

THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19, Issue 9 [http:// AustinTxGenSoc.org](http://AustinTxGenSoc.org) Sept.2013

Austin Genealogical Meeting Tuesday, September 24, 2013

“Social Media: Cousin Bait and Partners in Crime”

Presented by Randy Whited

Randy Whited will discuss and address audience questions on just what is social media and how it can be used for family history research. From online trees to blogs to photo sharing, learn how social media can connect you to other family members, researchers, and resources.



Randy W. Whited has been an avid genealogist for over thirty years and is an active member of several genealogical organizations. A Director with the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Randy is chairman of its Education committee. and the host of FGS’ web radio program, My Society. He is also serving on the Boards of Directors of the Texas State Genealogical Society and the Williamson County Genealogical Society, serving as webmaster for both organizations.



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AGS Business: *From the Minutes of the Board Meeting*

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, August 27, 2013, prior to the regular AGS meeting. Members present were Inez Eppright, Carolyn Gresham, Leslie Inman, Missy Harris, Marcia Arn, Anne Mamiya, Karin Nelson, Jane Schwendinger, Randy Whited and Jacquie Wilson. Teri Flack and Jennifer Whitley were not present. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as submitted. The following items were discussed.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for July was submitted and accepted.

Bank Statement

The July 2013 bank statement has been reviewed, and it is in agreement with the treasurer's records.

Seminar

The September 7th Seminar efforts are going well. Volunteers are being acquired for various 'jobs' at the seminar.

Membership

The total number of AGS members stands at 358, including the half year memberships recently added.

By-Laws

The amended AGS By-Laws would be voted on at the general meeting August 27.

TSGS

Volunteers were needed to sit at the AGS table at the TSGS Conference on Nov.1 and 2. Those volunteers are Karin Nelson, Inez Eppright, and Leslie Inman .

LOGO Repair

There was discussion regarding the appearance of the logo for AGS in which some of the words included appear to include apostrophes where none are intended. It was decided to not do any logo repair at the present time. Repair depends on where the logo would be used in the future.

Extra Bags

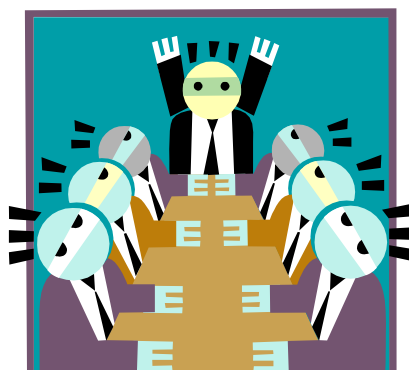
It is unlikely that there will be bags remaining from those that were ordered for the seminar because of high registrations numbers for the seminar. It's possible that there will not be enough bags for walk-ins.

Projector

It was decided to not sell the old projector. It will be kept as a back-up and to use at speaking opportunities other than AGS meetings.

General Membership Meeting

The general membership meeting followed the board meeting. President Jane Schwendinger called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. to vote on the amended by-laws. Ashton Mouton, Jr. made a motion that the amended AGS By-Laws be accepted and Earle McBride seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned after Janis Traylor thanked all those who had worked on the AGS By-Laws during the past year.



One of AGS's Finest
ROBERT SAGE

It's time to highlight an AGS member, Robert Sage, who is quietly very active in contributing to the entire genealogical community. Much of the information on records and cemetery inventories on the AGS website are his work. But this month he deserves special mention. He has been recognized for his work with Vietnam Veterans in the recent edition of the VFW magazine. Robert has been posting information on the vets for many years on the Virtual Vietnam Veterans Wall of Faces. Robert is a major contributor to the Coffelt Database.



The Coffelt Group consists of a very few people who, by dint of untold thousands of hours of work, have identified the unit assignments, circumstances of death, and location of burial of our Vietnam dead. Richard Coffelt was the first person to make a dedicated effort to identify the unit assignments of the Army's Vietnam dead, and did so with only the assistance of his wife Jo Ann Jennings until the late 1990s. From his work many family members have learned more about their fathers and other servicemen who served in Vietnam.

