



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

February 2009

Vol. 15

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

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Monthly AGS Meeting **Tuesday, February 24, 2009**

Program: "Give Me Your Tired and Your Poor:
Researching U.S. Ships' Passenger Lists"
Presented by: Karen Matheson

Highland Park Baptist Church
5208 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

6:30 - 7:00 P.M. – Social Time
7:00 - 8:30 P.M. – Program

Invite your neighbor or a friend to come with you!



Karen MATHESON began researching her family history many years ago, "at her mother's knee." She would help her mother copy Family Group Records and Pedigree Charts to give to other family members. Karen remembers visiting relatives in the South and watching her mother copy information from family Bibles, then going to cemeteries to visit the graves of deceased ancestors. From these humble beginnings, Karen's interest was again sparked as an adult. Karen has now been actively and continuously researching for the past 18 years.

Prior to moving to Texas, Karen worked as a professional genealogist for Lineages, Inc. Since that time, she has taken on private clients. Karen has volunteered many hours at the Round Rock Family History Center where she has served as the Director for the past five years. Karen has been a presenter at several Williamson County Genealogical Society and AGS local meetings as well as at Lifetime Learning sessions. She has taught classes at the Round Rock Family History Center and recently organized and carried out their first annual family history fair, "Harvest Your Family's History." Karen has also been a presenter at the East Texas Genealogical Society, and she led a roundtable discussion for the Texas State Genealogical Society at their past conference.

Karen also serves as a board member of the Williamson County Genealogical Society and is a member of the Education Committee for the Austin Genealogical Society.

Karen enjoys teaching, presenting, helping others extend their pedigrees, and catching that occasional human glimpse of her ancestors through family history.

AGS BUSINESS

Due to the cancellation of the regular monthly meeting, the Board of Directors did not meet in January. We primarily used an email "blast" and the AGS website to disseminate meeting cancelation information to the membership. We plan to use this method of communication anytime cancelations become necessary, so please check your email and/or the AGS website if you wonder whether a meeting or event will be canceled or postponed due to weather conditions.

The program by Dr. J. F. de la Teja, Texas State Historian, originally scheduled for January, has been rescheduled for the May meeting.



We regret to advise the membership that Tommy INGRAM has submitted his resignation from the Board due to health issues. Tommy will be missed very much. Pursuant to AGS Bylaws, the Board will appoint someone to complete the remaining year of Tommy's term.



Anniversary Celebration. The Austin Genealogical Society will celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2010. Kay Boyd and Barbara Innis have been appointed as Co-Chairs of the Anniversary Committee. The AGS 50th Anniversary Committee met in January to begin plans for the celebration of the anniversary of the inception of AGS. The committee will be collecting photos, membership flyers, seminar announcements, syllabus, newspaper articles, and other memorabilia as part of our plans. If you would like to work with or be a member of the Anniversary Committee, please contact Kay Boyd at 836-7484 or Barbara Innis at bagns@sbcglobal.net.



Anniversary Committee members Glenda Hunt Black and Carroll Patterson are researching the history of Austin as we prepare for our 50th Anniversary. They are in charge of collecting information that will be displayed. This month they are collecting copies of photos and stories from 1960-1970. If you have any such articles, stories, or photographs and would be willing to share these, please contact Carroll or send them to her at: Carroll Patterson, 2905 Stoneway Dr., Austin, TX 78757.

President's Corner

by Cindy Foreman

This year AGS was faced with having to cancel our January meeting due to forecasted icy weather and we did so for the safety of our membership. But thankfully our speaker, Dr. Frank de la Teja, rescheduled his presentation for our May meeting, so please change your calendars and plan to come!

February will be a busy month with three different programs scheduled. First, we began our "new" Saturday Series on Saturday, February 7th. Our speaker was Beau Sharbrough who discussed three different topics: *Introduction to Footnote.com*, *Scanning & Preserving Family Photos*, and *Automated Search Tools on the Web*. This event was FREE and I hope you were able to attend.

