



# The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

## April 2010

*Advancing genealogy through wide-ranging research and education and supporting the preservation of the heritage of Austin, Travis County, and Texas.*

Vol. 16

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No. 4

50 YEARS & GROWING

## Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

*Program: Ghosts of Judges' Hill—  
Searching for the Bones of Ancestral Homes*

*Presented by: Phoebe ALLEN*

Highland Park Baptist Church  
5206 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

6:30 p.m. — Refreshments & Networking

7:00 — 8:30 p.m. - Program

*Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!*

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Stroll back in time through one of Austin's earliest neighborhoods, using tools to unearth its phantoms and reveal stories of powerful residents who fashioned the foundations of our urban development and growth. Ghost Houses, now demolished, sheltered many forgotten but influential families in the 19th and early 20th centuries – Robertson, Townsend, Thomson, Chreisman, Blackburn, Brown, Hutchings, Walker, Glasscock, Bowers, House, Lucy, Vance, Caswell, Reed, Hamilton, Brady, and Chiles. Excavation tools include Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, land grants, plat maps, deeds, lot registers, bird's eye view maps, city directories, and historical photographs.

As a self-proclaimed “History Detective,” Phoebe ALLEN, freelance writer, researches the history of houses and commercial buildings for nomination as historic landmarks. A 23-year veteran Montessori teacher, she served as chair of the national association of elementary Montessori teachers from 2005-2009, and created an educational program for groundwater conservation districts. She holds a degree in English from UT and an AMI Montessori certification from Bergamo, Italy. Conceived in Texas City, born and reared in Arkansas, Phoebe has been the keeper of her family tree since she was a teenager.

### **AGS Business**

The AGS Board of Directors met in regular session prior to the general meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2010. Committee and Treasurer reports were submitted and approved. The following topics were discussed and actions were taken:

Programs & Education: Phoebe ALLEN will be the presenter at next month's meeting. Daryl GIBSON, the speaker from February's meeting that was canceled due to weather, is rescheduled for the May meeting. The next Saturday event is the Mini-Seminar with Josh TAYLOR on May 15th. Pre-registration will be requested.

Treasurer: The CD with PECU is up for renewal in April and the Board approved the Treasurer's request to shop for a better rate.

Membership: There are 44 members from last year who have not renewed for 2010. This is offset by the 37 new members we have added since December. Total membership as of March 22nd was 294. The 2010 Membership Directory has been completed and current members should receive those very soon.

Quarterly: Randy WHITED advised that the Quarterly should be printed and out to the membership in the next couple of weeks. The Board approved Randy's idea of having a contest and awarding three prizes for submissions to the Quarterly by an AGS

member and published during the 50th Anniversary year of 2010. The prizes will be awarded at the first meeting of 2011.

The individual originally engaged to scan and digitize all prior issues of the AGS Quarterly (from 1960 through 2008) was unable to do the project. The copies of the Quarterlies were returned to us. Two additional bids were obtained and the Board authorized the project to be done by Statco, a local Austin business.

Cemetery: Mary TODD is in the process of requesting permission from the Cook-Walden Cemeteries in Oak Hill and Pflugerville to canvas those cemeteries.

Records: Most of the volunteers have returned the work they transcribed from the early issues of the AGS Quarterly. This information will be posted on the website as soon as it is organized.

Financial Examination Committee: Mary TODD was appointed to chair the financial examination committee. She will enroll two other AGS members to assist with that task and submit her report to the Board not later than the regular meeting in May. The report will be printed in the June edition of the AGS Newsletter.



### **AGS Website News**

Ann COOPER, Sherry HEALY, Lynn HAMILTON, Karin NELSON and Jane SCHWENDINGER have almost completed their work transcribing records originally printed in the early issues of the AGS Quarterly. **Watch for these posted on our website soon** and see if you find some new family connections. Thanks to these volunteers who are willing to give time to this project.

The "Members Only" section now includes a full copy of the membership directory. Information on new members will be posted there as those memberships are received.

Now there is also a **Members Only** section which requires a login ID and password.

The **login ID is agsmember** and the **password is gene.AGS** (case sensitive).



### Membership

The 2010 Membership Directories have been mailed. If you have not received yours by the time you receive this Newsletter, please contact Communications Coordinator Jean MAROSTICA at [jmarostica@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmarostica@sbcglobal.net) to verify your current address and zip code.

Contact information for all new members who join(ed) after the publication of the directory can be found in the Members Only section of the website as will any address and/or telephone number changes.

