



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

February 2006

www.AusTXGenSoc.org/

Vol. 12

2

Society Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2006
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive

Board of Directors - 6:00 p.m.
Get Acquainted Time: 6:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Business Meeting - 7:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Topic: Determining the Origins of a German Ancestor:
Methods for Locating an Ancestor - 1700 - 1850 Emigration Date

□ **Speaker: Suzanne E. Bettac**

Suzanne Bettac has been researching for fifteen years, six years professionally. She is a former Secretary, Membership and First Families Chairman of the San Antonio Genealogical Society. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, WPAGS, and OGS. She has been a frequent speaker throughout South Texas specializing in German research.

Over seven million Germans have emigrated to the United States, more than any other ethnic group. Approximately 28% of us have German ancestors. Our speaker who specializes in German research spoke on "Determining Origins of a German Ancestor 1850 - 1906" at the FGS Conference held at the Austin Convention Center in September 2005.



March Program

Steve Smith, a photo restoration specialist at George town Image Works will be the speaker at the March meeting. Steve specializes in digital capture and restoration of old photos that are fading, torn or in other ways deteriorating. He also advises clients regarding proper display and protection of photos to improve their longevity.

The program he presents includes a short video, some historical perspective on photographic media, types of damage that can be repaired, and how to take care of what you already have. His primary intent is to help folks better understand options, and should be of particular interest to those involved in genealogy and family history where photos play a role. Steve is a member of the National Association of Photo Shop Professionals (NAPP).

BULLETIN BOARD

Have you paid your AGS Dues for 2006?

Renewals are due by March 1, 2006 in order to continue getting AGS publications and/or to be in the membership handbook.

New Texas State Library Policy

As of January 23, 2006, the TSL now requires that all visitors to the building sign in at the front desk and note the department they are visiting. Each visitor will be issued an official VISITORS badge to wear while in the building. This is in accordance with their new security policy.

AGS Goes to Allen County Library

March 1st will be the absolute deadline to sign up to travel with AGS to the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. If you are interested in the cost and other details of the trip, please contact Pat Oxley (pat@theoxleys.com) or (733-5993.)

Upcoming Calendar of AGS Activities

February 18th: Advanced Classes, Back to Basics Free to AGS Members - See page 5 for details

February 28	Meeting, German Research
March 11 & 18	Beginner Classes at TSL
March 28	Meeting, Photo Restoration
April 1	Cemetery Work Day
April 22	Saturday, Cemetery Workshop
April 30 - May 6 :	Research Trip to Allen County Library
May 23	Meeting, Heritage Pot Luck Dinner

Condolences

Mary Elizabeth Spears, R. N. , Ret., 89, a former long-time member of AGS, died December 23, 2005 at Clarewood House, Houston, Texas.

AGS Cemetery Revitalization Project

AGS wants to revitalize the cemetery project this year by involving more people. If you want to do some cemetery work, I will find you a partner and a cemetery close to you. There are many grounds, some quite small and others larger that need our attention. If you have a cemetery that is near you or where you have family, I will be happy to put that on the top of the work list.

We already have a **Cemetery Work Day** on the calendar for April 1st (no joke). Volunteers will get together and work an area (or areas) as a group. There will be something for everyone, sit and write or bend over and read stones. More information will be forthcoming. Contact Kay Boyd at 836-7484 or HYPERLINK "mailto:mkdb1405@aol.com" mkdb1405@aol.com if you want to join us that day.

A Tombstone Preservation & Cleaning Workshop

The workshop is scheduled for April 22nd at Oakwood Cemetery. This will be on Saturday from 9:00 a.m.- 12 Noon. There will be information on preservation and a demonstration on cleaning tombstones. Cleaning material and kits will be for sale. More information will be forthcoming the the next newsletter.

Kay Boyd

Membership Committee Report

Dear Members

The Membership Committee will be meeting soon and planning for the year, including the Annual Social to be held. Meanwhile, we want to thank those of you that filled out and returned the surveys. All of the suggestions and comments you made will be noted.