Robert Sage served as a combat engineer with the 15th Engineer Battalion (68-69) and the 571st Combat Engineer Co (69-70). His contributions to the database include - but are not limited to - over 80,000 photographs of documents held in the LBJ and Nixon Presidential Libraries and the National Archives, and he has provided burial locations for over 47,000 men and women.

Here is the link to the article about Robert: <http://www.coffeltdatabase.org/about.php>

In the last 3 years, Robert has also posted over 23,000 photos and information to Find A Grave.

CEMETERY CORNER



Vietnam Memorial Wall
Washington, DC

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the Seminar approaches, I am so thankful for all the volunteers who have spent countless hours working on the arrangements. So much work and planning behind the scenes goes into hosting a Seminar. I'm sure you will gain much from hearing Lisa Alzo speak.

The August meeting, which featured Special Topic Tables, provided many opportunities for me and other members to get to know one another. Often I know someone by name, but not by face. Getting to know other members is one of the great benefits of belonging to AGS and participating in numerous events. Traveling to a distant library for a day or a week with other members offers the best opportunity. Be looking for information about our trip to Ft. Wayne to conduct research in the Allen County Library.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who either was on a committee to amend the Bylaws, or offered suggestions for change. While it took a very long time, the Bylaws are much improved and should be useful for years to come.

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 janesca@earthlink.net.

Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group 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.
<http://www.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 BartonCreek Blvd., Austin. Rjenkins7@austin.rr.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 theme this year for the Annual Conference of the German-Texan Heritage Society is *Adventures In German-Texan Heritage*. The event will be held September 20th & 21st, Winedale Conference Center, near Round Top/Brenham. The GTHS website, www.GermanTexans.org/ has a complete schedule of interesting events, speakers, and great sounding German food. There is also a downloadable registration form on the website. Don't miss this fun event.

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.williamsontxgenealogy.org/> September program: "Document Analysis 201" Karen Matheson and Rebecca Broadbent



CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Linda Milligan whose sister, Cynthia Milligan Farris, passed away on Aug. 14, 2013 in Corpus Christi at age 60.

Our condolences to AGS member, Karen Fonken, who lost her mother Carolyn on Friday, August 23. Carolyn Fonken was a long time active member of AGS before her illness. Carolyn led an interesting life. **Her obituary will be of interest to all genealogists.**



Carolyn Lee Fonken, aged 82 years, passed from physical life to continue living in the hearts and memories of her family and friends early Friday, August 23, 2013. She was born June 30, 1931 in Sacramento, California to William Stay, a son of Norwegian immigrants, and Stella Watson, a daughter born to settlers in the Oklahoma Indian Territory.

Carolyn was highly intelligent, independent of spirit, and adventurous, moving through life with an insatiable curiosity, emotional and physical resilience, and a natural elegance. She spent her childhood running barefoot through the vineyards and orchards of her family's picturesque ranch on the banks of the Kings River in the great Central Valley of California, fronting the high peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. At age 14 she stole away for a day and soared high over those peaks in an open-cockpit biplane, a trip she won in a local raffle and one which her parents forbade. At 16 she graduated high school and at 17 entered the University of California at Berkeley, where she excelled academically and served enthusiastically on the student council. At 20, she reluctantly filled in on a date for her sick roommate, only to fall in love with that man and marry him less than a year later. In 1959, while 8 months pregnant and with 3 young children in tow, she and her husband moved from California to Texas, driving across the southwestern deserts in the summer heat in an unairconditioned station wagon, settling in what would become their lifetime home of Austin. In later years, Carolyn travelled the world with her husband, children, and friends, from the quaint villages of rural England to the spartan streetscapes of Communist-era Russia; her family's ancestral farm in Norway to mud brick alleyways in central Asia. She dined with the king and queen of Belgium, conversed with presidents, and maintained an extensive network of friends from all walks of life, her dearest being the ladies she played bridge with on a weekly basis for over 50 years. *Through her tireless genealogical research she brought to life for her family the stories of hundreds of ancestors, running the gamut from an English king's administrator imprisoned in the Tower of London during the 16th century, a Revolutionary War general killed in the Battle of Cowan's Ford, to humble farmers in Norway, Germany, and Colonial America.* Her most cherished experiences, however, were being a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Carolyn joins her parents, brother David Stay, sister Judy Rideau, and grandson Christopher Fonken in eternal peace. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Gerhard "Gerry" Fonken of Austin; son David and wife Carol Fonken of Austin; daughter Kathie and husband Bill Bailey of La Grange; son Steve and wife Jan Fonken of Boise, Idaho; daughter Karen Fonken of Austin; and son Eric and wife Jennifer Fonken of Austin. She is also survived by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Erin Fonken, husband Brandon Mathis, and their child Eamon, Brian Fonken, and Laura Fonken; Gregg Schmedes, wife Kelly, and their children Isaiah, Emory, and Ada Grace, Sarah Schmedes, and Jennifer (Schmedes) Hoffman and husband Josh; Meghan, Kyle, and Ryan Fonken; Emily, Cara, and Will Fonken. From: <http://www.wcfish.com>