The meeting on March 23rd with program by Teri FLACK was very well attended. Teri's program on "How Disease, Disaster, and Hard Times Changed Our Ancestors' Lives" was both informative and entertaining. Membership Chair Maud CAIN reports there were 90 members present and 5 visitors.



We **Welcome** the following **New Members** since the last report:

Robert (Bob) BINTLIFF

John H. and Jean Wheeler SUTHERLAND

Susan TYLER

Paula K. WARD

Jennifer WHITLEY

Now that the membership directory is on the website, please check there for new member contact information and for all additions, corrections, and updates.



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### Hospitality

Our thanks go out to Karin BRANAMAN, Lyndia SLAYTON, Maurine ATWOOD, and Kathi FOSTER for bringing the refreshments and to Chris BOND and Jim NELSON for being greeters at the March meeting.

Those scheduled to bring goodies for the April meeting are Bobbie HUDNALL, Joann TRAVER, Sharon TIEMAN, and Sheila SARGENT. Greeters for April are SueAnn BUNNER and Linda MILLIGAN.



### News about The Quarterly

As mentioned in the AGS Business section on page two, the Board has approved having a contest for best submissions. Even better news is that we will be awarding not one, not two, but *three significant prizes* for submissions to the Quarterly by an AGS member published during the 50th Anniversary year of 2010. The prizes will be awarded at the first meeting of 2011. Your submissions can cover a broad spectrum of topics: family stories, family histories, family trees, Bible records, historical records, genealogical how-to's, genealogical best practices, etc., etc. If you have a story or information you're itching to share, *now* is the time!

The first of the 50th Anniversary issues should be hitting your mailboxes very soon. We hope you will enjoy reading it and we look forward to seeing *your* submission later this year!

**AGS Calendar of Activities**

**April 19 to 25 — AGS Researchers travel to Salt Lake City**

**April 27 — AGS Monthly Meeting**  
*Judges' Hill Historic District* presented by Phoebe ALLEN

**May 15 — AGS Mini-Seminar #2**  
3 Topics to be presented by Josh TAYLOR  
(See below for more information)

**May 25 — AGS Monthly Meeting**  
*So You Think You Can't Write: Multiple Forms of Preserving Your Family Stories* presented by Daryl GIBSON

**June 22— AGS Monthly Meeting**  
Always a favorite format, it's: **Member to Member Forum ... Ask your genealogical questions.**

**June 26— Laptop Saturday**  
*New England Historic Genealogical Society online*  
Presented by Sharon FOLEY and Lynn LeCROPANE

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**AGS Mini-Seminar**

**PRESENTING THE SECOND of the 2010 MINI-SEMINAR SERIES**

For three Saturdays in 2010, AGS is bringing in nationally-known speakers for a series of Mini-Seminars. These mini-seminars replace the AGS Annual Seminar. There will be a modest charge for these Mini-Seminars of \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Although you may register at the door, pre-registration is appreciated and can be done online at the AGS website. Online payment through PayPal has been set up for your convenience. Pre-registration helps to ensure the committee can arrange to have enough tables set up and plenty of snacks for everyone! We look forward to seeing you there.



**Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Guest Speaker: Joshua TAYLOR  
Highland Park Baptist Church  
[5206 Balcones Drive](#)  
Austin, Texas  
Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

**AGS is proud to present Joshua TAYLOR, as the speaker for our May Mini-Seminar.**

D. Joshua TAYLOR "Josh" is Director of Education and Programs of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and is a nationally known and recognized genealogical author, lecturer, and researcher. A frequent speaker at genealogical societies, libraries, and other organizations, his previous speaking en-

agements include GENTECH, the Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conferences, the National Genealogical Society Annual Conference, and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. He has authored articles in *UGA Crossroads*, *FGS Forum*, *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, and *New England Ancestors*, and was a columnist for *Digital Genealogist*. He is the recipient of the 2003 and 2004 Distinguished Service Awards from the Utah Genealogical Association, the Rubincam Youth Award from the National Genealogical Society, and an Award of Merit (2009) from the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Active in the genealogical community, Josh is a member of the Board of Directors for

*(Continued on page 5)*



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the Federation of Genealogical Societies and serves as Program Director for the Massachusetts Genealogical Council. Prior to becoming Director of Education at Programs, Joshua oversaw the Society's Research Services Department.