The AGS Board of Directors is working hard to provide good good classes, programs and trips to help your research needs. If you have any other comments or suggestions, please feel free to pass them on to me or to one of the other board members.

We also appreciate those of you that offered to help with different projects. Your names will be passed on to the appropriate committee chairs.

Edna Young blood
Membership Chairman

Featured Web Site: Austin Genealogical Society

Yes, that's our web site! Have you visited it recently? Attendees at the January 2006 AGS meeting had the opportunity to see the debut of what we hope will be a monthly feature, at our meetings and in our newsletter. That's right: the Featured Web Site of the Month. And what a better web site to begin with than our own site at www.austintxgensoc.org!

At www.austintxgensoc.org, the home page will greet you with upcoming events, as well as a menu of

choices, including Austin Resources and the AGS surname list. You might want to go straight to the "Classes and Activities" link, which lists information about AGS meetings, classes; bus trips; and the cemetery project.

But don't stop there! Did you know that the Austin Resources selection doesn't limit you to Austin or Travis County? As a matter of fact, the Austin Resources page provides links to take you far beyond the Austin city limits. For instance, you will find links to places such as surrounding counties and the Texas State Cemetery, as well as other research, such as blank charts and forms and passenger list information.

Perhaps you already know the AGS Surname list contains a collection of surnames that AGS members are researching. But did you know that the list also includes contact information for the person who submitted the name? Check it out. You might just find another cousin!

The "AGS Mailing List" works like a "list serve." What's a list serve? It's a distribution list containing e-mail addresses of folks who all have a common interest. In this case genealogy news and information. You have the choice of subscribing to receive individual e-mail messages as they become available or subscribing to receive a digest version containing several messages at once.

So what are you waiting for? The next time you're online, go to www.austintxgensoc.org and see what the AGS web site has to offer. There may be a gem waiting just for you!

Lynn LeCropane

Genealogy for Young People

While looking for tools the AGS Education Committee could use to get young people involved in family history, I stumbled across some interesting material. The National Genealogical Society offers several youth-related booklets for purchase in their bookstore at www.ngsgenealogy.org.

Hunting for Your Heritage is described as an educational comic book which introduces children to genealogy. According to the web site, "The fun book includes a blank pedigree chart and family group sheet that researchers can copy and use. Help sow the seeds of genealogy..." Check with Tommy Ingram at tommyingram@grandecom.net if you want to see a sample copy. These comic book-style pamphlets are priced at \$1.25 plus postage for a single copy down to .55 cents each + \$4.50 for an order of 100.

All About My Family by Catherine Zahn is a compact study unit for Kindergarten through third grade teachers. It contains everything the teachers will need to introduce the concepts of family and extended family, and reinforces geography, math and art concepts. This 24 page book is currently on sale for \$15.00 in the NGS bookstore.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Genealogy for Young People

The Family News: A Teacher's Guide for Using Genealogy and Newspapers in the Classroom

by Catherine Zahn is a 38-page booklet. "Throughout this unit students will be encouraged to work on their family history. They will collect and incorporate their family history and artifacts into a newspaper format." On sale in the NGS bookstore for \$5.00. Surf through the National Genealogical Society web site at [HYPERLINK "http://www.ngsgenealogy.org" www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org).

Tommy Ingram

Historical Novel Based on New London Texas Story

For all of you Texas history buffs, I thought that you might be interested in a novel that I just read about the New London, Texas school explosion that occurred in 1937. From the New London web site at <http://www.nise.org/> "the roof fell in and buried its victims in a mass of brick, steel and concrete debris. The explosion was heard four miles away, and it hurled a two-ton concrete slab 200 feet away, where it crushed a 1936 Chevrolet. Of the 500 students and forty teachers in the building, approximately 298 died due to a gas explosion."

The book is "There is a Wideness" by Mark McAllister. It is a fictional novel but is based on this true tragedy. If you want to learn more about the book and this Austin author, you can visit his web site at <http://www.markmcallister.com>. My grandparents and my husband's grandparents are from East Texas so it was interesting to read about the history and events that surrounded that time period.