Next up are our Beginner's Genealogy classes on February 21st and 28th so please contact Kay Boyd if you are interested in attending. Then on February 24th we will have our regular AGS meeting. Karen Matheson will be giving a presentation on *Researching U.S. Passenger Lists*. This is a topic we've not had a presentation on in over four years at AGS. I hope to see all of you there!

Membership

Dues Deadline Extended

*Due to the cancellation of the regular monthly meeting for January, the deadline for submitting dues payments has been extended to **February 15th**.*

Membership renewals were due by FEBRUARY 1st. Renewing by that date earns benefits:

- You will be included in the Membership Directory.
- You will continue to receive the Newsletter and the Quarterly.
- Your surnames will be posted on the AGS website.

If you have not already done so, please send in your 2009 renewal now by paying online via PayPal or by mailing your check payable to "AGS" to P.O. Box 10010, Austin, TX 78766.

NEW MEMBERS for January: We welcome new members Jay and Susan KRUEMCKE.



Volunteering to bring refreshments to the February meeting are: Arlene Zirkel, Maud Cain, and Jean Marostica. THANK YOU, ladies!

Coming Programs

The Education Committee has developed an outstanding schedule of *monthly programs*. Up next are:

Tuesday, March 24th

Regular Meeting
Topic: "Land Records, More Than Just Land Deeds"
Presenter: Ed Dorroh

Saturday, March 28th

10:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
"Genealogy Potpourri... Internet Lessons, Practicing, and Brick Wall Solving"
10:00 bring your laptop, or observe.
11:00 brick wall questions for discussion
Location: Hampton Branch Library
5125 Convict Hill Rd. in Oakhill



Next up in our *free Saturday Series* of programs for 2009:

Russell Baker
Arkansas State Archivist, Little Rock, Arkansas.
April 4, 2008 9:00-1:00
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive, Austin, TX

Mr. Baker will speak on Religion on the American Frontier
Lecture I. The rise and development of religion on the American frontier.
Lecture II. Locating, using, and understanding American church records.
Lecture III. Anabaptists, Quakers, Shakers, and more: Religious records from the fringe.
More information coming in next month's newsletter!

Educational Opportunities

AGS Beginner Genealogy Class Sessions **Saturdays, February 21st and 28th** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Whether you've been researching for years or for days, you'll find something helpful by joining us for our Beginner's Classes on **February 21 and 28**. These classes will be held from **9:00-12:00** in the **Red Bud Room at the LCRA**. The address is **3700 Lake Austin Blvd**. The cost is a modest **\$15** and includes two classes, the notebook, and relevant handouts. Session 1 includes a variety of topics to get you started thinking genealogy, such as sources, forms, cemeteries, maps, and more. Session 2 goes into detail on such topics as the census, wills, death and marriage records, and newspapers. Contact Kay Boyd email mkdb1405@aol.com to register or for more information.



Lifetime Learning Classes

The Lifetime Learning Institute (providing programs for adults ages 50 and older) is offering its Spring program of genealogy classes beginning **Wednesday, January 28th** and continuing each Wednesday **through March 18th**. Classes are held at **St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 West 15th Street, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**. Additional information is located at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/lifelearn.php>. To register, call 206-4232. The cost is \$25. Topics include:

Introduction and Overview of Genealogical Research – Jean Shroyer
DNA – Sharon Foley
Using Genealogical Software – John Marostica
Citing Sources – Cindy Foreman

Wills and Probate – Cindy Foreman
Newspaper Research – John Marostica
Before You Visit a Library – Sharon Foley
Using Interviews for Genealogy – Inez Eppright

Conferences and Seminars

There is always more to know and learn as we continue our quest for more knowledge of and about our ancestors. One of the following conferences and seminars may be just the help you need!

TEXAS HERITAGE DIGITIZATION Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Workshop Thursday & Friday, **February 12th and 13th** **Lubbock Public Library**

The theme of this one-day conference hosted by the Texas State Library & Archives Commission through its **Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative** is "Preventing Digital Disasters."

