public over 1,000 volumes and 300 cubic feet of Galveston County records from the 19th and 20th centuries. Teri spent much of her career working with the Texas Legislature on higher education and consumer protection issues. She used that experience in 2013 to work with the genealogical community in Texas to prevent legislation from passing that would have further restricted access to Texas birth and death records.
AGS Board Meeting, Oct. 28, 2014

Board Members present: Marcia Arn, Inez Eppright, Missy Harris, Patricia Thompson, Anne Mamiya, Carol Mason, Kathy Pemberton, and Jane Schwendinger. Board Members not present: Karin Nelson, Winnie Noelke, Don Villoni and Lisa Smith-Curtean. Also in attendance: Jim Bridges and Robin Raben.

September Minutes Minutes of the September 2014 AGS Board meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report The October treasurer’s report was accepted.

Bank Statement Inez Eppright, who does the bank statement review, reported that the July, August and September bank statements were in order.

Membership AGS has 382 members.

Programs Marcia Arn presented a talk on October 13 to the Great Hills Ladies Club for which AGS received a $25 donation. Marcia read a list of speakers for the eight confirmed meetings in 2015. She advised there would be no handout for the October meeting, but that the information would be uploaded to the website when the speaker prepares and submits it.

Old Business

Texas State Library Donation An additional book was purchased with the money remaining from the donation given in honor of Emma Gene Gentry. It was presented to TSLA.

Fort Wayne Research Trip There were fourteen attendees on the successful trip. There was about $70 remaining from the trip.

Texas Book Festival The festival was held October 25 and 26. Jane will be drawing for free memberships from attendees who signed up— one membership from each day. She recommended we ask for Booth 311 at the Festival next year.

Austin Archives Bazaar It was recommended that AGS attend these types of meetings to promote the Society and meet others from the community beneficial to AGS.

2015 AGS Seminar Discussion of the 2015 seminar topics with speaker Judy Russell was tabled for the time being. Discussion of the seminar bags was also tabled for the time being.

Webinar The Thomas MacEntee Webinar will continue to be worked on.

New Business

2016 MacEntee Agreement The board voted to accept his agreement except for the use of an LED projector. Additionally, the budget was revised to pay 1/2 of MacEntee’s Fee. The budget was revised in order to pay $750 to MacEntee for 1/2 of his fee.

Membership Fees for 2015 A motion was made to keep membership fees and donation categories for 2015 the same as they were for 2014.

Budgeted Charitable Donations There is $464 left in the budget for charitable donations in 2014. Suggestions for using this money included the War of 1812, a donation to TSL, and a donation to the Texas GLO. The decision was made to donate the amount to Texas GLO for preservation of documents.

Newsletter Editor A newsletter editor will be needed for 2015 and the board would prefer a board member for that position.

AGS Quarterly It was discussed that AGS Quarterlies need to be published on a more consistent basis.

Education Chair An education chair is needed for 2015.

Honorariums for Out of Area Speakers It was recommended that the amount be $100 and planning for that in the future budgets needs to occur.

Refreshment Table A new volunteer is needed to replace Sheila Sargent, who will not be continuing in this position.

Miscellaneous Committees There is a need for additional people on several committees.

Website Costs There was discussion on the need to add Jot Form amounts to the budget. A motion was made to increase the budget up to $60 to cover 2014 and January 2015 Jot Form expenses. Before this occurs, a report is needed from Lisa Smith-Curtean, acting in her capacity as webmaster.
FROM THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Some days it seems like I just became the president of AGS, and other days it seems like I’ve been doing this forever. Time does fly when I’m having fun. I have enjoyed serving the Austin Genealogical Society as president.