The program begins at **9:00 a.m.** and we will break about **12:30** for lunch. Lunch is brown bag or step

out to a nearby eatery. We will pick up again at **1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

The topics Josh will discuss are

- *Colonial American Research: Strategies, Tools, and Resources*
- *New England/Mid-Atlantic Research*
- *Southern States*
- *Online Resources*

*We hope to see you there!*

### Bits & Pieces

“Who Do You Think You Are” continues to get excellent reviews. The viewership has caused NBC to extend it for a second season. NBC also provides a way to view not only full episodes online, but adds the option of viewing some bonus material and pre-views of coming shows. Find it at their website <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/video/categories/a-z/>.

Ancestry.com is sponsoring a sweepstakes contest in association with “Who Do You Think You Are.” The **Grand Prize includes:**

- **\$20,000 in travel money**
- Eight hour consultation with an expert genealogist
- Five experts in fields relevant to your personal family history to help you learn even more
- Annual World Deluxe Subscription for you and five family members

In addition, twenty First Prize winners will receive a World Deluxe Subscription from Ancestry.com®.

For more details, go to [http://ancestry.promo.eprize.com/sweepstakes/?o\\_xid=42864&o\\_lid=42864](http://ancestry.promo.eprize.com/sweepstakes/?o_xid=42864&o_lid=42864). Be sure to read the terms and conditions associated with the contest before you enter, though. They are very comprehensive and somewhat rigid.

**Director of the 2010 Census Robert GROVES**, himself a genealogy buff, was recently interviewed on C-SPAN. In response to a question about what happens to the original copies of this year's census forms, he stated that the actual forms will be digitized and available for viewing in 72 years. He did not address what would become of the original forms, only that researchers in 2082 will be able to view the original forms digitally.



The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is responsible for all city-owned cemeteries. PARD recently installed signs at each cemetery stating there would be semi-annual major cleanups prior to March and October of each year. All deteriorated, weathered, and unsightly items will be removed. This includes deteriorated artificial and real flowers, vases, containers, flags, and miscellaneous art. If you recycle your flowers or flags, be sure to remove them before the work crews come through each month. A complete list of the Rules and Regulations governing Austin's city-owned cemeteries can be found online at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/cemeteriesrules.htm>.





### AGS—50 Years & Growing!



**SEARCHING FOR PHOTOS OF AUSTIN, 1960-2010** to use for the 50th Anniversary celebration next September! Can you help? Questions or contributions can be sent to Carroll Patterson [carrollpatterson@austin.rr.com](mailto:carrollpatterson@austin.rr.com) or Glenda Black [gblack@austin.rr.com](mailto:gblack@austin.rr.com). Please identify the photo with names and places as much as possible and equally important put *your* name on the back of the photograph so we can return it to you promptly after the celebration.



**SEARCHING FOR PIANISTS!** Do you play the piano? We need your help for the 50th Anniversary Celebration in September! Let us know: Kay Boyd ([mkdb1405@aol.com](mailto:mkdb1405@aol.com)) or Barbara Innis ([bagns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bagns@sbcglobal.net)).

### Historically Speaking

During 2010, we will feature excerpts and information from the recorded history of the Austin Genealogical Society since its inception in 1960.

#### All about the AGS Newsletter

Early in AGS history, the first quarterlies were more like a newsletter, but evolved over time to be more of a booklet. At that point, Wilena YOUNG was asked to serve as editor of a separate AGS Newsletter. Her role in that capacity spanned thirty years. She retired at the end of 2007, and Janis TRAYLER, the current editor, published her first AGS Newsletter in January 2008.

#### and some interesting tidbits from that publication

"THANKS! Bill KOEHLER for the new newsletter heading." *AGS Newsletter*, June 1990, No volume or number used.

"Help our environment by using recycled paper. Recycled paper is not an inferior product...." *AGS Newsletter*, January 1991, No volume or number used.

"The TSL Genealogy Department will be closed for asbestos removal from November 10, 1991-January 10, 1992. All services will be discontinued during this time." *AGS Newsletter*, November 1991, No volume or number used.

"We have several members who are allergic to perfumes and after shave lotion.... We ask the rest of our members to please consider this when deciding whether to wear perfume or after shave lotion to the meetings." *AGS Newsletter*, February 1995, No volume or number used.

"NOTICE: AGS is moving to a new meeting place," Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive, "beginning with the September meeting." "The monthly rent at the new location will be only \$25 per meeting compared to the \$117 we have been paying." *AGS Newsletter*, September 1997, Vol. 3, No. 8.



