



The *Austin Genealogical Society* Newsletter

February 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. 2



Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

*Program: So You Think You Can't Write:
Multiple Forms of Preserving Your Family Stories*
Presented by: **Daryl Gibson**

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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Daryl GIBSON is a freelance writer and book editor specializing in political biography. She has co-authored *Peace, War, and Politics* (the autobiography of syndicated columnist and famed muckraker Jack Anderson). She also was a "ghost writer" on *With Honor*, the biography of former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, and is currently working on an autobiography of a former president of Freddie Mac, focusing on the role of the mortgage markets in the current economic crisis. She has a degree in journalism from Brigham Young University and has worked as a political reporter in daily newspapers for 20 years. Daryl lives in Brushy Creek with her husband Paul SMITH and 16-year-old son Will.

AGS Business

The new AGS Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, prior to the regular monthly meeting. Committee and Treasurer reports were submitted and approved. The following topics were discussed and actions were taken:

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(Continued from page 1)

Treasury: The budget for 2010 was adopted.

Programs/Education: Sharon FOLEY reported that the recent Laptop Saturday was a great success. There were 41 people in attendance.

Quarterly: The Board discussed a request from Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED to institute a contest to award a prize for the best contributed article to be printed in the Quarterly for 2010.

Website: The new website is being well received. We will make further efforts to ensure that all members have the UserID and password in order to access the Members Only section.

Cemetery: Kay BOYD reported that Mary TODD is taking over the AGS volunteer portion of the cemetery project. She will be coordinating the AGS volunteers and projects. Kay will still work with the history of the county cemeteries and the general questions. Several people are working on projects and Robert SAGE is

looking at information to start on one of the large cemeteries.

NEW BUSINESS: The individual originally engaged to digitize prior issues of the Quarterly was unable to complete the project. Board members Sara GREDLER, Dona KURTZ, and Randy WHITED were appointed to investigate the cost of completing this project and bring that information back to the Board for consideration.

REMEMBER!

*THE LAST CHANCE TO PAY YOUR DUES
AND BE INCLUDED IN THE 2010
50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS
FEBRUARY 23RD.*

*Also, dues not paid by that date, will result in
this being your last newsletter until your
renewal dues are received.*

AGS WEBSITE NEWS

Worth repeating and then some... Webmaster Dona KURTZ has been working steadily for months on a new design in honor of our 50-year anniversary. Check it out at www.AustinTxGenSoc.org and when you see her, let Dona know what you think about it. Also, if you catch a misprint or an error (typographical or otherwise) please use the "email the webmaster" link at the bottom of each page to let her know!

Now there is also a **Members Only** section which requires a login ID and password.

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

Go on in and take a look around.

AGS Communications Coordinator Jean MAROSTICA advises that the surname list has been updated on the website. Please take the time to go to the website ([click here](#)) and verify that your surnames are listed correctly. Any additions, corrections, or deletions should be brought to Jean's attention by contacting her at jmarostica@sbcglobal.net or calling her at (512) 339-6455.

Kay BOYD reports that Ann COOPER, Sherry HEALY, Lynn HAMILTON, Karin NELSON and Jane SCHWENDINGER are working on a project to transcribe some of the information printed in the early AGS Quarterlies. Many of these records are Family Bible Record listings. **Watch for these posted on our website soon** and see if you find some new family connections. Thanks to these volunteers who are willing to give time to this project.



Membership

Membership renewals were due on January 1st. If you have not yet renewed, please do so by the next regular AGS meeting on February 23rd. Jean MAROSTICA will begin preparing our new membership directories soon so distribution of those can be completed by the end of March.



The meeting on January 26th with program by Sue KAUFMAN was a stellar success. Not only was the program very entertaining and informative, but it appears we set an all-time record in attendance! Membership Chair Maud CAIN and her staff were busy signing in seven visitors, eight new members, and 109 regular members ... a total attendance of 124!! This is a tremendous way to start our 50th Anniversary year. We hope to see ALL of you back for our meeting on February 23rd ... and bring a friend!



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

- Roger BARTLETT
- James BYRD
- Ann COOPER
- Yvonne DAILEY
- David & Kathi FOSTER
- Ingrid GILLESPIE
- Eva HUDDLESTON
- Jeanette KEITHLEY
- Jean KOTRLA

- Loyce J. McCULLOUGH
- Dorothy MEDLEY
- Jan MOODY
- Laura MOORE
- Karin NELSON
- Cynthia ORR
- Ilda QUINTANILLA
- Bob RAST
- Kristi ROWELL
- Maureen SIMPSON
- Janice WILLIAMS

The 2010 Membership Directories will be completed and distributed at the end of March.

After the distribution of the Membership Directories, all additions, corrections, and updates will be available through the Members Only section of the AGS website.