As I “retire,” I want to thank all those who have supported my efforts as president as well as those who have helped make all the great things AGS has to offer happen. Without the many dedicated volunteers, our Society wouldn’t be nearly as outstanding as it is. Some have volunteered countless hours to make programs, seminars, blasts, classes, newsletters, Quartlies, and the website help you with your genealogy. Others have volunteered to keep the society going via behind-the-scenes activities, such as attending board meetings and keeping the Society finances straight. Also retiring is Sheila Sargent who has tended the all-important refreshment table for many years. Thanks Sheila for your many years of successfully keeping us delightfully fed prior to our meetings. Thanks also to Sharon Foley for her many years of service as Program Chair, President, and Newsletter Editor with her husband Bob. Sharon deserves a break! I want to thank my husband Jim who has endured a house full of brochures, fliers, and general “stuff,” as well as my unavailability while I’m “doing AGS”! Once I’m retired, I will continue to support the Society in whatever way I can—when I’m not busy catching up on my own genealogical research that has taken a back seat to the Society, travelling, and grandmothering.

I encourage you to step up and volunteer. Too few are doing too much and could use some help. I’ve met so many interesting people who share my love of family history through volunteering for AGS. Try it…you’ll love it!

I wish the incoming president all the success and support necessary to meet the expectations of the members and the goals of the Society.

Jane Schwendinger

Local Genealogy Opportunities

There are many opportunities to participate in genealogical activities in Austin and in nearby communities. The list below includes information on regularly occurring meetings in which AGS members may wish to participate.

AGS British Isle Genealogy Special Interest Group meets via email to exchange information. Contact Jane Schwendinger at janesc@earthlink.net. This is an official AGS activity.

Austin Gen SIG, meets from 1:00-3:00 P.M. the second Saturday of the month at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Drive. This SIG is a part of Computer Club of Austin and is not an AGS affiliated group. http://www.austingensig.com/

Bastrop Genealogy Society meets at 1:00 P.M. on the second Saturday of the month at Pressley Meeting Room, Bastrop Public Library. http://www.bastroplibrary.org/genealogy/bastrop-genealogical-society-monthly-meeting.html. The November 8th meeting will feature Sara Gredler as the speaker, Her topic is “Putting Your Family in Context.”

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 BartonCreek Blvd., Austin. Rjenkins7@austin.rr.com

Burnet County Genealogy Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:15 in the meeting room at the Herman Brown Free Library on the square in Burnet. http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txburnet/BCGS.html

Williamson County Genealogical Society meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Round Rock Public Library. Social time at 7:00 with the meeting at 7:30. http://www.williamsonxgenealogy.org/
AGS Proudly Presents Our Program Plans for 2015

I’m going to editorialize a bit on these just because I can. I hope that you don’t mind. You can’t fire me! It’s my last newsletter.

January 27  Unusual Source Records for Genealogical Research – or this is some Cool Stuff!
Presented by Sue Kaufman from Clayton Library in Houston.
(You know Sue. She is always entertaining while being informative. If you miss this great jump start to our year, you’ll be sorry.)

February 24  Using Family Search to Solve Genealogical Research Problems - Case Study
Presented by Cherie Bush from Family Search
(I got to know Cherie when I worked on the TSGS Conference in 2013.
We are very lucky to be bringing her in from Salt Lake City.)

March 24  Research Strategies for Everyone
Presented by Teri Flack
(I’m not sure I even need to say that AGS members enjoy everything that Teri presents. And she is always developing new presentations. How does she do that!?)

April 28  Digging Up the Bones of Your Home
Presented by Phoebe Allen
(It has been a few years since we’ve heard from Phoebe. Her topic reminds me of the HGTV program, If Walls Could Talk.)

May 26  No AGS meeting this month– Plan to attend the AGS Seminar on Saturday, May 30.
The seminar speaker will be Judy Russell, Legal Genealogist.

June 23  To Be Determined
(Who doesn’t like a surprise? It will be GOOD.)

July 28  Using Perry Castanada’s Library for Genealogy
Presented by Katherine Strickland
(Katharine was dynamic and interesting in 2014. I’m delighted that she is returning.)

August 25  Earning a Living: Your Ancestors at Work
Presented by Pat Gordon
(Maybe we’ll find out how to find out that they weren’t ALL farmers.)

