



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

February 2011

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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Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

*Program: “Find Your Family (and a whole lot more)
In Historical Landowner Maps*

Presented by: Greg BOYD, co-founder of Arphax Publishing

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

6:30 p.m. — Refreshments & Networking

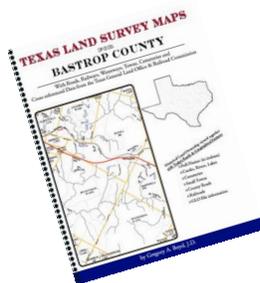
7:00 — 8:30 p.m. - Program

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!

Gregory A. BOYD, attorney, software engineer, and genealogist is the speaker at our February meeting. He is the author of two critically acclaimed book series: the Family Maps series of Federal Land Patent Books and the Texas Land Survey Map series. Mr. BOYD and his wife Vicki are co-founders of Norman, Oklahoma-based Arphax Publishing Co.

Genealogists, historians, and archaeologists turn to Mr. Boyd's patent-maps and survey-maps to locate ancestral land and analyze frontier neighborhoods. These books are published county by county, state by state, for original settlers whose purchases are indexed either in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management database (www.glorerecords.blm.gov/) or the Texas General Land Office database (www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/landgrant.html).

Mr. Boyd will bring to the February meeting any Family Map book you would like to preview. Follow the instructions on [page 4](#) to find the book that may interest you.



“Who Do You Think You Are?”

is back!

NBC, Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

AGS Business

From the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors on Saturday, January 8th.

As reported in last month's Newsletter, new officers were elected. Other responsibilities were also determined at the meeting as follows :

President: Sharon FOLEY

1st Vice President: Janis TRAYLER (Parliamentarian & Newsletter Editor)

2nd Vice President: Jane SCHWENDINGER (Education and Programs Chair)

Secretary: Kate ALLEN

Treasurer: Teri FLACK

Meeting Facilities: Alan FERGUSON

TSGS and TSL Liaison: Missy HARRIS

Historian and Cemeteries: Mary TODD

AGS Quarterly: Randy WHITED

Webmaster: Dona KURTZ

Membership & Hospitality: Maud CAIN

Special Assignments as needed: Karen BRANAMAN

Treasurer Teri FLACK presented a proposed budget for 2011. As the meeting progressed, the budget was adjusted accordingly and adopted after all business matters were addressed.

The Board discussed problems we had during 2010 with being bumped out of our meeting space frequently and with short notice. Randy WHITED discussed his PowerPoint presentation showing the demographics of AGS membership and how that information could be used in location and resource planning for the future. Alan FERGUSON was requested to investigate other options for meeting space as at the time of this meeting, it was unclear whether AGS would be allowed to continue our meetings at HPBC.

The decision was made to change the website logon to "ags2011" effective March 1st. A new password will also be created and distributed to all members who are current through the end of February. Webmaster Dona KURTZ advised that having the password be somewhat cryptic makes it much more difficult for hackers and

phishers to access the membership information.

The pros and cons of having hard copies of program handouts at our meetings was also discussed. It was decided to continue providing printed copies at the meetings but to also post the handouts on the website when authorized by the program presenter.

Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED advised that judges for the Quarterly writing contest are Linda EMBRY and Ilo HILLER. It was agreed that prizes for the three winners will be their choice of a subscription to either Footnote.com or Newspaperarchives.com. Runners up will receive certificates. The winners in three categories will be announced at the January meeting.

Randy also presented the possibility of publishing the Quarterly online and sending hard copies at the end of the year to subscribing institutions. Printing costs are generally around \$1000 per edition and \$125 for bulk rate postage. It was decided to poll the membership for their views. Further action was postponed until after receiving the results of the poll.

The Board discussed whether we want to continue using the 50th Anniversary logo going forward. The consensus was to use a combination of the former logo with the wording of the 50th logo. (NOTE: See masthead on page one for logo finally approved.)



From the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on January 25, 2011.

Sharon FOLEY reported that HPBC has advised that we are unlikely to lose our ability to use the current space and services for the near future. The decision was made to take no further action at this time and to use the information provided by Alan FERGUSON should conditions change and we need to relocate our meeting place.

The merits of AGS' renewal of our FGS membership were then discussed. Sharon advised that FGS' website will soon be open to all society members, which is a benefit. The payment of FGS dues was then approved.

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There was again a short discussion regarding going paperless for the AGS Quarterly and how the savings from doing so would be used. The matter was tabled until the February meeting.

A similar discussion was had regarding whether we want to publish the Membership Directory electronically. The decision was to again poll the AGS member-

ship for their preference.



Alan FERGUSON has found it necessary to leave the Board. A replacement member will be appointed pursuant to Article 3, Section 7 of the Bylaws. Interested in serving? Contact Sharon FOLEY at president@AustinTXGenSoc.org.

Membership

DUES REMINDER

A few members have not yet renewed. Members will be listed (if they wish) in the Annual Membership Directory if payment is received by the end of February.

The renewal form is on our website at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/membership/ppappform.php> Rates are still \$20 per year for individuals and \$30 for a family membership.

We will miss having you as part of our society and you will miss out on receiving newsletters, quarterlies, and email notices until your dues are received; so please do not delay!

Hospitality

Our thanks go to Jane SCHWENDINGER, Mary TODD, Karan BRANAMAN, and Missy HARRIS for bringing refreshments, to Sheila SARGENT and Edna YOUNGBLOOD for serving the refreshments, and to Arlene ZIRKEL and Joann TRAVER for serving as greeters at the January meeting.

