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@the oxleys.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
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.ngsociety.org” www.ngs genealogy.org.

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 Forth 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.

Genealogist 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.

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/~txtarrant/>
1907 Tarrant County Divorces <www.genealogybuff.com/tx/tx-tarrant-div-1907.htm>
Illinois Marriages (1763 - 1900) Free <www.familytreelegends.com/records/ilmarriages>


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