



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

April 2012

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

Vol. 18

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

No. 4

Table of Contents

	Page
AGS Business	2-3
Program Notes	3
Help Wanted!	4
AGS Activities	4
AGS Bus Trip	4
Other Activities	5
Bits & Pieces	6
Website News	6
AGS Spring Mini-Seminar	7
Website Information	8
Editor's Corner	8
2012 Program List	8

Copyright 2012 by the Austin Genealogical Society. All rights reserved. No material may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission.

Published monthly except December
Janis Trayler, Editor
[Newsletter](#)
@AustinTxGenSoc.org

Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

6:30 p.m. — Refreshments & Networking
7:00 — 8:30 p.m. - Business & Program

Program: Searching the 1940 Census
Presented by: Randy Whited

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!



Until the 1940 US Census is indexed, researchers will have to systematically search digitized images for their ancestors. Find out how to do so with minimal stress and frustration. Plus learn far more than you ever thought you could on Enumeration Districts and why they are your new best friends.

Randy W. WHITED, an avid genealogist for over twenty-five years, is an active member of multiple genealogical organizations.

A Director with the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Randy chairs its Education committee. He also has regular columns in the FGS FORUM.

A member of the Austin Genealogical Society since 2005, Randy is currently serving a third term on its Board of Directors and is in his fourth year as Editor of the AGS Quarterly. Randy was also recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Texas State Genealogical Society to head up its technology initiatives.

AGS Business: From the Minutes of the Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, March 27th, prior to the regular Society meeting. The following items were discussed and action taken.

Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer's report for February was accepted as submitted.

AGS Website

Webmaster Dona KURTZ advised that Parker SHORT has almost completed the transition of our current website to a Content Management System (CMS). We are still on track for a completion of the project in mid-April.

Membership

Membership renewals and new memberships continue to come in slow but steady. The new online membership directory will be available when the updated website is open.

Bylaws Revisions

Jim COOPER advised that he has five members set to serve on the Bylaws Revisions Committee. Due to scheduling conflicts, committee members will begin their meetings later in April.

AGS Mini-Seminars

Deadline for registration for the seminar is April 26th. For a full description of the Spring Mini-Seminar, see page seven.

The October Mini-Seminar with Mark LOWE will offer four (rather than the normal three) topics. Because of the costs involved and the additional cost of this nationally-known speaker, the cost of *this* Mini-Seminar will be increased by \$5 to \$20 for AGS members and \$25 for guests and walk-ins.

AGS Member Survey

Jennifer WHITLEY reported that substantial progress has been made on preparations for the AGS mem-

ber survey. We are still on schedule to receive the survey in early May. Announcements about the survey will begin soon, particularly at the next meeting and at the Mini-Seminar on the 28th.

AGS Research Trips

There has been considerable interest in the one-day bus trip to the Clayton Genealogical Library in Houston which is scheduled for June 8th. See page [four](#) for additional details.

Liability Insurance

Jim COOPER recently attended a seminar for non-profit organizations. One of the suggestions made at that meeting was that we consider obtaining liability insurance. Jim has investigated that suggestion and after talking to various individuals in the business reported back to the Board that our actual liability is very small. The Board accepted Jim's recommendation that no liability policy is needed.

Publicity & Publicity Events

AGS Publicity Chair Jennifer WHITLEY continues to be successful in having information about our meetings and activities publicized in the online calendars of KXAN and YNN, along with being published in Austin 360 (American Statesman) and included on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

A number of AGS members manned a table at the "Six Degrees of Connection: Texas Heritage" event held at Oakwood Cemetery on March 24th. A number of visitors stopped by the table and were offered one of two free registrations to be given away for the April Mini-Seminar. Those interested dropped their contact information into a drawing. The drawing was held at the AGS Board meeting and winners have been contacted. Other registrants have been contacted inviting them to join us at future AGS meetings and providing them with registration information for the Mini-Seminar.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Preparing for the release of the 1940 Census.

AGS has created an indexing “Group” through FamilySearch.org Indexing by which AGS can receive benefits and awards based on our members’ indexing efforts. With the release of the 1940 Census on April 2nd, there is a great push to get these records indexed. FamilySearch.org uses local indexers. Some commercial organizations have outsourced this task to overseas operations. See “[Since You Asked ...](#)” on page four for additional information.



ATTENDENCE REPORT by Missy HARRIS for the AGS meeting on March 27, 2012: 80 people signed in, but 90 people were counted.



