



# The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

## August 2012

*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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**Survey results are now available on the AGS website in the Members' Only section.**

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Janis Trayler, Editor  
[Newsletter](#)  
[@AustinTxGenSoc.org](mailto:@AustinTxGenSoc.org)

## Monthly AGS Meeting Tuesday, August 28, 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: *Trailing Old West History***  
**Presented by: *Mike Cox***

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

In presenting “Trailing Old West History,” Mike COX will be sharing tips he has learned from 40-plus years of researching and writing books, mixed with some storytelling. His presentation will focus on little-known aspects of Texas history and will place particular emphasis on the Texas Rangers. Mike says, “Old-time Texas Rangers used to say some men just need killing. Some stories just need telling, and that's what I like to do.”



Mike COX, an elected member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of 20 Texas-related, non-fiction books as well as numerous magazine articles. Author of a best-selling two-volume narrative history of the Texas Rangers, "The Texas Rangers: Wearing the Cinco Peso, 1821-1900" and “Time of the Rangers: The Texas Rangers 1900 to Present,” Cox in September 2010 received

the A.C. Greene Award for lifetime achievement as a writer.

A former award-winning journalist for the Austin American-Statesman and other Texas newspapers, Cox spent more than 15 years as spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety, handling media interviews at the scene of some of the biggest news events in recent Texas history.

He retired as communications manager for the Texas Department of Transportation in 2007, but retired from retirement in 2010 to join the communications division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He still devotes much of his free time to writing, editing/consulting, and public speaking.

Learn more about Mike's "Texas Tales" at <http://www.texasescapes.com/MikeCoxTexasTales/MikeCoxTexasTales.htm>.

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

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, July 24th, prior to the regular Society meeting. The following items were discussed and action taken.

#### **Treasurer's Reports**

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

#### **Bylaws Revision Committee**

Earle McBRIDE, chair of the Bylaws Revision Committee, reported that the committee had met earlier in the month and that copies of proposed revisions had been emailed to the Board. There was some discussion regarding the incorporation of "preservation" into the "purposes" section so as to be consistent with our mission statement. There were other discussions regarding other portions of the proposed changed. No decisions were made at this meeting and the revisions will be discussed again at the August Board meeting.

#### **AGS Website**

The new website is up and running. By now, all members should have received an email with a personalized logon ID and temporary password. (Editor's Note: If you have not received this information, [click here](#) to go to the website, click the "Member Login" tab, then click "Register" under the logon spaces. Follow the directions that come up to receive your logon ID and password.)

#### **Member Survey**

The Member Survey was discussed at some length. Particular discussions were held regarding responses to the following Survey results: Monthly meeting location, volunteers, training sessions for teaching beginner courses, forming mentoring groups, and offering genealogy technology classes for those with very limited computer experience.

The survey results on Question #16 showed 78% of respondents identified our current location as either an "excellent" or "good" option, with Triumphant Love Lutheran Church following with a 72% combined "excellent or good" location. Because of the closeness of these votes, the Board agreed that President Sharon Foley will poll the members attending this and the next few meetings in an effort to get a better understanding of the preferences of meeting attendees.

The Board agreed to continue discussion of the survey results at future meetings and to determine which survey results are most deserving of action plans in the short term.

#### **Nominating Committee**

Jane SCHWENDINGER agreed to chair the Nominating Committee to submit slate of candidates to serve the next two-year term on the AGS Board of Directors. Jacquie WILSON and Janis TRAYLER were con-

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firmed by vote of the Board to be the Board's representatives on the Nominating Committee. (Read more about this on page [six](#).)

### **Save Texas History Symposium**

The possibility of having an AGS exhibitor booth at the Save Texas History Symposium in mid-September was brought before the Board. After some discussion, the decision was made to amend the 2012 budget to provide for the \$100 sponsorship fee.

On a number of occasions, AGS participates in various capacities at events such as this not only in Austin, but also in surrounding communities and, on occasion, at state-wide conferences and events. The subject of purchasing a branded table drape was brought up with

the aim that it could be used on a number of varied occasions to publicize our Society. Jen WHITLEY has looked into the cost of obtaining such a table drape that would prominently display our logo and provide a professional image at future events. Jen will continue to gather additional bids.

To this end, a motion was made, seconded, and passed, to authorize an amendment to the budget allowing up to \$600 for the purchase of the branded table drape and associated exhibit accessories to be used at future events where AGS will have an exhibitor's booth. It is anticipated that this table drape will be of sufficient quality to last for many years.