Featured speakers from the University of North Texas Libraries will discuss *The Texas Digital Newspaper Program*; and a speaker from the University of Texas at Austin School of Information will discuss *Copyright Questions (and maybe some Answers)*. There will also be a pre-meeting workshop on Thursday afternoon, February 12th that will give participants concrete

examples of selecting equipment, organizing, scanning resolutions, file naming, organizing it on hard drives, and creating metadata for a variety of platforms and digital asset management systems. Attendance for the pre-meeting workshop is limited to 25 people and requires a separate registration.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.thdi.org/about/thdi-events/2009-meeting/>. Registration for the workshop is \$15. Registration for the Conference on Friday is also \$15. Both are payable at the door. Registration information can be found at <http://thdi-2009.eventbrite.com/>.



"The Roots that Bind" An African American Genealogy Workshop is set for **Saturday, February 28**, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., **East Waco Library, 901 Elm Ave. Waco, Texas**. For registration or more info, contact Bill Buckner 254-750-5945. Scheduled presentations include African American Genealogy Basics, Local Family History Presentations, Heading to the Courthouse, National Archives Resources, and Oral Tradition: Pass It On. This event is sponsored by the Waco-McLennan County Library, Friends of the East Waco Library, and the Central Texas Genealogical Society. Additional information is also found at the library website: http://www.waco-texas.com/CITY_DEPTS/libraryservices/genealogy.htm



GERMAN GENEALOGY SEMINAR IN WACO

On **Saturday, March 14**, the **German Texan Heritage Society** is hosting an all day seminar at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2 Ritchie Rd., in Woodway, (southwest of Waco) on German genealogy. Topics include "All I Know is Great Grandpa Came From Germany" by genealogist Liz Hicks, "Growing the Tree: Oral History Methods for Genealogists" by Joshua Haaland of Baylor University, "Genealogical Resources in the Texas Collection at Baylor University" by Dr. Michael Toon, "Birth to Death: Records in the County Clerk's Office" by Andy Harwell, McLennan County Clerk, and "Library Resources for Genealogical Research" by Bill Buckner, of the Waco-McLennan County Library. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program runs until 3:30 p.m. **Pre-registration costs \$35** for GTHS members and **\$40 for non-members**; add **\$5 if paying at the door**. Lunch is included. Download a registration form at www.germantexans.org and mail in a check, or call 866-482-4847 to register with a credit card. Contact Van or Mary Massirer at (254) 486-2366 or vmassirer@yahoo.com with questions.



The **Williamson County Genealogical Society** is hosting its **Annual Seminar on Saturday, March 21st** from **8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the **First United Methodist Church, 2004 North Mays in Round Rock**. The advance registration fee is \$40. Registration at the door begins at 8:00 a.m. and is \$45. The registration fee includes morning snacks, lunch, and the syllabus. Register by February 27th to have your surnames included in the seminar surname list. Registration forms are available by calling call 512-863-2685 or 512-869-1560 or online at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwcgs/Seminar.htm>.

This year's guest speaker is Thomas W. JONES from Fairfax, Virginia. Dr. Jones is joint editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, former trustee and a past president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. He specializes in Georgia and Virginia research. His greatest interest is in solving "brick-wall" genealogical problems. Dr. Jones will speak on the following topics:

- * Five Proven Techniques for Finding Your Ancestor's European Origins
- * The Jones Jinx – Tracing Common Surnames
- * Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor
- * How to Avoid Being Duped by the Internet

AGS Annual Seminar

Mark your calendars now to attend the Annual Seminar on Saturday, May 2nd. The seminar will be held at St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E 7th St. in Austin. We have not one, but two featured speakers: Pamela and David Sayre, both Certified Genealogists. They will present on the following topics:

Did He Serve? Researching Military Service Records
Getting to Know You, Getting to Know More about You
Territorial Papers of the United States
Google Earth for Genealogists

More information to come in next month's newsletter.
We hope you'll plan to be there!



