



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

August 2010

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

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No. 8

50 YEARS & GROWING

Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

Program: *Myths & Pitfalls*

Presented by: *Lynn LeCROPANE, J.D.*
and *Nancy R. STEVENS, M.A., M.L.I.S., C.G.®*

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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As genealogists we can all be guilty of getting hung up on our preconceived notions, of assuming that information passed on to us is accurate, and also of buying into a number of myths that have little or no basis in fact. Nancy and Lynn will address several of these topics and in the course of the presentation, will attempt to help you avoid falling prey to the myths and taking a pitfall tumble.



Nancy R. STEVENS has an M.A. in American studies, an M.L.I.S., and is a Certified Genealogist®. She has over 30 years of work experience as an archives specialist, government documents librarian, and researcher. Nancy retired from full-time work in 2005 and now has more time for genealogical research.



In Lynn's professional life, she is an attorney, but most people who know her are well aware that her favorite role is Auntie Lynn to her many nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends. Lynn has a large extended family and has been interested in family history for most of her life. In 2001, she began genealogy with full force and quickly found her way to the Austin

Genealogical Society, serving on the AGS board and as Treasurer for a few years. She has participated in several AGS trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Her genealogy research focuses on New England, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Italy, Sweden, and she hopes to research back to England and Ireland. She has found records for two ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War and one who fought in the Civil War. She is still looking for her Indian princess

AGS Business

The AGS Board of Directors met in regular session prior to the general meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2010. Committee and treasurer reports were submitted and approved. The following topics were discussed and actions taken:

Treasurer: The Board approved an increase for the expense allowance for the July speaker, Joan NEUBAUER, from \$50 to \$150 in order to fully cover her expenses to and from Austin.

Quarterly: Editor Randy WHITED reports the Summer Quarterly has been completed and mailed. Most people should have it by now. This is the first issue in a long time that is *totally* comprised of member contributions rather than filling in with compiled records. There are already four member submissions for the next issue.

Nominating Committee – Cindy FOREMAN reported that nominees are needed for the election of the next Board. Five members are needed for the committee – one is a Board member appointed by the President to Chair the committee; two additional members are elected from the Board; and two members are elected by the general membership. Sara GREDLER was appointed to Chair the committee and Kate ALLEN and Mary TODD were elected to represent the Board on the committee. (NOTE: In the general meeting, the membership elected two additional required committee

members. These are Edna YOUNGBLOOD and Shelia SARGENT.)

Website: Webmaster Dona KURTZ reported some statistics from the AGS website:

3,136 unique visitors in May

3,103 unique visitors in June

3,374 unique visitors in July

72 visits to the website were referred from the Legacy News webpage in advance of the free Mini-Seminar with Geoff RASMUSSEN on July 17th. Most hits to our site are usually on the day that the newsletter comes out.

Historian: Historian Mary TODD recently met with former AGS Historian Elizabeth JOHNSTON. Mary received the AGS scrapbook which will be used as part of the 50th Anniversary display.

AGS Board member Teri FLACK has been appointed by Texas Chief Supreme Court Justice WALLACE JEFFERSON to sit in on the meetings of the newly appointed Court Records Preservation Task Force that will be looking to develop training for County and District Clerks to involve citizens in preserving the records. The main focus will be on Court Records.

The search for new Board of Directors members continues

As mentioned above, the search for new Board members is on-going and continues through the Nominating Committee. In keeping with the bylaws, this committee will be talking with AGS members to determine their interest in

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serving in this capacity. If you are interested in sharing your interest in genealogy and your talents in this way, please contact Sara GREDLER (sarakg@yepmail.net). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the election scheduled for the October meeting.

Membership

As a follow up to the free Mini-Seminar on July 17th, we have confirmed **115** people were in attendance!

There were 70 members and 5 visitors attending the July meeting on *Publishing Your Genealogy* by Joan NEUBAUER and Ron NEILSEN. The visitors were Terry JOY, Serena ELLER, Judy MAGNUSON, Rick RODNEY, and Ann WARREN.



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

Bonnie BERG of Georgetown

Suzanne CHANEY of Austin

Robert & Judy Mae CORRIGAN of Creedmoor

Ann CUNNINGHAM of Austin

Melinda FERRELL of Austin

Betty FOWLER of Georgetown

William HUDSON of Austin

Sally MACIAS of Cibolo

Judy Wire MAGNUSON of Austin

Anne MAMIYA of Austin

Dottie MITCHELL of Georgetown

Gary & Kathy PEMBERTON of New Braunfels

Linda SHANHOUSE of Georgetown

Linda SMITH of Jonestown

Winnie SPITZ of Manchaca

We look forward to getting to know you and seeing you soon at a regular meeting or AGS function.