### **AGS Business**

**ATTENDANCE REPORT** for the AGS meeting on July 24, 2012: approximately 91 members and guests attended.

AGS welcomes the following new members since the last report:

Mary Ellen AUTRY — Buda 78610  
Cindy DAUTEL — Austin 78735  
Reba DUBAY — Austin 78735  
Melinda FERRELL — Austin  
Gary L. GREENE — Cedar Park 78613  
Judy GRUNDY (no address provided)  
Hugh HIGGINS — Austin 78759  
Cynthia KILMER — Austin 78735  
Robin KOLTON — Elgin 78621  
Martha KRAUSE PATTERSON — Austin 78748  
Elena LIPKOWSKI — Austin 78735  
Dana RIBBLE — Houston 77210  
Rebecca ROBINSON-FRANCIS — Austin 78753  
Gail SHIPPS — Round Rock 78681  
Jean S. ZUROW — Bastrop 78602

We are so glad to have all of you join us and hope to have many opportunities to get to know you.



### **HOSPITALITY REPORT.**

Martha CARPENTER welcomed members and guests at the July meeting.

Sheila SARGENT was in charge at the refreshment table and those who provided refreshments were Inez EPPRIGHT, Lezlie MARKEY, Susan TYLER, Sheila SARGENT, and Janis TRAYLER..

Serving at the registration table at the July meeting were Jean MAROSTICA, Arlene ZIRKEL, Sharon TIEMAN, Nelda LILLY, and Cynthia RODRIGUEZ.

***Volunteers make good things happen! Be sure to thank them all if you get the chance.***

Stepping up to assist with refreshments for August are Shirley ROBERTS, Barbara INNIS, Wynnette HARRIS, and Sheila SARGENT. Kay BOYD will be making popcorn again!

**Greeters for August** will be Barbara INNIS and Martha CARPENTER.

### AGS Activities

**Tuesday, August 28th**— Regular AGS meeting

Program: *Trailing Old West History* presented by Mike COX

**Tuesday, September 25th** — Regular AGS meeting

*Slate of Nominees for 2013 class of Board of Directors presented to the general meeting*

Program: *Social History of the Confederate States* presented by Jackie JONES

**Saturday, September 29th and October 6th** — AGS **Beginners' Classes** (See more below.)

**Saturday, October 20th**— AGS Mini-Seminar

See pages [seven and eight](#) for details

**Tuesday, October 23rd**— Regular AGS Meeting

*Election of AGS Board Members for 2013*

Program: *Who Do You Think You Are?* presented by the AGS Education & Programs Committee

**Tuesday, November 27th**—AGS Fall Festival

Program: *Austin's Sixth Street* presented by Allen CHILDS, M.D., author

#### **Saturdays, September 29 & October 6, 2012**

The Austin Genealogical Society presents our

#### **FALL BEGINNER'S CLASS**

Whether you are a novice, an intermediate, or a seasoned genealogist, the AGS Beginner's Classes are well worth your time. Taught by instructors Nancy STEVENS, CG, and Sharon FOLEY, these classes cover a very wide variety of research topics and tips.

Next month's Newsletter will have more information and you can also check the AGS website in September for additional info and registration information.



#### **SAVE THESE DATES:**

**Sunday, April 28 through**

**Sunday, May 5, 2013**

AGS will host a week-long research trip to the

**Family History Library in**

**Salt Lake City**

Details will be coming in September.

Trip Coordinator Pat OXLEY is also planning an orientation meeting for those who want to make the trip. Check this space next month for more details.

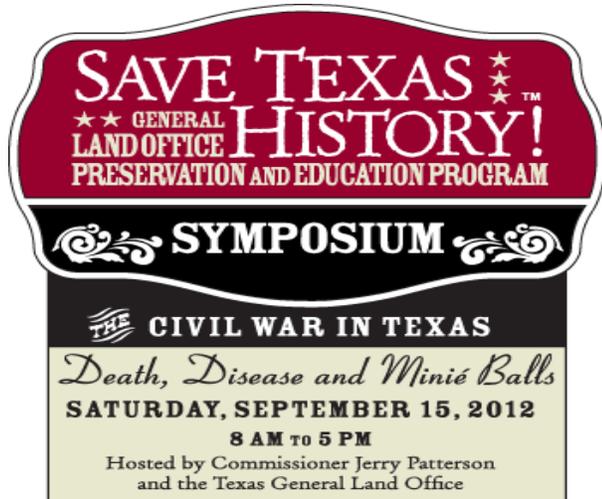


### Bits & Pieces

*It's not too early to begin planning your Christmas gifts!* If you have Travis County ancestors, a truly special gift for family members could be a **Travis County Pioneer Certificate** in their very own name! Now is not too soon to start the process.

More information about the criteria and the application form can be found on the "Pioneers" section of the AGS Website. [Click here](#) to go there.