September 22  World War I: One Hundred Years of Records
Presented by Debbie Pearson from Fort Worth Genealogical Society
(If you are like me, the only thing you know about WWI records is that you can find registrations. I bet we’ll find out that there is more.)

October 27  Talking to Elders to Record Family History
Presented by Mary Scrudder
(Did you begin to write your stories after her presentation in 2014? She took the ‘scary’ out of it.)

November 24  Our Annual Fall Festival and Dinner– Presenter to be determined.
In Sympathy

Ursula Louise Jeffrey Gaines passed away on October 3, 2014 in a hospital in Little Rock where she was being treated for multiple myeloma. Ursula was born in Lockhart and attended public schools there before attending the University of Texas. While at UT, she met her husband-to-be, Jim Gaines. Ursula was named for her grandmother Ursula Miley and her mother Louise Byrne. She was proud of her Jeffrey, Miley, McGehee, and Byrne heritage. After living in California for many years, Ursula and Jim returned to Texas to live. Ursula was a talented artist. She documented life events by writing short stories for her children. Several years ago she and Jim traveled to Kilcar, County Donegal, Ireland, and visited the home of her Byrne ancestors. Ursula fought her multiple myeloma for ten years, but never let the disease define her. Ursula is survived by Jim, her husband of 55 years, her four children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Memorial services will be conducted in Lockhart.

Retiring Newsletter Editor(s)

(That’s ME and my husband Bob on an occasional basis.)

We’ve enjoyed doing the AGS Newsletter for the past two years. It has been fun to find interesting, informative, and helpful items to include in our monthly epistle. Some months there were lots of things happening, and we were supplied with an abundance of great content. That helped immensely. But on some months, we had lots of searching to do for content.

A huge thank you to those members who helped provide content! I should name a few of them and hope that I am not leaving anyone out. Here’s my list: Kay Boyd, Earl McBride, Jane Schwendinger, Bob Tieman, and Janis Trayler. They provided everything from tombstone photos to member information and updates to information regarding events that might be of interest to family researchers. I must thank the excellent proof-readers. Kay Boyd was my accuracy of information checker. Jean Marostica made sure that links always worked. Barbara Innis is a master, and I do mean master, of the comma. She never misses a typo, spelling error, or an errant bit of punctuation.

I’ll still be around, but in not such a ‘deadline’ kind of way. Your new newsletter editor will be Robin Raben. She is also new to the AGS board, and she (gasp!) volunteered for this task. She’ll be fabulous. So in January, please welcome Robin.

Sharon Foley

Attention Must be Paid To Our Ancestors…. I like that line, so I’m including it.
As our AGS year winds down, a look back at our 2014 programs

How many did you attend?

Jan 28- Rescheduled in June due to inclement weather.
Feb 25- General Land Office Tour: What is Available at the GLO-James Harkins
Mar 25- Using Evernote to Organize Your Genealogical Research-Caroline Pointer
Apr 22-Copyright & Intellectual Property Law for Genealogists-Matthew J. Booth, Atty.
May 27- Effectively Using Family Search for Research-Dave Anderton
June 24- Maps & Online Resources at the Perry-Castaneda Library-Katherine Strickland
Jul 22- How to Write Short Stories About Your Family History-Mary Scrudder
Aug 26- Scrapbooking with Heritage Makers to Excite Your Family History-Luci Anderson
Sep 23- DNA: Using DNA for Genealogy-Debbie Parker Wayne
Oct 28- Lineage Societies: Helping You Find Your Tree in the Forest-Charlene Mullenweg

More still to come!
Nov 25 Fall Festival How Austin Came to be presented by Teri Flack.

What a disappointment! So the DNA doesn’t prove the identity of Jack-the-Ripper.

Here’s the follow-up article that provides the reasons why we just “can’t believe everything you read.” (Those are some of my dad's favorite words of wisdom, and I give him more credibility all the time.)

http://blog.eogn.com/2014/10/20/update-was-jack-the-ripper-really-identified-through-dna-no/
Something Fun to Do in December When There are No Genealogical Activities

19th Annual German Christmas Market
Presented by the German-Texan Heritage Society
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2014
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Tax-Free Event

Shopping:
Traditional handcrafted items from the Erzgebirge region of Germany incl. pyramids, nutcrackers, candle arches, ornaments, smokers & linens.