AGS welcomes the following new members since the last report:

Gwen & Erle ADRIAN	Boerne, TX 78006
Serena ELLER	Hutto, TX 78634
Charlene GEREN	Austin, TX 78750
Mike D. JOHNSON	Austin, TX 78723
George McGONIGLE	Austin, TX 78705
Moxie VILLAREAL	Austin, TX 78727

We are so glad to have you join us and hope to have many opportunities to get to know you!



HOSPITALITY REPORT. Our thanks go out to Marcia ARN and Shirley ROBERTS who served as greeters at the March meeting. Our thanks also extend to Sheila SARGENT who was in charge at the refreshment table; to Shirley MEYER, Julia MELLENBRUCH, Betty Jean STEINKE, and Glenda BLACK who brought refreshments.

Scheduled as greeters for April are Leslie D. INMAN and Betty Jean STEINKE. Refreshments will be provided by Carroll PATTERSON, Lucy DUNCAN, Glenda BLACK, and Leslie D. INMAN. Be sure to thank them if you get the chance!

Program Notes

Request from Program Chair, Jane SCHWENDINGER

“I Bet You Didn’t Know That” is the challenge for our May meeting. You will learn so much at our May 22nd meeting as we pool *your* special knowledge with that of other members about anything and everything genealogy.

During the month of May leading up to the meeting, we will request you to submit your secrets that others may not know about — out of the ordinary websites, research facilities, blogs, other genealogical societies, etc. If you have a favorite corner of the Allen County Public Library or the Texas State Library in which to

spread out your notes while researching, tell us about it. Or, tell us about the little known website that connected you with your fourth cousin from Vermont.

This meeting will be fun and you’ll go home totally energized about continuing to research in new places and ways.

Look for the email blast around the first of May requesting a brief description of special knowledge that *you alone* possess. We’ll combine all submissions into a presentation and you’ll go home to research with a handout full of information. After this meeting, we will not say, “I Bet You Didn’t Know That!”

Help Wanted!

From AGS President Sharon FOLEY:



We truly need a **Volunteer Coordinator**. This position would entail maintaining and adding to a list of volunteers who can be called upon when specific tasks need to be done. As the coordi-

nator for volunteers, this person would contact the willing volunteers as needed. We see the effort as being entirely from home, either via email or telephone. Please help. The duties for the board get very heavy at times and having someone in this ‘search & rescue’ position would be a tremendous help. Please drop me a note at president@AustinTxGenSoc.org. Thanks for your consideration.

AGS Activities

Tuesday, April 24th — Regular AGS Meeting

Program: “Searching the 1940 Census” with Randy WHITED. See page [one](#).

Saturday, April 28th — AGS Spring Mini-Seminar

Guest Speaker: Lloyd DeWitt BOCKSTRUCK (See page [seven](#) for additional information.)

Tuesday May 22nd — Regular AGS meeting

Program: “I Bet You Didn’t Know That ...” presented by AGS Members. Go back to page [three](#) for additional information on this program.



Friday, June 8th — AGS Bus Trip to Clayton Genealogy Library in Houston

AGS is again sponsoring a day-trip to **Clayton Library** in Houston for members interested in doing

some hands on genealogy research. To accommodate more researchers the date for the Trip to Clayton will be Friday, June 8th. We will leave from the LDS church at 1000 Rutherford, Austin, *promptly* at 6:30 a.m. and leave Houston at 5:00 p.m. The cost of \$55.00 includes transportation, light breakfast, box supper, and drinks.



To reserve your seat, mail your check, payable to AGS, to Kay Boyd, 1405 S. Meadows, Austin, 78758. Contact Kay at mkdb1405@aol.com with any questions. Prepare for the trip by checking the holdings of Clayton Library at <http://www.houstonlibrary.org/more-resources>

This trip is open to all researchers. Seating is limited to 50 people. May 21st is the reservation deadline.

Since You Asked ...

Already registered as an Indexer for FamilySearch but having trouble associating your indexing efforts with the AGS Group? Login to <https://indexing.familysearch.org>. After you’ve signed in, your personal information page should automatically load. Your “group” should show under “Additional Indexing

Information.” Click the “edit” button at the lower right to choose “Austin Genealogical Society” from the drop-down list in the “Group” option. (You can also start within the downloaded application by going to: Tools > options > personal info > change my information.) Thanks to Jennifer WHITLEY for this information!

Other Genealogical Activities

Saturday, April 14, 2012

The Austin Genealogical Special Interest Group (Austin GenSIG) (Submitted by John MAROSTICA)

Old Quarry Branch Library
7051 Village Center Drive (Far West Blvd.)
Austin, Tx 78731

1:00 to 3:30 pm

Road Trip — Pure Adrenalin
Presented by Cindy FOREMAN

Become a free-style traveler so you can have fun preparing, traveling, and discovering some new and different genealogical finds along the way.