### Other Genealogical Activities



#### ***3rd Annual Save Texas History Symposium***

The Texas General Land Office is hosting its 3rd Annual Save Texas History Symposium on **Saturday, September 15, 2012, from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.** at the **Thompson Conference Center, 2405 East Campus Drive, Austin, Texas.**

This year's theme is The Civil War in Texas. In the morning sessions, you will hear new perspectives on the Texas role in the War Between the States from Dr. Rick McCASLIN, Dr. Don FRAZIER and Mr. Ed CO-THAM.

Topics include Union plans for a Texas invasion, the Battle of Galveston, two new genealogy workshops, Tejano involvement in the Civil War, as well as special tours of the Texas State Cemetery.

To see a full agenda for the day, click on the Save Texas History banner above and scroll down the page.

To register online, [click here](#). To download a paper registration form, [click here](#). Registrations must be received by **September 10, 2012**. Special hotel room rates are available.

For additional information about the "Save Texas History" program, go to [www.savetexashistory.org](http://www.savetexashistory.org) or call **512-463-3289**.

#### ***Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin Classes Begin Soon***

The [Lifetime Learning Institute](#) of Austin, offers a Continuing education program of non-credit, daytime courses for adults 50 years of age and over. Included in their course schedule for the fall program is "A Genealogy Sampler" which begins on **September 18, 2012, and runs through November 6th.**



This series of eight two-hour morning sessions will begin with an Overview of Genealogical Research covering charts, sources, documentation, and research techniques (taught by the legendary AGS member Jean SHROYER), a trip to the Texas State Library to hear a presentation on the 1940 U.S. Census, and a variety of other programs by Nancy STEVENS, C.G., John MA-ROSTICA, and new AGS Member Charleen "Charlie" MULLENWEG.

Classes, except for the trip to the Texas State Library, are held at **Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail (78759)**. For a full description of the course information, check the web-site at <http://lliaustin.org/> or call them at 512-206-4232.



#### ***Learn About Tombstones***

On **October 13**, you are invited to join Save Austin Cemeteries at **11:00 a.m.** on a walk through **Oakwood Cemetery** with AGS Member and **Professor Emeritus of Geology, Earle F. McBRIDE**. Professor McBRIDE will talk about the materials that make cemetery headstones and monuments. During our visit to the cemetery we will examine the response of different rocks to the elements and microbial growth and see



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how both the texture of natural stone and its treatment by stonecutters influence legibility with time.

Please wear weather appropriate clothes and sensible, close-toed shoes as the terrain is uneven. If the weather does not cooperate, the presentation will be held inside the chapel at Oakwood Cemetery at **1601 Navasota Street** (south of UT baseball field and east of I-35). There is no charge for this event and free parking is available in the cemetery.



The **fifth annual Travis County History Day** will be held on **Friday, October 26, 2012**, from **10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.**, at **700 Lavaca Street in downtown Austin, in the new Commissioners Courtroom and Hall of Government**. The theme for this year's event is *Travis County: Then and Now*.

R.G. RATCLIFFE, author and political reporter, and Dr. Jeffrey KERR, author of *Austin, Texas: Then and Now*, will be the featured speakers at the event.

Historical photographs, documents and artifacts will be on display, including photographs from the archival collections of the Austin History Center.

The public is invited to join us for this special occasion. A reception sponsored by the Austin Bar Association will follow the program.

Travis County History Day is sponsored by the Travis County Archives, Austin History Center, Austin Bar Association, and the Travis County Historical Association.



### Odds & Ends

#### **The 1940 Federal Census is now available, free, and fully indexed.**

Ancestry.com has completed indexing *all* states recorded in the 1940 Federal Census of the United States. Access to this information is FREE to everyone.

FamilySearch has completed their indexing, but indexes for all states have not yet been released.

#### **Daughters of the Republic of Texas**

From the *Austin American-Statesman*, Sunday, August 5, 2012, we learn that the Daughters of the Republic of Texas are working on funding and plans to renovate four houses near the French Legation and move their headquarters and museum.

#### From the AGS Bylaws: Section 6: **Nominating Committee**

“At the July meeting of each year, a Nominating Committee shall be selected in the following manner: two members elected by the Board of Directors, one member appointed by the President, and two members elected by the membership. ... This committee shall recommend to the Society at the September meeting each year, the six (6) nominees for the Board of Directors to be elected at the October meeting.”