Mark's web site also has a review by Cindy Vallar that was in the Historical Novels Review, November 2004 that you may want to read. I also wanted to include a review below from a fellow Austinite, Laura H. Delfield that can be found on Amazon.com. These reviews can give you more information about the book.

"This beautiful written novel is told from a male point of view, something I found to be very refreshing. The lives of two broken, emotionally bankrupt men accidentally collide. Initially wary of one another, but perhaps sensing a kindred spirit, the two men gradually share one another's story and in doing so, facilitate a healing and growth which had eluded them for many years.

The plot evolves around a terrible, true tragedy that occurred in East Texas in 1937, the New London school explosion, where 300 people, mostly children, were killed. The horror of such tremendous human loss evokes thoughts of recent public tragedies in America and led me to consider how the lives of these two men might have been different had a tragedy of that scale occurred in the present day. It gave me an appreciation of just how much the support system and legal environment of our society has changed.

In addition to the school explosion, the author interweaves other historical events from the twenties,

thirties, and forties, thereby creating a wonderful sense of the time and place. This book entralls the reader from the very start. Besides the fascinating historical elements of the story, you will witness redemption and spiritual healing, all achieved in a non-preachy manner.

This is a kind of book that stays with you for a long while. I find myself recommending it to every discriminating reader I know."

Connie Perdue

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction to Genealogy- A Class for Beginners

Session I

Family History Begins at Home
Interviewing & Correspondence
Planning & Organizing Your Research
Sources & Evidence
Pedigree Charts & Family Group Sheets
Searching Court House Records
The Genealogy Library - What's There?
Cemeteries & Funeral Homes

Session II

Online Genealogy Sites
Search Engines
Research Techniques

Classes will be held at the Texas State Library, 1201 Brazos, Austin, Texas, Room 202 on March 11 and March 18, 2006. Class hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

Cost for the two sessions will be \$15.00. Advanced registration is required. Deadline for registration is March 4, 2006. Maximum class size is 12. Minimum class size is 8. Minimum class size must be met or the classes will be canceled and refunds issued.

To register, please send your name, address; city; state; zip; phone and e-mail address along with your check made out to the Austin Genealogical Society to AGS Genealogy Class, c/o Kay Boyd, 1405 South Meadows, Austin, TX 78758.

Mark Your Calendar!

Mark Lowe and Pam Porter will be the speakers for the Texas State Genealogical Society Conference on October 27 - 28, 2006 in Fort Worth, Texas. Details about this conference will be in future AGS newsletters!

2006 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

The 2006 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conferences will be held in Boston, MA this year. The dates are August 30 - September 2, 2006 at the Hynes Convention Center, in the famed Boston's Black Bay area. This will be the largest genealogical conference ever held in the USA, including participants from five foreign countries. For details about the conference, please check out the FGS web site at www.fgs.org.

**Share Stories About Your Austin
Write On, Austin! Submit Your Stories**

Write on, Austin! is Mayor Will Wynn's vision to keep Austin writing, an interactive web site where veterans and aspiring authors can share stories about their lives and the Austin experience. The Austin History Center staff along with volunteers from the community and the Metropolitan Austin Interactive Network are hoping to make this happen. You can join us in this effort.

Genealogists have stories perfect for Write On Austin! Go to <http://www.writeonaustin.org> to sign up and submit your story. This project is an extension of the project of the U. T. Humanities Institute that resulted in Writing Austin's Lives: a Community Portrait which is a Waterloo Press publication available at the Austin History Center.

The stories published on the Write On Austin! web site will be permanently stored at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library and can be read by people around the world on the web site at <http://www.writeonaustin.org>.

The web site is hosted by the Metropolitan Austin Interactive Network which is a local non-profit organization that hosts other non-profit web sites free of charge. Reviewers for the stories are from the community and once the story submission is reviewed to determine if it meets the submission requirements, it is immediately posted. All ages are represented all sharing their thoughts about Austin, Texas.