Hospitality

Our thanks go out to Kate ALLEN, Kay BOYD, Teri FLACK, and Dona KURTZ for bringing the refreshments and to Jim NELSON and Al ROGERS for being greeters at the January meeting.

Those scheduled to bring goodies for the February meeting are Shirley ROBERTS, Arlene ZIRKEL, Shirley MEYER and Chris BOND. Greeters for February are Earle McBRIDE and Arlene ZIRKEL.



AGS Calendar of Activities

February 13 & 20 — AGS Beginners Genealogy Class (details below)

February 23 — AGS Monthly Meeting
Writing a Good Story presented by Daryl GIBSON

March 23 — AGS Monthly Meeting
How Disease, Disaster, and Hard Times Changed our Ancestors' Lives presented by Teri FLACK

April 19 to 25 — AGS Researchers travel to Salt Lake City

April 27 — AGS Monthly Meeting
Judges' Hill Historic District presented by Phoebe ALLEN

May 15 — AGS Mini-Seminar #2
3 Topics to be presented by Josh TAYLOR

June 26— Laptop Saturday
New England Historic Genealogical Society online
Presented by Sharon FOLEY and Lynn LeCROPANE

AGS Educational Opportunities

AGS Beginners' Genealogy Classes

Refresh yourself, inspire yourself, or attend for the first time to hone your skills! Teachers are Teri FLACK, Nancy STEVENS, and Dona KURTZ. PRE-REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT IS REQUIRED. The registration form is on the AGS website at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/activities/classes.php>

Saturdays: February 13 & 20

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15 for materials
Triumph Love Lutheran Church
Community Classroom
9508 Great Hills Trail
Austin, TX 78759

Other Educational Opportunities

Saturday, February 13th

Austin Genealogy SIG

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church

Community Classroom

9508 Great Hills Trail

Austin, TX 78759

<http://www.austingensig.com>

Featured Speaker: Sylvia L. NIMMO

Topic: Working Online with Maps and Place Names



information for over 800 million people, and all the Texas Vital Statistics information you could ever want, dating back to 1903!

February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 17, 23, April 6 & 13

The Lifetime Learning Institute sponsors
"A Genealogy Sampler" for folks over fifty!

Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Triumphant Love Lutheran, Community Classroom
Class Fee: \$20

<http://www.liaustin.org/classes/fall-2009/tuesday-am>

Brush up your genealogy skills with this series of classes! Each session is presented by a member of the Austin Genealogical Society. Topics will include The Basics, Census Data and City Census, Genealogy Software, Emigration Port, and Digital Photography for Genealogists. *There will be a \$5 charge for copies of forms and handouts.* More details on the website.

Saturday, March 13th - same time and location

Austin GenSIG presents David Gray discussing his very powerful website, David Gray's People Finder, which allows searches of over 100 nation-wide databases that contain vital record information relating to marriage, divorce, drivers' licenses and other general



Saturday, March 20th

Williamson County Genealogical Society's Annual Seminar

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Program: **8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church

2004 North Mays

Round Rock, TX

There is a *registration fee* for this seminar.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwcgs/Seminar.htm>

Featured Speaker: Megan Smolenyak SMOLENYAK

Topics:

Trace Your Roots with DNA,

Beyond Y-DNA,

Remembering our Ancestors, and

Cases That Made My Brain Hurt!



Saturday, March 27th

Clayton Library Friends hosts Dick Eastman

Mr. Eastman will speak on **Technology in the New Decade... What's Hot and What's Not!**

There is a *registration fee*. See their website for more information. <http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org/Data/Document-Library/617205828.pdf>

www.claytonlibraryfriends.org/Data/Document-Library/617205828.pdf



Excel spreadsheets can be excellent tools in genealogy research. AGS Member John MAROSTICA teaches an Excel class at the Austin Public Library (Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78701, (512) 974-7400) every 4th Tuesday of the month. For more information, call the library or follow the link below.

Austin public Library *Free* Computer Classes: <http://www.austinlibrary.com/programs/index.cfm?action=acecomputer>.

Bits & Pieces

[WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?](#) (see NBC's website)

Premiering Friday, March 5th at 7 P.M. Central time, NBC's new offering, [Who Do You Think You Are?](#), will lead celebrities on a journey of self-discovery as they unearth their family trees that reveal surprising, inspiring and even tragic stories that often are linked to crucial events in American history.

"This show personalizes history and turns it into a gripping narrative," said (Lisa) Kudrow, the Executive Producer. "The most striking thing about the show is the realization of how connected we all are."

Each episode takes viewers on an emotional, personal - and often mysterious - quest following one of America's best-known celebrities into his or her past, sharing the celebrity's surprise as they uncover stories of heroism and tragedy, love and betrayal, secrets and intrigue that lie at the heart of their family history.

News from the NARA...