If you have any interest in serving on the Board of Directors to be elected in October, now is the time to let us know. You may submit your name as a candidate or have someone nominate you. *If you have a desire to serve in this, or any other capacity, please let us know as plans are beginning to be considered and put into place for next year.*

## **2012 Fall Mini-Seminar**

**AGS Welcomes ...**

**J. MARK LOWE**



**Saturday, October 20, 2012**

**Triumphant Love Lutheran Church**

**[9508 Great Hills Trail](#)**

**Austin, Texas 78759**

**Doors open: 8:30 a.m.**

**Program: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**



Mark's topics will be:

- **Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan** — Learn a simple technique for breaking down difficult research problems into manageable segments. Learn to get more research done while remaining focused.
- **Planning Around That Brick Wall** — By reviewing our research, and taking a fresh planning approach, take new opportunities to solve those family problems. Use the very evidence that stops you in your tracks to spring over the walls.
- **My Ancestor, the Farmer: Shaping a Profile for Your Rural Ancestor** — Farming is a proud and honorable occupation. Develop a rich profile of your farming ancestor and community using available resources.
- **Over the Mountain, Across the Plains... Using Electronic Records to Trace Our Ancestors** — Your ancestors moved westward, now follow them as they move back east. Knowing where to look for valuable records will reward you with insights and research plans.

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### ***Registration Information***

Registration for this 4-session seminar is only \$20 for AGS members (if registered and paid in advance) and \$25 for non-members. All registrations at the door will be \$25. **Online registration will open soon** and will close on Thursday, October 18. Payments by check must be received by Friday, October 19.

Light snacks and beverages will be provided. There will also be a break for lunch, *but lunch is on your own and will not be provided.*

### ***About the Speaker ...***

J. Mark LOWE, CG, FUGA is a full-time professional genealogist, author, and lecturer. Mark shares personal experiences that help beginning and experienced researchers gain new skills and insights for research. He specializes in Kentucky and Tennessee resources and researches primarily in original records and manuscripts throughout the South.

Mark lives in Robertson County, Tennessee, which is in northern Middle Tennessee along the Kentucky border. With family history in both states, a knowledge of the interaction of citizens along borders helps Mark resolve difficult issues using often overlooked records.

He also serves as a Course Coordinator for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) and Research in the South for IGHR at Samford University, and Director of the Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance), learning sessions and hands-on research focusing on original documents and manuscripts at regional archives. Mark has worked on several genealogical television series including *African American Lives 2*, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, and *UnXplained Events*.

Mark has published in the Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly (APGQ), National Genealogical Society Quarterly (NGSQ), the Genealogical Speakers' Guild SPEAK!, The Longhunter (So. Ky. Genealogical Society), The Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society Quarterly, and other local society publications. His own publications include Robertson County Tennessee Marriage Book 2, 1859-1873. He has served as the President of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), President for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and Vice President of the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG). He is the current Vice-President of the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society. Mark is a Certified Genealogist, a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Society, and was awarded the Graham T. Smallwood award by the Association of Professional Genealogists.

***We hope you will join us for this very special event!***

### **Editor's Corner**

If you missed our last meeting, Claudia ANDERSON provided a remarkable presentation on preservation of photographs and documents. The good news is, however, that her the nuts and bolts of her presentation can be found on the AGS website, Members' Only section.

Speaking of programs, if you have a particular topic or a speaker you would like to see on the program list for next year, please email Jane SCHWENDINGER at [programs@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:programs@austintxgensoc.org) with suggestions. She and her program committee will very soon be working on the program agenda for 2013.

By now you should have received an email blast from President Sharon FOLEY requesting nominations for the **Nominating Committee**. Although the nominations will be closed by the time you get this letter, you will be receiving a follow up email soon asking you to vote for two people who were nominated. This should have been done at the last meeting, but for the first time in recent memory, the Board meeting ran over time and it was time for the general meeting to begin. Please do vote when the next email comes around. Jane SCHWENDINGER is the chair of that committee and the Board representatives are Janis TRAYLER and Jacquie WILSON. Now we need two representatives from the general membership.

Until next time, stay cool and ...

Happy Trackin',  
[Janis](#)

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Or let us hear from you  
with a Tweet!

### **AGS Regular Meetings** **2012 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 Bet You Didn't Know That” presented by AGS  
members Jane SCHWENDINGER and Sharon  
FOLEY

Tuesday, June 26th

“Find Success with FamilySearch” 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***

| <b>Term Ending 2012:</b> | <b>Term Ending 2013:</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Karin BRANAMAN           | Jim COOPER               |
| Earle McBRIDE            | Teri FLACK               |
| Sharon FOLEY             | Dona KURTZ               |
| Missy HARRIS             | Randy WHITED             |
| Jane SCHWENDINGER        | Jennifer WHITLEY         |
| Janis TRAYLER            | Jacque WILSON            |

***2012 Officers***

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| President                      | Sharon FOLEY      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Janis TRAYLER     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Jane SCHWENDINGER |
| Recording Secretary            | Jacque 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.*

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 78759

***Visitors Are Always Welcome!***

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

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