Hospitality

Our thanks go out to Deb VAN CLEAF, Inez EPPRIGHT, and Lynn LeCROPANE for bringing refreshments to the July meeting and to Deb VAN CLEAF for being the designated greeter.

Scheduled to bring refreshments for the August meeting are Nancy STEVENS, Missy HARRIS, Jan MOODY, and Maurine ATWOOD. Greeters for August are Arlene ZIRKEL and JoAnn TRAVER.

AGS—50 Years & Growing!

**Mark your calendars for TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH, for the
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MEETING**

One of the ways we are celebrating throughout the year is to be sure all members receive a 50th Anniversary tote bag. Whether you are a new member or have been a member for many years, please be sure to pick up your tote bag if you have not done so already.

CAN YOU HELP? We are searching for the following:

AUSTIN DISPLAY: Photos, news clippings, interesting items from in and around Austin in the time period of 1960-2010. Please contact Carroll PATTERSON (carrollpatterson@austin.rr.com) or Glenda BLACK (gblack@austin.rr.com) for more information.

AGS DISPLAY: Single or group photos taken at meetings, on research trips; handouts; publications; souvenirs. Mary TODD (westy42@austin.rr.com) would like to hear from you.



State Archives Bldg.—1961

We will be using photographs in the special anniversary edition of the Quarterly. Toward that end, the Anniversary Committee is putting out a call to all past presidents, officers, and Board members to come to the Anniversary party at the September meeting. If you fit in one of these categories, but will not be able to attend in September, please take advantage of an early photo opportunity at the August meeting.

Historically Speaking

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

From the AGS Quarterly, Volume XXXVI, No. 3, September 1995.

"There are many AGS members who have worked long and hard for the Society and the profession of genealogy. From this group, I'd like to mention three in particular for what they have done and are continuing to do. Each has contributed so much that we can't make it up to them; not that they would in the least expect anything in return for their labors. But at least we can recognize them and their work and their love for genealogy and people. This is an only-too-brief recognition of their effort.

Josephine ROSS (deceased), Helen RUGELEY (deceased), and

"Putnam MONROE. He has for a long time been Publications Mailing Officer for AGS. This means he has to keep up with the existing membership roster and that of the exchange quarterlies before every mail-out which is from one to as many as three times each month. Colonel Monroe very efficiently manages this using his own computer program. Now that's for starters. Next, he has to make sure that these mailing lists, in a timely manner and properly updated, are in the hands of the concerns who publish our journals. Then

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he has to maintain an ongoing communications link with the U.S. Postal Service because they are always running out of escrow money in the AGS fund, or they have a bunch of returns to pick up, or something else is remiss. Finally, he has to face the wrath of member after mem-

ber who either failed to get his copy, or got it late, or it was all mangled and unreadable or you-name-it. And through it all, he has to smile and enjoy it all because that's the only way Putnam knows how to do it. Well, Colonel, the only way we know how to respond is with a great big vote of thanks for a superb job done the way you do it--correctly and with that huge smile."

Report from AGS Liaison to the Texas State Library

Teri E. FLACK



Lorenzo De Zavala Building—2010

Fourteen members of AGS toured the renovated Texas State Library and Archives on July 8 and 25 toured on July 29th. Another tour is scheduled as this Newsletter goes to print. Diana HOUSTON, Assistant Director for Information Services, who oversees the Texas Family Heritage Research Center (as the Genealogy Collection has been renamed), guided us through the new space. If you haven't been to the Lorenzo de Zavala Building recently, you won't recognize the space. All of the research opportunities at the library are combined into a two-story space on the first and second floors (which means if you've found a book in the catalog that isn't a genealogy book, it's really

easy to get it). Microfilm is located on the first floor. Books are located on the second. There's an open staircase within the Center or you can take the elevator. The archives reading room is still located in a separate location on the first floor. They have installed electrical plugs throughout to facilitate the use of personal computers. There are two new tools you'll find especially useful: microfilm and book scanners – a real money saver if you don't want to copy the materials you find. Scans can be transferred to your thumb drive. And the best part -- the scanners are free. They also have installed lockers that you can use to store your purse or other valuables while you wander the floors.

Newly appointed State Archivist, Jelain CHUBB, greeted the tour members. She revealed that TSL has been working with Ancestry.com to digitize some of the archival records that genealogists find most useful. First up will be the Confederate Pension records (the index is already online) which should be available online next spring. More of the collections will be digitized in the near future. Ms. CHUBB and Ms. HOUSTON also told us that they are looking to hold some genealogy lock-ins and classes in the future. We believe that this will give us some opportunities to partner with the Texas State Library.