The discovery process with focused pre-planning will make your trip, regardless of distance and time, a pure adrenalin rush we all respond to when finding new and unexpected information. Sometimes what you find is not at all what you expected, but that's the rush!

Come learn from an experienced, expert traveler; if Cindy has not been there, it's because they don't have any genealogical records.

For more information, you may check their website at www.AustinGenSIG.com, send an email to either

john@marostica.org or call him at 512-294-1999.

Saturday, May 12, 2012

The Austin Genealogical Special Interest Group (Austin GenSIG) (Submitted by John MAROSTICA)

Old Quarry Branch Library
7051 Village Center Drive (Far West Blvd.)
Austin, Tx 78731

1:00 to 3:30 pm

“A Look at Mapping Software”
Presented by John MAROSTICA

Mapping software can be useful to genealogists in many different ways: Confirming state and county boundaries, defining the boundaries of a track of land, measuring the size of a parcel of land, or measuring the distance between two pieces of land, mapping software can be invaluable.

We will look at the Texas General Land Office's GIS Mapping Application, the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, AniMap and Centennia, and Deed Mapper.



We will also discuss any programs or mapping stories you bring to (or tell me about before) the meeting.

Come join us, as we learn together!

FGS 2012 Annual Conference

It's April. That means the 2012 Annual Conference for the Federation of Genealogical Societies is only five months away! This year's conference, set for August 29 – September 1, 2012, is being held in Birmingham, Alabama, and is co-hosted by the Alabama Genealogical Society. This year's theme is “Indians, Squatters, Settlers, and Soldiers in the ‘Old Southwest’.”

Many federal record resources will be discussed in the **African American** and **Native American** lectures during the conference. There will also be other lectures related to federal records. For more information and registration information, check the FGS conference website by clicking the logo or using <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference>. We'll have more information next month!



Bits & Pieces

Recently posted through the AGS mailing list (tx-ags@rootsweb.com) posted by John MAROSTICA:

[1] Bastrop Advertiser newspapers are available online.

The Bastrop Public Library is proud to announce that access to the Bastrop Advertiser for the years 1859 to 1954 is now available on the Internet. Funding for this digitalization project was provided through the generous support of the Tocker Foundation.

This foundation focuses on grant distribution to small rural libraries in Texas serving a population of 12,000 or less. The direction is to assist libraries in making services more accessible to individuals who by reason of distance, residence, handicap, age, literacy level or other disadvantage are unable to receive the benefits of public library services. Grants are distributed to assisting libraries to serve as community information referral centers and provide literacy and bilingual programs. The foundation partners with community libraries to meet the particular needs of the community.



The Advertiser is available on the Portal to Texas History at <http://texashistory.unt.edu>. The Portal is a gateway to Texas history materials and is hosted by the University of North Texas Libraries. With the newspaper on the web, patrons can now search remotely for their information. Searches can be done by keyword and date. This should prove a boon to genealogists looking for that lost obituary or birth notice.

[2] The Stage Coach Library in Wimberley (privately owned genealogy library) is open by appointment. Information from Cindy FOREMAN

The lady who owns the Stage Coach Library in Wimberley continues to purchase sets of books for public genealogical use. This is a private genealogy library and it costs nothing for people to visit and use all her books. It is in part of her house, so just showing up is not really a polite option. An appointment is required. Call Diane at 847-5242.



* * *

Please be sure to express your gratitude and support for these organizations and individuals when you take the opportunity to use these resources.

Website News

You will be notified with an e-mail blast when the new website is completed and available. At that time, the login and password will be changed.

The AGS website gets note of praise. We recently received an email from Cathy LAWRENZ with the Johnson County (Kansas) Genealogical Society saying they are in the midst of updating their website and in the process are looking into what other societies are

doing and the hosting services used. Ms. Lawrenz said, "I really like your site and have some questions about the design, the capabilities (payments, members only), customer service, costs and ease of updating."

It's nice to know genealogists other than our members see and appreciate our website. Our hat is off to webmaster Dona KURTZ and we look forward to the "new and improved" version!

The Austin Genealogical Society 2012 Spring Mini-Seminar

Saturday, April 28, 2012



AGS is very pleased to welcome **Lloyd de Witt BOCKSTRUCK** as the featured speaker for our Spring Mini-Seminar. Lloyd is a widely experienced genealogical scholar, writer, speaker, and educator. From 1973 to 2009, he served as a librarian with the Dallas Public Library. He was an instructor with Southern Methodist University for 17 years, and the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America for 11. Since 1974, he has been on the faculty of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University. He holds an M.A. in early modern European history and an M.S. in library science.