**More Bits & Pieces ...**

Former AGS Member Martha VAN SICKLE is looking for someone to help her get the genealogy information and documents she has accumulated organized on the computer. If you can help, please let her know. Her number is 478-8307.

AGS Member Martha Bernhardt is looking for someone to help her with Family Tree Maker 2009. Her contact information can be found in the AGS Member Directory and in the online directory.

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**Condolences**

Our sincere condolences go to the families and friends of

**Larry Lee GILBERT** Age 71, of Union, Washington, died March 1, 2010 in Rancho Mirage, CA. Larry was the husband of AGS member Anne Darden GILBERT and met the AGS travelers on our visit to Salt Lake City in 2008. He was born June 21, 1938, and graduated from Lincoln HS in 1956. He earned his BSEE from the University of Washington and his MSEE from Stanford University. He married Anne Darden BROWN in 1958 and began a career that included Sylvania, Calspan, SRI, and Boeing. He retired in 1994 and spent time as a City Councilman in Burien, was a Life Master at Duplicate Bridge, and enjoyed golfing, traveling, gardening, genealogy, and keeping up with friends made over the years. Larry is survived by his wife Anne; their sons Brian R. D. GILBERT (and wife Lynn) of Irvine, CA, and Todd S. HUNTER-GILBERT (and wife Denise) of Woodbridge, VA; and their grandchildren, Quinn D. Hunter-Gilbert and Helen C. D. GILBERT. Larry is also survived by 3 siblings: Bruce GILBERT of Shelton, WA; Jim GILBERT of Seattle, WA; and Charles (Chuck) GILBERT (and wife Lou Ann) of Seattle, WA. (Obituary published in The Seattle Times from March 28 to March 29, 2010.)

... and also



**Winston Harwood**, a fifth generation Texan, died on Sunday, March 28, 2010 at age 89. He was born on October 11, 1920 in Harlingen, Texas to Augusta HOSKINS HARWOOD and Winston Bridges HARWOOD both formerly of Gonzales, TX. Upon graduation from Harlingen High School in 1938, he entered the school of Architecture at the University of Texas. After the start of World War II he enrolled in Yale University where he was commissioned as an Armament Officer and served under Gen. Doolittle in England and Germany for the duration of the war. Upon his return to Texas, graduated from the University of Texas with a BA in Advertising. He founded a public relations firm specializing in fund raising which he operated successfully for a number of years. While on vacation in Acapulco, Mexico in 1953 he met his future wife, Irene "Puddin" HOPKINS and after a whirlwind courtship, married her in her hometown of Victoria, Texas. In 1959 he opened Harwood Tours and Travel. **In 1960, he became a founding member of the Austin Genealogical Society.** In 1996 he retired and sold his business and began to devote more time to his hobby genealogy, researching his family history and identifying over nine hundred direct ancestors back thirty-five generations, including Sir Edward Harwood, the first of his family to arrive in Virginia in 1619. He compiled this research into a genealogy which was published. He also compiled a genealogy for his wife's family. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Puddin and his sister, Cordelia Harwood TAYLOR. He is survived by his three beloved daughters and their spouses, Cordie and Tom EWING of Houston, Reenie and Kent COLLINS, Lucy and Phil WEBER; his devoted son, Winston Joseph HARWOOD and partner, Stacey VEAZEY; also by his adored grandchildren James and Katie EWING of Houston, CeCe, Winston, and Tye COLLINS and Caroline WEBER of Austin and Jenny DUKE of San Antonio. (Obituary published in the Austin American Statesman March 30, 2010.)

**2010 Board of Directors**

<b>Term ending 2010:</b>	<b>Term Ending 2011:</b>
Kay BOYD	Kate ALLEN
Inez EPPRIGHT	Maud CAIN
Sharon FOLEY	Teri FLACK
Cindy FOREMAN	Dona KURTZ
Sara GREDLER	Mary TODD
Janis TRAYLER	Randy WHITED

**2010 Officers**

President	Cindy FOREMAN
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Kay BOYD
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Sharon FOLEY
Recording Secretary	Inez EPPRIGHT
Treasurer	Teri FLACK

*We are here to serve the members of the Society.  
If you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns,  
please feel free to share those with us.*

Monthly Meetings on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays  
(except December)  
Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00  
Highland Park Baptist Church  
5206 Balcones Drive  
Austin, Texas

Visitors Always Welcome!

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Published monthly except December  
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***Promoting genealogy through research,  
education, and preservation.***

**50 YEARS & GROWING**