More News from the Texas State Library

We have received word from TSL that the library edition of Ancestry.com will be available for public use at the Texas State Library effective Wednesday, September 1st. This research tool provides patrons instant access to a wide range of resources for genealogical and historical research. With more than 7,000 databases, the library edition includes records from the United States censuses, Canadian and UK censuses, military records, and international collections from the UK, Canada, Australia, Germany, China, and more. These continuously expanding collections are free to use at the Texas State Library.

AGS Calendar of Activities

Tuesday, August 24th, 6:30 p.m.—AGS Monthly meeting (See [page 1](#) for more information.)

Tuesday, September 28th —

AGS 50th Anniversary Celebration!

AGS Educational Opportunities

Saturday, September 18th & 25th —

Beginning Genealogy Classes in the Community Classroom at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, located at [9508 Great Hills Trail](#), Austin, TX 78759. Cost: \$15 includes both classes and a notebook with forms and information. Contact Kay BOYD for additional information (mkdb1405@aol.com) or visit the AGS website for the registration [form](#).

Other Educational Opportunities

2nd Saturdays—Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group—contact John MAROSTICA for more information or check their website at www.austingensig.com.



**FGS Annual Conference
August 18-21, 2010
Knoxville, Tennessee**

“Rediscovering America’s First Frontier” is this year’s theme, offering a wide variety of courses and the keynote address by Mark LOWE, CG. Find out more at www.fgs.org/2010conference/.



**German Texan Heritage Society annual conference
September 24th—26th
Fredericksburg, Texas**

For additional information, contact GTHS by email at info@GermanTexans.org or go to the GTHS website: www.GermanTexans.org.



**[Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin](#)
New Classes begin September 13, 2010
Course cost: \$20 Online registration at <http://www.liaustin.org/registration>**

Tuesday mornings beginning September 14: Class #14. A GENEALOGY SAMPLER

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail

Classes are presented by instructors from the Austin Genealogical Society. A variety of topics makes this a course for beginners as well as seasoned researchers. *There is an additional \$3 charge for copies.*

Wednesday mornings beginning September 15: Class #38: WRITING MEMOIRS

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon at Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Dr.

Instructor: Howard WILSON

One of the most exciting centuries in history has ended—the birth and development of radio and television, the airplane and moon landing, and computers and internet, etc. Here’s an opportunity to dip into your memories for stories you can tell in your own words; then read them to the class. Enjoy the stories of others and let them enjoy yours. No formal instruction.



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Victoria County Genealogic Society

GENEALOGY SEMINAR

Saturday, October 9, 2010, 8:30 – 4:00

2200 E. Red River, Victoria, Texas

The Victoria College Student Center, Room A

Featured Speaker: George G. MORGAN

Scheduled topics include:

- * *Bring 'Em Back to Life: Developing an Ancestor Profile*
- * *Push and Pull: The Reason for Migration*
- * *The Genealogist as CSI: Modern Genealogist Are Like Crime Scene Investigators – CSIs*
- * *Bits and Obits: Reading Between the Lines*

Register by **September 25th** for \$40; after that, the cost will be \$50.

A box lunch is included. Seats are limited, so please register early!



San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society

51st ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR

October 16, 2010, 8:30 – 4:00

Doubletree Downtown in Market Square

(formerly the Radisson)

Featured Speaker: Dr. John Philip COLLETTA

Dr. COLLETTA's topics will be:

- * *Breaking through Brick Walls - Use Your Head;*
- * *Using Newspapers for Family History Research;*
- * *Using Original & Derivative Sources: How to Evaluate Evidence; and*
- * *How to Assemble & Write a Narrative Family History.*

Early registration ends October 1st. For more information, check their website at www.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2/Pages/News.htm

Caldwell County Genealogical and Historical Society Annual Seminar

Saturday, October 23rd

Featured Speaker: Teri FLACK

More information next month



Texas State Genealogical Society

2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bridging Generations: 50 Years of the Texas State Genealogical Society

November 5-6, 2010

Waco, TX

At the **Hilton Waco**, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco, Texas, just across the street from the Waco Suspension Bridge over the Brazos River.

Friday's featured speaker is our own Teri FLACK. Her topics are "*Finding Your Ancestors in the Republic of Texas*" and "*Keeping the Home Fires Burning: The Texas Homefront During the Civil War.*"

Saturday's featured speaker is Barbara Vines LITTLE. She will speak on two methodology topics: "*Using Census*" and "*Teasing the Silent Woman*" and two Virginia Research topics: "*Born in Virginia*" and "*Digging Deeper in Virginia.*"

Registration is now open. Click [here](#) for access to the conference schedule and the registration form.



The inaugural **Save Texas History Symposium** will be in Austin, Texas on **Saturday, November 6, 2010**. The topic of the symposium will be "**Discovering Spanish and Mexican Texas.**"

Hosted by Commissioner Jerry PATTERSON and the Texas General Land Office, the symposium will be held at the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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The registration fee is \$25 per person. Call 1-800-998-4456 or email archives@glo.state.tx.us to register. Click [here](#) for the online registration form.