TIDBITS

Some of you may be interested in the Save Texas History Symposium – *The Alamo: Mission and Myth*. This is scheduled for September 7th at the Alamo in San Antonio. The day promises to be enjoyable and informative, and includes opportunities for a special “behind the scenes” tour of the Alamo grounds. Take a look at the agenda and register at: <http://www.cvent.com/events/symposium-2013/invitation-53656b3ed1f948d118bb4ab64f44ac5a6.aspx>

WHY YOU CAN'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.... **The courthouse really DID burn!**
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Burned_Counties_Research

WEBSITE HELP! If you visit our website, keep in mind that when you mouse over any word(s) or term in Red or Blue and get a Red underline it is a hotlink. You can click on that link and be taken to another page on our terrific AGS website. Just in case you have not been there lately, take a few minutes and have a look: <http://austintxgensoc.org/>

FYI Just in case you are planning a trip to the Fort Worth National Archives, all National Archives Research Rooms will be closed all day on Monday, September 9. They will reopen on Tuesday, September 10. If you have questions, contact Bill Mayer, Executive for Research Services at bill.mayer@nara.gov.

GOT



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SEND IT IN!

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Watch for Austin Museum Day, Sunday, September 22, 2013

The Austin Museum Partnership is once again hosting Austin Museum Day – a free, city-wide rediscovery of Austin museums. It provides a unique opportunity to explore such venues as the Austin History Center, the Briscoe Center for American History, George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, etc. Get an early start to the day by taking a tour of Historic Oakwood Cemetery offered by Save Austin's Cemeteries. Tours scheduled at 9 and 10. Tour groups are limited to 15.

Murder, Mayhem

Mark your calendar for the Seventh Annual Murder, Mayhem and Misadventure Tours at Oakwood Cemetery on **October 26**. Hear costumed actors tell the stories from earlier Austin.

New Column?

The success of any new column depends on submissions from our membership. It has been suggested that we publish a column entitled “I NEED.....” If YOU are in need of something genealogical, we would publish that need in this new column. Limit your submission to one sentence and tell us what you need. Example: “I need a disc of 2005 Family Tree Maker” or maybe “I need help with Ontario, Canada research.” Let's give it a try. Submit your needs to: sharonkfoley@gmail.com or robertfoley@gmail.com. The editors will give this another try!
 Please submit your NEEDS.

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

It's not too late!!! Austin Genealogical Society Fall Seminar

September 7, 2013- 9:00-3:00 at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church

Walk-Ins are welcome! \$45.00 at the door.

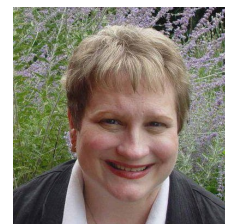
Lisa Alzo, MFA, is our speaker.