A prolific writer, Mr. BOCKSTRUCK was a columnist for the Dallas Morning News from 1991 to 2008 and is the author of several genealogical publications. His most recent book is *Revolutionary War Pensions Awarded by State Governments 1775-1784, the General and Federal Governments Prior to 1814, and by Private Acts of Congress to 1905*. He was named a fellow of the National Genealogical Society in 1992 and of the Texas State Genealogical Society in 2009.

The topics for the day include:

* **Migrations East of the Mississippi** * * **War of 1812** * * **Deeds & Wills** *

Registration Deadlines: If you wish to register and pay online with PayPal, you must do so before 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 26th. If you wish to register by mail and pay by check, it must be not later than **Friday, April 27th**.

**Triumphant Love Lutheran
Church**
[9508 Great Hills Trail](#)
Austin, TX 78759

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Seminar begins at 9:00 a.m.
Seminar ends at 12:30 p.m.

Light snacks and beverages
will be provided during
breaks.

Please pre-register if possible.

AGS Members — \$10

Visitors — \$15

Everyone at the door — \$15

As always, our events are open to both AGS members and guests.

For more information, email: programs@austintxgensoc.org

Editor's Corner

Have you looked at the 1940 Census yet? There are at least four places to view it: Ancestry.com, 1940Census.Archives.gov, FamilySearch.org, and MyHeritage.com. I've tried the Archives.gov site and didn't care for that one. I subscribe to Ancestry and it works really well. I've also taken a brief look at FamilySearch.org and MyHeritage.com. Both of these seem to be easy to use.

Finding an enumeration district is key. The following website can be of help: <http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>

Randy WHITED will bring much of this information into focus for us at the regular meeting this month. Don't miss it!! Until next time...

Happy Trackin',
Janis



Follow us on Facebook ...

Or let us hear from
you with a Tweet!



AGS WEBSITE INFORMATION

The login and password for the Members' Only section of the AGS website:

login: ags2011 password: aU5t!n

You can have the website "remember" the information so that you do not have to enter it every time.

**** NEW ** This information will change after the website update has been completed. Members who have joined or renewed their membership for 2012 will receive an email blast with the updated logon and new password. It will also be in this space of the Newsletter after the change.**

AGS Regular Meetings **Program Schedule**

Tuesday, January 24th

"Genealogical Chaining of Artifacts" presented by
Cindy FOREMAN

Tuesday, February 28th

"Get Your Lineage in Line" presented by Sylvia
NIMMO

Tuesday, March 27th

"How Do I Organize All This *Stuff?*" presented by
AGS Member Panel

Tuesday, April 24th

**"Researching the 1940 Census" presented by
Randy WHITED**

Tuesday, May 22nd

"I'll Bet You Didn't Know That ..." presented by
AGS members

Tuesday, June 26th

"Getting the Most From Familysearch.org"
presented by Karen MATHESON

Tuesday, July 24th

"Preserving Paper and Photos" presented by
Claudia ANDERSON

Tuesday, August 28th

"Trailing Old West History" presented by Mike
COX

Tuesday, September 25th

"Social History of the Confederate States"
presented by Jackie JONES

Tuesday, October 23rd

"Who Do You Think You Are" LIVE—featuring a
well-known Austin personality as researched and
presented by a group of AGS members

Tuesday, November 27th

Fall Festival—Special Program on "Austin's *Sixth Street*"
presented by Dr. Allen CHILDS

2012 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2012:	Term Ending 2013:
Karin BRANAMAN	Jim COOPER
Earle McBRIDE	Teri FLACK
Sharon FOLEY	Dona KURTZ
Missy HARRIS	Randy WHITED
Jane SCHWENDINGER	Jennifer WHITLEY
Janis TRAYLER	Jacquie WILSON

2012 Officers

President	Sharon FOLEY
1 st Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2 nd Vice President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Recording Secretary	Jacquie D. WILSON
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.*

Published monthly except December
Janis Trayler, Editor
newsletter@AustinTxGenSoc.org

Austin Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 10010
Austin, TX 78766-1010

***Promoting genealogy through research,
education, and preservation.***

Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
(except December)
Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

Visitors Are Always Welcome!

Inside

AGS Business

AGS Activities Schedule

Bus Trip Scheduled

Other Activities Schedule

AGS Mini-Seminar

Help Wanted!

Copyright 2012 by the Austin Genealogical Society.
All rights reserved. No material may be reproduced
in any manner without prior written permission.