Guest speakers include Texas State Historian Dr. Light CUMMINS, former Texas State Historian Dr. Frank de la TEJA, and Dr. Felix D. ALMARAZ. Click [here](#) to read more about the Save Texas History Symposium.

There will be plenty to do at the symposium:

- * Survey downtown Austin with a real-life survey team
- * Learn tips to research your family tree
- * Visit the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
- * Tour the Texas General Land Office Archives - See original signatures of Stephen F. Austin and other Texas heroes

- * Make handcrafted paper from old fashioned materials
- * Print your own map on an antique iron hand printing press

The Texas General Land Office Archives was created after the Texas Revolution when Sam Houston directed the first land commissioner, John P. Borden, to collect all available land records defining the new Republic. These valuable documents, now housed in temperature- and access-controlled vaults, are used daily by genealogists, historians, archeologists, surveyors and anyone interested in Texas history. For more information about the Texas General Land Office Archives, go to <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/archives.html>.

For more information about what you can do to help save Texas history, go to <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/OC/savetxhist/index.html>.

AGS WEBSITE NEWS

We have experienced an unusual growth in membership this year and many members have joined since March when the AGS Membership Directory was published. If you need to contact a new member, the easiest way to find the information is through the Members Only section of our [website](#).

One of the things this means to YOU is the list of surnames these new members bring into the mix. If you have not taken a look at the surname list on the website lately, you might be well served to check your list of surnames against it. I've just found TWO new possibilities for cousins and I have only gotten through the C's! In addition to new members adding their names, current members are also adding surnames of newly-found family lines.

The **Members Only** section information has a great deal of information available and a number of links to other websites that may be of help to you.

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

News about The Quarterly

AGS Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED extends his thanks to everyone who contributed articles for the most recently published Quarterly. He was delighted to receive so many submissions. In fact, there were more than enough contributions and he has a head start on the next issue!

That said, he still has much more space to fill in the Fall issue, so keep writing and submitting your stories, articles, and information. The competition for the Quarterly writing awards is going to be steep and we all benefit from your contributions.



Odds & Ends

The cycle of planning for AGS programs in 2011 has begun. If you have ideas for programs, please contact Program Chairperson [Sharon FOLEY](#) or a member of the Board of Directors and let us know your thoughts.



At our last mini-seminar, we offered the speaker's handout in either a written handout or a CD. Did you like that option? Click [here](#) to let us know or tell a Board member.



AGS member Betty BENNIE writes she would like to

hire someone to help put her family information into her Family Tree database. She also needs someone to help her in accessing and interpreting information in her Stokes DNA Project. If you can help, please check her contact information in the online [AGS Membership Directory](#).



Have you checked out the University of North Texas website for Texas history lately? There are newspapers and city directories for Austin, Fort Worth, and some other miscellaneous cities listed. Check it out at <http://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=directories>

In Memoriam



Ruth Caroline HARDT KOEHLER passed away on August 7, 2010. She was born on February 27, 1924 to Anton John HARDT and Laura FRICK HARDT of Yancey, Texas. Ruth graduated from Yancey High School and worked briefly at the Hondo Army Airfield before attending the University of Texas in Austin. She graduated with a degree in business administration and began her career with the Social Security Administration. While working in Corpus Christi, she married her husband of almost 60 years, Bill. They later moved to Houston and when Bill retired in 1985, they moved to Austin. It was here she took an interest in genealogy and was an active member of the Austin Genealogical Society. In 1992, Ruth and Bill published a book entitled *Henry Christian Hardt, a Genealogy: 1639-1992* on Ruth's paternal grandfather. The book was awarded a prize by the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, William KOEHLER, her parents, and two brothers, Lloyd HARDT and Richard HARDT. She is survived by her sons, William A. KOEHLER of Batavia, Illinois, and James Brian KOEHLER, of Pflugerville, Texas, one brother, Calvin "Pete" HARDT, and many nieces and nephews. To share memories and view her obituary, please visit www.wcfish.com

Editor's Corner

The hot weather finally arrived in Austin. What a great excuse to go to the library ... or archives ... or museum.

Our programs this year have been some of the best ever. The Program Committee is always open to new topics so if you have any ideas or have a topic you would like to hear more about, please make the effort to let them know.

And *please*, if you are interested in volunteering your time next year toward making AGS an ever better organization, please let us know. There is always something that needs to be done!

Until next time, Happy Trackin'.

Janis

2010 Board of Directors

Term ending 2010:	Term Ending 2011:
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 st Vice President	Kay BOYD
2 nd 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 4th 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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***Promoting genealogy through research,
education, and preservation.***

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