FGS National Conference

The Federation of Genealogical Societies invites you to its annual conference for the nation's genealogists. Hosted by FGS and the Arkansas Genealogical Society, the conference will be held in **Little Rock, Arkansas, September 2nd through 5th**. The theme for this year's conference is *Passages through Time*.

Bits & Pieces

Records needed for AGS Website

AGS has started a new category of records on the Society's website: **Historic obituaries gathered from Austin and Travis County researchers**. The newspaper pieces need to be about someone who was born in, lived in, or died in Travis County and who died at least 50 years ago. We hope adding these obituaries will bring new people to our website and hopefully new cousins to our members. Only AGS members can submit information.

Please do not send articles that already appear online at other sites. Submit your information as full text or excerpts if you prefer. Whenever possible, please include the newspaper title, date, and page number.

Send submissions to Kay Boyd to be formatted and tagged so that the submitter can be identified if someone wants more information or wants to contact the submitter. Check out <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/agsrecords.php> to see what we are doing. Contact Kay via email at mkdb1405@aol.com or by phone at 512-836-7484.



As the newly appointed AGS Historian, Board Member Elizabeth Johnston is working on scrapbooks for this year and past years of AGS. If anyone has pictures or other printed material from our past that you are willing to give to put in the scrapbooks, please let her know by calling (512) 251-0093 or emailing her at elizabethlj@sbcglobal.net.



Website Wizardry

AGS Board member Sara Gredler is asking anyone with a great website that they wish to share to email her at sarakg@yepmail.net. She is looking for some unique online resources to add to her list for the August presentation.



German-American Civilian Internment Exhibit Comes to Austin February 15

During WWII, the U.S. Government interned 15,000 German-American civilians at over 60 camps and detention centers across the country, eight of them in Texas. The German-Texan Heritage Society (GTHS) is hosting a travelling exhibit that tells the story of this unique time in our history on **February 15-20 at the German Free School, 507 E. 10th St. in Austin**. The exhibit consists of 13 informational panels, as well as props from the period. The event begins on Sunday, February 15th, with a special program from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The featured speakers are the exhibit's creator, Michael Luick-Thrams, and former Crystal City, TX, internee Heidi Gurcke Donald. A reception will follow their presentations. This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 2:00 pm. The exhibit will also be available for public viewing from noon to 6:00 pm on February 16-20. This program is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, contact GTHS at 512-482-0927, info@germantexans.org, or visit www.germantexans.org.



One of our members, Tim Wilson in California, recently received an approval notice from the Texas Historical Commission for a Historical Marker to be placed at the Rose Hill Cemetery. This is an old, mostly German cemetery north of Manor. Tim enlisted the help of the families who had ancestors buried in the cemetery to raise funds after doing the necessary research to document the cemetery. Congratulations, Tim!



Not sure when an AGS event is? Check this calendar created by AGS Board member Sara Gredler. <http://tinyurl.com/5h3qfn>. At the top right, you can choose to print it, or look at it in various formats (monthly, weekly, or agenda list). Thanks, Sara!

Condolences

Our condolences are extended to the family of Clara Bangs Lobdell who died on January 25, 2009. Mrs. Lobdell was the mother of AGS member Gayle Opie and attended a meeting with Gayle last year. A memorial service is scheduled for Mrs. Lobdell on March 28 at the United Christian Church in Austin.

2009 Board of Directors

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

Term ending 2009:	Term ending 2010:
Teri FLACK	Kay BOYD
Barbara INNIS	Inez EPPRIGHT
Elizabeth JOHNSTON	Sharon FOLEY
Robert SAGE	Cindy FOREMAN
Randy WHITED	Sara GREDLER
	Janis TRAYLER

2009 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
share those with us.*

Monthly Meeting: February 24, 2008

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Highland Park Baptist Church
5208 Balcones Drive
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