In a press release from last December, the National Archives announced that their budget for 2010 was increased by 2.31 percent over last year's appropriation. The increase will cover the costs of inflationary increases in rent, energy, security, and staff costs for NARA facilities at 44 locations around the country. David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, says "We are particularly pleased with the historic increase in the allocation for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission," he added. "This will allow us to further support the nation's network of archives at a time when there is a critical need to make the materials available to all Americans."

The NARA website has a special section devoted to Genealogists. Stop by and take a look: <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/>

AGS—50 Years & Growing!

AGS 50th Anniversary Tote Bags were distributed to new and renewing members at AGS events in January. You'd like one, too? It's easy! Join or renew online or, better yet, join us for any AGS February event ... the Mini-Seminar on the 6th, one of the Beginner's Classes on the 13th and 20th, or at the monthly meeting on the 23rd and pick up your tote bag.

CALLING FOR YOUR REMEMBRANCES - In fifty years with AGS, there have to be wonderful stories, happenings, and mishaps which beg to be told. If you have been around for a while or even if you are fairly new in AGS, send us your musings so that we may share with our membership. A very special 50th edition of the Quarterly will be published in December, and we'd like to paint a picture of our history by using your words. Contributions can be sent to Kay Boyd (mkdb1405@aol.com) or Barbara Innis (bagns@sbcglobal.net).

Historically Speaking

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

In the Beginning....

Our founder Mrs. William T. BARRON invited Mrs. David C. GRACY and Mrs. J. F. KRAMER of Austin to join her in April of 1960 in forming a society in Austin. A meeting was held 13 April 1960 in the Barron home.

Dues....

\$1.00 in 1960; \$3.00 from 1960-1963; \$4.00 in 1964 with \$1.00 from each membership going to buy books and microfilm; \$5.00 in 1972; \$6.00 in 1974; \$9.00 in 1983; \$12.00 in 1986; \$15.00 in 1992; \$16 in 1997, and \$20 since 1998!

Several meeting locations....

The Barron home, the Gracy home, Austin Public Library, Howson Branch Library, 26th District Court Room of the Travis County Courthouse, Austin History Center, First Baptist Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, and our current home at Highland Park Baptist Church.

Members....

125 charter members in 1960; 200 members in 1961; 160 members in 1962.

Workshops....

April 1972 at Hancock Center - \$7.50 and September 1972 at Hancock Center - \$5.00. Members were asked to bring a lunch for each workshop.

News about The Quarterly

This month's program about writing a family story leads in very appropriately to the latest AGS contest. Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED has a plan in the works to give an award at the end of the year for the best family story submitted and published in the Quarterly during 2010. Details regarding the contest are still being developed and will be published in the March Newsletter. So get those brain cells working and start now getting your outline together! The **deadline for the next Quarterly is March 6th**, so don't waste any time! Start writing! The next issue of the Quarterly will have a whole new look in honor of our 50-year anniversary.



Odds & Ends



REMINDER

If you are concerned that weather may postpone or cancel an AGS event or meeting, we encourage you to check the [AGS website](#).

Pioneer Certificates

Travis County — Did you know that since November of 2004, when the first five Travis County Pioneer Certificates were issued to Charles Clinger and his family, there have been a total of 53 certificates issued? Many descendants live in Austin and surrounding counties, but we have also sent Pioneer Certificates to descendants living in North Carolina, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, Arizona, California, and Washington state!

State of Texas — If you do not have ancestors in Travis County, but do have ancestors in Texas, you are in luck. The Texas State Genealogical Society has not one, but four pioneer certificate programs. To qualify for the Texas First Families Certificate, applicants must prove direct *or collateral* descent from an ancestor who settled in Texas before February 19, 1846, the day of the

ceremony on which the Republic of Texas turned the government over to the State of Texas. To qualify for the Gone to Texas Pioneer Certificate, the applicant must prove direct descent from a person who was in Texas prior to 1886. To qualify for a West Texas Pioneer Certificate, an applicant must prove direct descent from a person who was in West Texas (as defined by a list of 133 Counties found on the TSGS website) prior to 1901. And if you had a direct *or collateral* ancestor that settled in Greer County “before or by February 8, 1860, through 1907,” there is also a Greer County Certificate available.

To learn more about the requirements for obtaining one or more of these certificates, refer to the T S G S website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/>.



Editor's Corner

The first month of our 50th Anniversary has already slipped by. The next meeting will be our deadline for members who have paid their dues to have their information included in the Membership Directory. But why wait until the last minute... send your dues in now! The application form is online and you can even pay with PayPal.

In case you missed it, the Members Only login information is on page two. This section will grow steadily over the coming days.

This cold wet weather we're having is a great chance to sit down and go through old photos you've been meaning to identify and put in acid-free holders. You don't have to do all of them at once. Set a limit of 10 or 20 and see how it goes. Maybe you'll get inspired and do more! In the meanwhile, I hope you can stay warm and dry and 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.***

50 YEARS & GROWING