Refreshments:
German style baked goods for sale & complimentary Glühwein (hot spiced wine)

Entertainment:
Austin Saengerrunde
Visits from St Nick & Santa

Post Sale Dates: Dec. 10 & 11, 2014 - 10 AM - 4 PM (not tax-free)

Frohe Weihnachten ya’ll!
More information at www.germantexans.org

While you are there, look for the Save Austin’s Cemeteries table.
(Have you seen their recent book?)

Gifts for the Genealogist
If you need to give a genealogy friend a gift, or if you want to provide ideas for yourself, here are some websites that have a wide variety of items and ideas.

Zazzle http://www.zazzle.com/genealogists+gifts Prices from $5 on up.
Family Tree Magazine has a list of 10 Best Genealogy Gifts for the Holidays http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/best_genealogy_gifts
Pinterest has Family History Crafts and Gifts ideas http://www.pinterest.com/familytreemag/family-history-crafts-gifts/
A website titled One Rhode Island Family has 50 ideas. Some of them are ideas for items you can make or things to do. http://onerhodeislandfamily.com/2013/11/29/50-gifts-for-genealogists-this-christmas/
Fun Stuff for Genealogists They’ve been around awhile. Perhaps you’ve visited their booth at a conference. Good stuff. Here’s the link to their catalog. http://funstuffforgenealogists.com/store/enter.html
HOSPITALITY REPORT

Refreshments for October were provided by Jane Schwendinger, Shirley Roberts, Shirley Meyer, and Kay Boyd.

October greeters were Shirley Roberts and Robin Raben.

Sign-in table volunteers were Jean Marostica, Gary Pemberton, and Arlene Zirkel.

Attendance for October was 65 members plus 5 guests and the speaker for a total of 71 attendees.

Our visitors were:
Ailana Larson, ailanahaina@yahoo.com
Connie Cabezas, conniecabezas@yahoo.com
Ann Elbert, aebert@sbcglobal.net
David Smith
Pat Watson, patkerbey@juno.com Pat also became our newest member that evening.

Refreshments for November will be provided by all attendees bringing a dish to share, and Rudy’s barbeque purchased by AGS funds.
Austin Genealogical Society
Membership Form

☐ New member
☐ Renewal of 2014 membership
☐ Returning Member (prior to 2014)

Membership Dues

— Individual $20
— Family $30

Supporting Donation (in addition to dues above)

— Friend of AGS add $20
— Sponsor of AGS add $30
— Patron of AGS add $80

$________ TOTAL DUES & DONATION

Volunteers make a difference! Please mark any of these projects you are willing to assist us with — and Thank You!

☐ Seminar Committee
☐ Program Committee
☐ Education Committee or Instructor
☐ Speaker
☐ Hospitality and Refreshment Planning
☐ One-time Special Event Volunteer
☐ Membership & Registration
☐ Publicity

Member Information

Name: ____________________________ Spouse (if member): ____________________________
Email: ____________________________ Spouse email: ____________________________
Mailing address: ____________________________ Cell Phone: ____________________________
Home Phone: ____________________________

May we list this information in our membership directory?  ☐ yes  ☐ no

Surname: list up to eight surnames and locations for posting on the AGS website, or indicate “no changes”.

Surname 1: ____________________________ Location: ____________________________
Surname 2: ____________________________ Location: ____________________________
Surname 3: ____________________________ Location: ____________________________
Surname 4: ____________________________ Location: ____________________________
Surname 5: ____________________________ Location: ____________________________
Surname 6: ____________________________ Location: ____________________________
Surname 7: ____________________________ Location: ____________________________
Surname 8: ____________________________ Location: ____________________________

☐ No changes to surname listings

Please mail this form with your payment to:
Austin Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, TX 78766-1010
Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
( except December)
Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, TX 78759

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME