



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

August 2008

Vol. 14

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

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Regular Monthly AGS Meeting **Tuesday, August 26, 2008**

Program: Cemetery Preservation
Presented by: Anne D. Shelton

Highland Park Baptist Church
5208 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

6:30 P.M. – Doors Open
7:15 P.M. – Meeting & Program Begin

Meet & Greet Old Friends & New
Shop our used books.
Pick up freebies & flyers about upcoming events.



Anne Shelton is the coordinator of the RIP Guardian program, a cemetery preservation program of the Texas Historical Commission. Ms. Shelton provides technical assistance and training to RIP Guardian volunteers across Texas dedicated to preserving historic cemeteries.

Ms. Shelton received a bachelor of art in Anthropology and a bachelor of art in Film Studies from the University of Kansas at Lawrence. She serves as a board member of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image and is a member of Save Austin's Cemeteries.

The letters **RIP** are commonly found carved on grave markers, bidding the deceased an earthly wish for eternal rest in peace. RIP is also one of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) cemetery preservation initiatives: **Record, Investigate, Protect**. Learn how the RIP Guardian program assists cemetery preservation volunteers and how to get help for your project.

Meet Your Neighbor

We continue to learn a bit more about people who attend AGS meetings and to find some

cousins as we encourage you to "Meet Your Neighbor."

If your own surname ends with the letters **J, K** or **L**, please plan to announce your name as well as four to six surnames that *do not appear on our website*, along with the earliest American location of each. (For example,

Wampler, in Boston, Massachusetts, 1742, etc.) We will continue this project through the coming months until we've completed the alphabet.

Recap from the Board of Directors Meeting

The AGS Board of Directors met in special session on the afternoon of July 12, 2008. The board started the session with a short meeting with representatives of the Latter Day Saints Oak Hill Ward with regard to our co-sponsorship of this year's Roots, Boots & Brisket seminar scheduled for November 8th. Designated roles for AGS and LDS were determined and the various needs for organizing a successful event were discussed. (See more about Roots, Boots & Brisket below.)

After the departure of the LDS committee, the Board heard reports from various committees: Cindy FOREMAN (Education Committee), reported on the beginner's classes in September, and the RB&B seminar in November. Barbara INNIS (Membership Committee) shared the results of the survey taken at the Annual Picnic in June. She also reported that membership continues to increase each month. Her committee will begin work on the December Social. 1st Vice President Kay BOYD informed the Board that two sections of the Bylaws were inadvertently omitted from the Bylaws printed in the current directory. Those two sections (addressing vacancies on the Board) will be included in future copies of the Bylaws.

Connie PERDUE (the Board's "library liaison") has been in communication with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission regarding the renovation activities at the Texas State Library (see article below). Connie has also been in contact with representatives of the City of Austin with regard to if and how AGS might be involved in helping to create a Genealogy Section in the proposed new Austin Public Library and/or involved in assisting in the creation of a Genealogy Section should the Austin History Center move from its current location into the Faulk Building (current downtown library). The Board's discussion revolved around where we could be most effective. The decision was made to continue discussions with each of these entities. A committee (Connie PERDUE, Randy WHITED, Elizabeth JOHNSTON, and Teri FLACK) was appointed by the president to work with these libraries in this regard.

The President appointed Kay BOYD as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Board elected Robert SAGE and Barbara INNIS to be its representatives. (NOTE: At the general meeting that followed, Edna YOUNGBLOOD and Jean MAROSTICA were elected to the nominating committee by the general membership.)

The Financial Examination Committee has completed its review of the 2007 financial records. Their report is attached.



At the regular Board of Directors meeting prior to the general meeting on July 29th, the Board discussed the idea of contributing to the restoration of the Texas Governor's mansion. It was decided that we will "pass-the-pouch" again at the meeting in *September* and the Society will match contributions 100% up to a maximum of \$500. Stay tuned for more information in next month's newsletter.

At this meeting, the Board also accepted the resignation of Alana MALLARD from the Board and from Editorship of the AGS Quarterly due to pressing family matters. Alana has served AGS in these capacities for many years and her work on the Quarterly has been enjoyed by all of us. Thank you,

Alana, for your years of service in both capacities. We'll still be looking forward to seeing you at AGS meetings and activities!

Pursuant to Article III, Section 7 of the Bylaws, the Board has appointed Sharon FOLEY to fill the vacancy created by Alana's resignation. Thank you, Sharon, for stepping up to the challenge.

Coming Programs

The Education Committee has printed bookmarks listing the programs for the entire year. Be sure to pick one up at the hospitality table at the monthly meetings. Meanwhile, here is the list for the next two months:

Tuesday, September 23

"Using Online Resources" presented by the AGS Education Committee

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

"Ten Tall Texans You Probably Never Heard Of" presented by James HALEY

Membership Update

(submitted by Barbara INNIS)

NEW MEMBERS continue to join, and we are delighted! They learn of our monthly programs and informative education classes via the newspaper, our website, through friends, or through newsletters of other genealogical societies. No matter how they find us, we want to make them feel welcome. Come at 6:30 pm when the doors open for the August 23rd meeting, have some refreshments, and meet some of these new friends.

Joining between meetings in May and July: Carol ANDERSON, Shirley MEYER, Roberta & Kenneth WHITCOMB, Therese & Charles FISHER, Katherine SATTERWHITE WEST, and Norma Jean McCULLOUGH (husband Frank is a renewing member).

Joining at our July 22nd meeting: Leda & Travis ROSELLE, Karen BAKER, and Mary Paige HUEY.

VISITORS have a special place at our meetings, too, and we hope that they will want to become new members! At the August meeting, look for the people with red ribbons attached to their name tags, reach out, and get acquainted.

Visiting at our July meeting were Betty BLOMQUIST and David GRAY.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE at the July 22 meeting was, as is often the case I'm embarrassed to say, erroneously quoted by me so it's an excellent idea to always read the Newsletter to get the truth. The REAL total was 93 - 86 members, 4 new members, 1 renewal, and 2 visitors.

SPECIAL THANKS to our July VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters - Linda MILLIGAN and Chris BOND.
Refreshments - Gayle OPIE, Karin BRANAMAN, Cindy FOREMAN, Sharon TIEMAN, and Barbara INNIS.



AGS Directory Updates

Sara GREDLER
3101 Wells Branch Pkwy, #634
Austin, TX 78728
Cell phone 512-905-2730

Karen THOMPSON
11327 Old 2243 West
Leander Texas 78641
Phone: 512-259-3990
gravelady@sbcglobal.net



Barbara also reports that a recent attempt to contact former AGS member Ronald BUSH brought a response from his son, Brad BUSH. Brad reports that his dad suffered a severe stroke last September that has left him totally paralyzed on his right side. Brad also wanted to let us know his dad was very involved in his genealogy work and that he would not want you to think that he had just lost interest in this area and dropped out of sight. One of the first things he attempted to communicate with his family about after the stroke was his genealogy work.

Although Brad will be moving his dad with him to Lubbock in September, he is sure his dad would be pleased and encouraged to receive cards from AGS members. Write to him at West Oaks Rehabilitation and Health Care, 3200 Slaughter Lane W., Room 408-B, Austin, TX 78748.

Pioneer Certificates

Do YOU have a Travis County Ancestor?

Individuals who can prove that their ancestors were living in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880 are eligible to apply for a Travis County Pioneer Certificate.

To qualify for the certificate, an applicant must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who lived in Travis County on or before December 31, 1880, must submit a completed application form (<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/forms/PioneerCertificateApp.doc>) and must provide proof of such descent. The fee of \$20.00 covers the costs of verifying the application and producing the certificate. Documentation can be birth, death, marriage certificates; probate, census, military records; obituaries and Bible records. Applicants do not have to reside within Travis County in order to receive a pioneer certificate. If you would like to apply for this certificate, complete the instructions on the application form, and mail it and your check for \$20.00 to AGS, PO Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010. Legible copies of your supporting documentation for each item listed must accompany your application.

For further information or questions about the Pioneer Families of Travis County certificate contact [Kay Boyd](mailto:mkdb1405@aol.com) at mkdb1405@aol.com.

Don't have an ancestor in Travis County but do have ancestors in Texas? Check out the three different pioneer certificates available through the Texas State Genealogical Society at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/>

Educational Opportunities

One of the most popular activities offered by AGS is **Brick Wall Saturday**. Our next "brick buster" session is scheduled for **Saturday afternoon, August 23rd from 1 to 4 p.m.**, at the **North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library**. The North Village Branch is located at the southeast corner of **Burnet Road and Anderson Lane in the North Village Shopping Center**.

We all have a "brick wall" (an ancestor who stubbornly refuses to give up their life story to you) - what's yours? Come and discuss your brick wall challenge with other genealogists. Please prepare a question related to your research problem (including place and time), be able to summarize the work you've done, and the group will suggest some possible new directions for your research.

You are welcome to listen and participate in everyone's discussions. There is no charge for this service and we even provide refreshments!



The bi-annual AGS **Beginning Genealogy Classes** are scheduled to start on **Saturday, September 6** and continue on **September 13, and 20**. If you know of someone who is just getting started or has expressed an interest in getting started on their family history, this is an excellent way for them to learn the basics, get expert help, and come away with not only a

notebook and knowledge, but also a network of people who can help.

And, by the way, it's also a great opportunity to brush up skills for genealogists who have been on a "sabbatical" from their hobby and could use a refresher course.

The \$15 charge covers the cost of the notebook and supplies. You won't find a better deal!

More details will be supplied in next month's newsletter. You can also get more information from the AGS website.



Seminars & Conferences

German-Texan Heritage Society Annual Meeting & 30th Anniversary August 22 – 23

The Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary celebration of the German-Texan Heritage Society will be held August 22-23 in Houston.

Friday starts at 10:00 a.m. with a free orientation session at the Clayton Library (5300 Caroline St) to learn about the vast genealogy resources available there. At 7:00 p.m. a light supper and social mixer will take place at the Backyard Tavern & Chop House.

The conference starts on Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Houston West Hotel (I-10 & TX 6), from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Topics include German Houston, LDS Tools for German Research, German singing societies, churches and cemeteries in Houston, German history, and more.

Registration fees are \$30 for GTHS members and \$45 for non-members for Saturday's activities and lunch. This year we have a special 'Bring a Friend' offer, so if you register with a spouse or friend, the cost goes down to \$30 each for members and \$35 each for non-members. The entire program and a registration form can be found at www.germantexans.org, or by calling 866-482-4847.



Victoria County Genealogical Society Fall Seminar Saturday, 4 October 2008, 9:00 a.m.

First Christian Church Fellowship Hall
2106 North Ben Jordan, Victoria, TX
Featured Speaker is **Christine ROSE**

Topics are:

1. The "Rites" of Inheritance, Dower, Entail and Primogeniture
2. Federal Land Records to Locate Ancestors
3. Too Young for the Revolution; Too Old for the Civil War--Military Records Between these Wars
4. Using Little Known and Neglected Sources: A Potpourri.

Website:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txvicto2/RoseSeminar.pdf>



Texas State Genealogical Society 2008 Annual Conference (submitted by Teri Flack, AGS delegate to TSGS)

This year's conference is set for **Abilene** on **October 24 & 25**. The featured speaker this

year is Thomas W. JONES, Ph.D., CG, CGL who will present six sessions on the theme of **"Following the Evidence Trail."**

In addition to the lectureship sessions, the Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists will again do their Road Show with free 15-minute Consultations to help on a brick wall problem. Also available are: a Partner Society Special Session to discuss issues that genealogical societies face; round table mini-sessions -- small group discussions on a large variety of topics.

Additional information and a registration form, can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/tsgs2008conference.pdf>.



Roots, Boots & Brisket Saturday, November 8, 2008

AGS will be co-sponsoring the annual Roots, Boots & Brisket with the LDS Church in Oak Hill again this fall. Mark your calendars now to join us for a day filled with classes, displays of family memorabilia, and a free barbeque lunch!

There will also be an opportunity for a limited number of display tables, so let us know if you are interested in displaying some of your family history. Elizabeth Johnston will be our contact person for these.

Watch this space in coming months for additional information.

Volunteering Works!

The Austin Genealogical Society, like so many other organizations, operates strictly through volunteer efforts. At the July meeting, the Nomination Committee was elected and will be considering the election of six individuals to serve on the Board of Directors for a two-year term from 2009-2011.

The membership of AGS consists of a diverse and intelligent group of people who appreciate having a well-run society that is dedicated ... "to investigating, collecting, recording, and publishing genealogical and historical materials particularly with regard to the City of Austin, and/or Travis County; to educate its members and the public in the use of these and other reference materials in preparing and publishing genealogical material and family lineages; and to support the Texas State Library and other genealogical or archival collections in Travis County." [excerpted from the Bylaws of the Austin Genealogical Society, 2008]

As we prepare for 2009, please consider how YOU can contribute to the future success of AGS by volunteering your time and talents for special projects or on various committees that work in the background to make our society one that continues to serve its members with excellent programs and opportunities to learn and to expand our network of resources. *You can make a difference!*

Bits & Pieces

From Kay Boyd:

New members give us new ideas...

Roberta Whitcomb, one of our newer members asked if we had genealogy software user groups. We do not, but there is no reason we cannot organize some groups if our members want them. Do you use Family Tree Maker, Legacy, PAF or the Master Genealogist and would like to meet with other members who use these programs? If you want to share ideas, learn new things or simply discuss

genealogy, Kay Boyd will keep lists of people who are interested in each program. We will try to locate libraries where our members can meet. Let Kay know by emailing mkdb1405@aol.com.



Maybe this site can help you with information on a lost family member. Lots of information of executions in all states. You never know. <http://users.bestweb.net/~rg/execution.htm>



From Pat Oxley:

The biggest provider of old records in the U.S. is the U.S. Government. The government even maintains a listing of significant record collections available for genealogists. The list also mentions many state and local archives. In the case of Tennessee, it lists microfilm available by interlibrary loan. You can view the listing at:

http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_Family/State_Genealogy.shtml.

While the listing is online, most of the records listed are not yet online. In most cases, you will have to visit the listed repository to view the record(s) in person. Some have been microfilmed, and some of these records are now appearing on the various online sites: Footnote.com, WorldVitalRecords.com, Ancestry.com, etc.

Other readers have already posted comments, questions or corrections to the above article at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/07/genealogy-resou.html



Submitted by Pat Oxley:

Did your ancestors have patents?

In the midst of putting together a multi-volume set of books on our family history, I remembered that my Dad had several interesting patents (which belong to Reynolds Metals Company) as he was a pioneer in the plastic food wrap industry. During a conversation with a fellow genealogist we were discussing how to get copies of these patents. I Googled the topic and found this website: <http://www.uspto.gov/>. Not only was I able to view my Dad's patents (you can search by inventor's name) but could order PDF copies of the full patents for \$3 each. I received them as a download (non-certified copy) in less than 5 minutes. Now I can write an interesting story about my Dad's career and include the copies of these patents. You can search patents on this site either from 1976 forward or from 1790 forward.

Condolences

Our condolences go out to the family of Frank GIESEN, Jr., Sept. 18, 1947 - July 5, 2008. Frank GIESEN, Jr. of Austin passed away Saturday, July 5, 2008 at the Heart Hospital of Austin at the age of 60 years old. Frank was the son of AGS member Frank GIESEN, Sr. Frank was preceded in death by his mother Betty GIESEN, and will be truly missed by his son and daughter, David and Lisa GIESEN both of Austin. He is also survived by his father, Frank GIESEN, Sr.; brothers, Guy and Dona GIESEN, Donald and Cindy GIESEN all from Austin, Texas; along with many nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, numerous friends, and his best friend, Renee Giesen FAURIE of Briggs, Texas. Funeral services were provided Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home in Pflugerville, Texas on July 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Update on the Texas State Library

Connie Perdue, our Library Liaison, has received the following letter from Peggy Rudd, Director of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission:

At long last, over three years of planning and waiting have come to an end and construction has begun at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin. With five floors of public services and staff workspaces and seven floors of storage (commonly called *stacks*) for archival and library materials to renovate, the project is expected to be completed in May 2010.

The project will progress in phases since the building will remain open to the public. Consolidated service in Room 300 will continue to be available for reference, Archives, and Genealogy, and many staff will remain in the building during the construction. Many of our collections have been moved to air conditioned offsite storage space, so we urge researchers to notify us of their research needs prior to visiting the building so that we can ensure a productive visit.

Renovation of each floor begins with asbestos abatement, followed by demolition and then rebuilding according to the new architectural design. Construction began on the Ground Floor and First Stack in May and, beginning August 4, will move to the First and Second Floors and Second and Third Stacks.

Bailey Architects of Houston have designed a building that will be much more open and accessible, will take advantage of natural light where appropriate, will utilize reflected light with greater ultraviolet protection, will offer a public lounge for the first time, and will include learning spaces where lectures, training, and other types of programs can be delivered to the public. Harvey-Cleary is the construction management company, and the project superintendent and his staff have worked diligently to minimize noise, dust, and disruptions. As with most remodels, we've had a few "surprises," all of which have had an impact on the bottom line of the project's cost.

In the meantime, we are learning to live with a certain amount of chaos and unpredictability. Several years ago I renovated the master bathroom in my home. As tile was jack hammered, plumbing was torn out, and walls refinished, I vowed that I would never tackle a renovation project again. A friend cautioned me to never say "never." That friendly admonition has special meaning for me these days as I see the rubble pile in the loading dock area grow each day and watch dumpster after dumpster being hauled away. What keeps a smile on my face (most days!) is the vision of what will be once all the dust settles. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission will have a wonderful "new" building to begin a new century of service to Texas. That will make it all worthwhile!

And what would we do without wonderful friends like you! Your generous contributions, encouraging words, and thoughtful notes help in countless ways. The Friends of Libraries and Archives of Texas has its first major gift of \$1 million and is working on several other possibilities for major contributions. In addition, the Friends have hired a part-time development director, Charlotte McCann, to guide the fundraising effort. Contact Charlotte at 512-936-2505 or cmccann@tsl.state.tx.us. The Friends website is located at www.texaslibraryfriends.org. We look forward to inviting you to join the celebration in 2010!

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Financial Reports for July

Austin Genealogical Society	
Profit & Loss	
January 1 through July 31, 2008	
INCOME	
2008 Research Trip -- Ft. Wayne	3,060.00
Annual Seminar Receipts	3,898.00
Bus Trips - Dallas	2,340.00
Classes (incl LTL)	165.00
Contributions Rec'd	265.00
Envelope Collections	5.51
Membership Dues Rec'd	3,865.00
Misc Income	1,207.48
Sales - Earned Revenues	393.00
Total Income	15,198.99
Cost of Goods Sold	344.49
Total COGS	344.49
GROSS PROFIT	14,854.50
EXPENSE	
Cemetery project	43.65
Charitable Donations	500.00
Education	4,166.30
Membership Costs	578.57
Operating Expenses	
Bank Fees	31.57
Equip. (Purch /Rent & Maint)	35.69
Miscellaneous Expenses	291.57
Permits & Licenses	175.00
Postage and Delivery	355.33
Printing and Copying	1,544.13
Rent - Meeting Rooms	485.00
Society Memberships	25.00
Supplies and Materials	42.09
Total Operating Expenses	2,985.38
Research Trip Expenses	3,259.21
TOTAL EXPENSE	11,533.11
Net Ordinary Income	3,321.39
Other Income - Interest Earned	53.07
NET INCOME	3,374.46

Austin Genealogical Society	
Balance Sheet	
As of July 31, 2008	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Public Employees Credit Union	10,025.00
Wells Fargo	11,816.65
Total Checking/Savings	21,841.65
Other Current Assets	531.82
TOTAL ASSETS	22,373.47
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Research Trip Traveler Deposits	1,500.00
Sales Tax Payable	9.08
Total Liabilities	1,509.08
EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	17,489.93
Net Income	3,374.46
Total Equity	20,864.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	22,373.47

Notes from the Newsletter Editor:

One of the ways to keep AGS strong and helpful is to serve. If the nominating committee (see article above) contacts you, please consider serving.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read the AGS Newsletter. I hope you found some useful information here and that you will let us know if you have any ideas on how it can be improved. .

Until next time... Happy Trackin',
Janis Trayler, Editor
newsletter@austintxgensoc.org

2008 Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors for the Austin Genealogical Society for 2008 are:

Term ending 2008:	Term Ending 2009:
Kay Boyd	Teri Flack
Inez Eppright	Tommy Ingram
Sharon Foley	Barbara Innis
Cindy Foreman	Elizabeth Johnston
Connie Perdue	Robert Sage
Janis Trayler	Randy Whited

2008 Officers

President	Tommy Ingram
1 st Vice President	Kay Boyd
2 nd Vice President	Cindy Foreman
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 share those with us.

INSIDE:

News about coming AGS events:

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Board of Directors Meeting Recap

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Update on the Texas State Library

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