New Poster Exhibit at the Austin History Center

The Austin History Center's grand hallway is the venue of an innovative exhibit of music posters by up and coming Austin artists. "Postering in Austin: New Looks for the Old Traditions" will be on display from January through March 2006. The exhibit features select cross section of music posters from ten artists and design studios including: 8 ball, Jared Connor/Mexican Chocolate Design; Decoder Ring Design Concern; Bobby Dixon/Kollective Fusion; Rob Jones/Animal Rummy; Mig Kokinda; Erick Montes; Mark Pedini; Noel Waggener and Jamie Ward.

The Austin History Center is located at 810 Guadalupe Street, on the southwest corner of Guadalupe and 9th Streets in downtown Austin. The exhibit is free, bold and colorful, and open to the public Mon-Wed: 10 a.m. -9 p.m. ; Sat: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. ; Sun: 12 Noon - 6 p.m. (except holidays).

Williamson County Genealogical Society Conference

Saturday, March 11, 2006

First United Methodist Church, 1004 North Mays Round, Rock, Texas

Registration & Vendors: 8:00 a.m.

Seminar 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. George K. Schweitzer

Topics: Missouri Genealogical Research, Obscure Genealogical Research, Virginia Genealogical Research, Question and Answer Session

Pre-registration fee \$35.00 (includes morning snack, lunch and syllabus). Registration at the Door \$38.00. Seating is limited, pre-registration is recommended. Registration must be received by March 1st to have your surnames included on the Seminar Surname List. Make checks payable to WCGS and send registrations to Judy Belle Horick, 302 Thornton Cove, Georgetown, Texas 78628.

For additional information contact Jerry T. Barton at (512) 335-6904 or jbarton2710@sbcglobal.net or Judy B. Horick (512) 863-2685 or jbhorick@yahoo.com.

□ Web Sites

Sons of the American Revolution (Patrick Henry Chpt.)

www.austinsar.org

Allen County Public Library

www.acpl.lib.in.us

Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research

www.samford.edu/school/ighr

Tarrant County TX Gen Web Project

Options for locating obituaries & look up volunteers

www.rootsweb.com/~txtarran/

1907 Tarrant County Divorces

www.genealogybuff.com/tx/tx-tarrant-div-1907-htm

Texas Deaths(1964-1998) Free

www.familytreelegends.com/records/txdeaths

California Births (1905-1995) Free

www.familytreelegends.com/records/calbirths

Illinois Marriages (1763 - 1900) Free

www.familytreelegends.com/records/ilmarriages

Kentucky Deaths (1911 - 1992) Free

www.familytreelegends.com/records/kydeaths

Sources: AGS Jan. Mtng., Wynnell Noelke; TXTarrant-L@rootsweb.com, Community@Gencircles.com.



**AGS welcomes the following visitors to our
January 2006 meeting.**

Maurine Atwood

Ed Dorroh

Susan Goldsworthy

Ilo Hiller

Dona Kurtz

Fred Patterson

Back to Basics

A Class for the Experienced Genealogist

The Education Committee will present

A New and Better Family Group Sheet
Four Different Ways to Cite Your Sources
What You Can and Cannot Copy Without Violating Copyright Laws

**Saturday, February 18, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00
Noon**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson Lane
(Hwy. 183, across the access road from Red Lobster)

Free to AGS Members

Non-members - \$5.00, pay at the Door
(\$5.00 can be applied to your AGS Membership)

Check our web site
<http://www.austintxgensoc.org>
for membership information and application

RSVP Kay Boyd at 836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com
or Contact Harold Hudnall at hhudnall@direcway.com
for more information

AGS Newsletter Statement

The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter and the editor have attempted to make the information in this newsletter as accurate as possible, by obtaining it from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, and to identify the sources. The information contained herein is for the personal and/or educational use of AGS members only and is provided in good faith without any express or implied warranty. It is the policy of AGS to avoid publishing personal information that is considered private.

Any mention of commercial products within this newsletter is for information only, it does not imply recommendation or endorsement by AGS unless otherwise stated.

2/1/06

“Keep Searching”

Wilena D Young

E-mail: Wdky75@aol.com

Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter
P. O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010
Published monthly except August & December
Deadline for submitting information is the
1st. of the month