Topics: Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors

Immigrant Cluster Communities: Past, Present and Future

Silent Voices: Telling the Stories of Diseases, Disasters & Distress: Bad For Your Ancestors, Good For Your Genealogical Research Your Female Immigrant Ancestors

<http://austintxgensoc.org/activities/seminar/>



BLAZING THE FAMILY HISTORY TRAIL

Texas State Genealogical Society

2013 Conference



Plan now to join us for the 2013 Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Conference. The conference will be held at the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel & Conference Center in Round Rock, Texas on October 31 – November 2.

Registration is now available on the TSGS 2013 Conference page: <http://www.txsgs.org/about/conference/>

The full listing of classes and bios may be found on the Speakers' Page: <http://www.txsgs.org/about/conference/speakers/>

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS — REGIONAL AND STATE



Register at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txmcgs>

October 5 (Saturday) Cemetery Symposium. Newly formed Texas Chapter of The Association for Gravestone Studies. This event will be held at the Tracy Gee Community Center at 3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston, Texas 77042 (between Richmond Avenue and Westpark Drive, inside the Sam Houston Tollway). Pre-registration is required. For full information and registration form, CONTACT Anne Shelton at AnneCShelton@gmail.com Or Trevia Wooster Beverly at treviaowbeverly@comcast.net

The Dallas Genealogical Society is excited to announce that D. Joshua Taylor, president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and nationally-known genealogy researcher, author, and lecturer will be the featured speaker at our 2013 Fall Lecture to be held on Saturday, October 12, at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in downtown Dallas.

Register by September 27 and save \$10. The Early Bird price is \$40 for DGS members and \$50 for non-members.

Further information can be found at the Dallas Genealogical Society home page:

<http://www.dallasgenealogy.org>

A state-wide genealogical library lock-in will be held on Friday, October 18, 2013, beginning at 12:30 pm. You may attend at a location near you:

Round Rock Public Library (Round Rock, Texas)

Texas State Library and Archives (Austin, Texas)

West Waco Library and Genealogy Center (Waco, Texas)

Programs will be broadcast to all locations, beginning at 12:30 pm. A description of the programs and times can be viewed here <http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/home/index.asp?page=9&recordid=23520>.

Each location will also provide long-distance look ups of items in their collection. Also, the Lone Star Chapter of the APG will be doing their “Ancestor Roadshow” consultations—schedule a free consultation with a professional genealogist!

HOSPITALITY REPORT

Greeters for August were Nancy Stevens and Carroll Patterson

Refreshments were provided by Susan Tyler, Carolyn Gresham, Glenda Black, and Nancy Stevens.

Sheila Sargent presided over the refreshment table.

Registration Table was tended by Ann Cooper, Jean Marostica, and Arlene Zirkel.

Attendance Report for August: 68

New Members: Barto Arnold, barnold@tamu.edu Surnames: Barton, Inman, Davis and Ray

Returning Member: Melissa Brady, melissabrady39@hotmail.com

Visitors: Robert and Diane Casey (Austin), and Ed Cannon, (Austin) Surnames: Cannon (KS), Brown (KS), Singleton (KY), and Chism (KY)

September Greeters will be Jean Shroyer and Chris Collins.

Snacks will be provided by Sharon Foley, Carroll Patterson, James Hollas, and Inez Epright .

2013 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2013:	Term Ending 2014:
Inez EPPRIGHT	Carolyn GRESHAM
Teri FLACK	Missy HARRIS
Marcia ARN	Leslie INMAN
Randy WHITED	Anne MAMIYA
Jennifer WHITLEY	Karin NELSON
Jacquie WILSON	Jane SCHWENDINGER

2013 Officers

President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
1ST Vice President	Carolyn GRESHAM
2nd Vice President	Jacquie WILSON
Secretary	Inez EPPRIGHT
Treasurer	Teri FLACK
If you have ideas, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to share those with us.	

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, September 24

“Social Media: Cousin Bair and Partners in Crime” by Randy Whited

Tuesday, October 22

**“Texas Archive of the Moving Image”
Presented by Elizabeth Hansen**

Tuesday, November 26

Fall Festival—”I Bet You Didn’t Know That” presented by AGS members

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

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