Greeters scheduled to welcome you to the February meeting are Ashton MOUTON, Jr. and Sherry HEALY.

Susan TYLER, Suzanne CHANEY, Sherry HEALY, and Ursula GAINES will furnish refreshments for the February meeting.



We **welcome** the following **new** members since the last report:

Carol CASTLEBURY — Austin, TX
Steven HARRISON — Round Rock, TX
Katie HOBBS — Austin, TX
Lila Carter McCALL — Wimberley, TX
Laura PIEPER — Austin, TX



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES:

How often do you use yours?

We will soon send out a query asking if you would prefer receiving a hard copy of the membership directory or are you okay with simply having electronic access via the website. One benefit to having it on the website is not only is the information easily available, the website has up-to-date information and is searchable. What's your preference?



There were 76 members and 4 visitors at the meeting on January 25th.



Thanks for signing in at each meeting. It helps us keep an accurate record of attendance!

AGS Calendar of Activities

**Saturday, February 19 & 26, 2011—AGS Sponsors
Semi-Annual Beginners Classes**

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

Location: Community Classroom
Triumphant Love Lutheran Church
9508 Great Hills Trail , Austin, TX

AGS is again offering Beginning Genealogy Classes! These classes are offered twice a year, in the spring and fall and can help you in getting started if you are new at this or give you a kick-start if you've been at it a while. The total fee for the entire course is **\$15.00**.

Instructors:

Session 1: Nancy Stephens, CG
Session 2: Dona Kurtz

Topics:

From the Known to the Unknown
Researching Other Records
Forms and Charts
Central Texas Resources



Registration Deadline is February 17th! Contact Kay BOYD (mkdb1405@aol.com or 836-8474) to reserve your place.



Tuesday, February 22, 2011—Regular meeting—Greg BOYD, co-founder of Arphax Publishing presents “Find your Family (and a whole lot more) in Historical Landowner Maps.

Other Educational Opportunities

Saturday, February 12th, the Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group (AustinGenSIG) will meet at a **new location**:

Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library
7051 Village Center Dr. (off of Far West Blvd.)
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS to request books for review at the AGS meeting:

1. Go to the website www.arphax.com to search your family name.
2. Click on "STORE" and you will be directed to a page where you may enter your ancestor's surname in the upper right corner.
3. A page will come up listing all the Family Maps books by state and county where that surname appears.
4. Click "GO" to view the names and prices of the Family Maps book potentially showing your ancestor's land.
5. Make note of the Family Map book you would like Mr. Boyd to bring to the meeting.
6. Click on "CONTACT US" then click on "info@arphax.com" to let Mr. Boyd know you would like him to bring your selected book(s) to the Austin Genealogical Society February meeting

You will save the cost of shipping if Mr. Boyd brings the book(s) for you to preview and you elect to buy the book at the meeting. **DEADLINE: You need to let Mr. Boyd know no later than February 19th which books you want him to bring for your review or purchase.**

Free

Topic: **Legacy Family Tree Software Presented by Sylvia L. Nimmo, C.G.**

This location is more centralized and the meeting room is much larger than our earlier space. We are

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excited to have a more spacious classroom that will facilitate more expansive presentations and accommodate more people.

The Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group meets the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library. For more information, visit their website at www.austingensig.com or contact John Marostica at John.Marostica@gmail.com or John@Marostica.org



The **Legacy SIG** meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 19th is being eliminated so that members can attend the AustinGen SIG meeting on February 12th to hear Sylvia Nimmo's presentation on Legacy Family Tree Software.



Genealogy After Dark

February 25, 2011, 6:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m.

Texas State Library building at **1201 Brazos Street**.

After a short program by Senior Research Assistant

Quips on "The Q"

Winners of the 2010 Quarterly writing contest were announced at the AGS meeting on January 25th. Thank you to everyone who sent submissions for the Quarterly and congratulations to the following people:

- ◆ **Original Research:** Ann DOLCE for "Johann 'Jean' Schneider: A Fisher-Miller Colonist, 1813-1862"

Runners Up: Earle McBRIDE for "Barber J. CURTIS—Jack of all Trades" and Jo Ann ROWLEY-MINHOTO for "Comings and Goings of the Underhill, Bagnal, Holt and Rowley Families"

- ◆ **Entertaining:** Bob FOLEY for "Murder, Family Secrets and Resolutions"

Runners up: Bob TIEMAN for "Immigrant's Sur-

Donaly BRICE and Appraisal Archivist Tony BLACK on "Researching Republic-era Records," not only will the Family Heritage Research Center be open for research, the Archives will also be open for research.

Registration is limited to 30 people and the cost is **\$10** per person. The registration deadline is February 18, or until space is filled. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is from 6:15 to 6:30. Doors open at 6:15 and will lock at 6:30.

[Click here](#) to register. For more information, e-mail geninfo@tsl.state.tx.us or call (512) 463-5455.



Saturday, March 19th The **Williamson County Genealogical Society** hosts its **Annual Seminar** featuring guest speaker Elissa Scalise POWELL.

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

First United Methodist Church

1004 North Mays, Round Rock, TX

\$45 members / \$50 non-members/ \$55 after March 1st

For topics and additional information, visit their website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwcgs/Seminar.htm or call 512-863-2685.

name Changed? A Different Twist—Plus a Few Mussings About My Surname" and Marsha Clinger ROOSE for "A Visit to Germany"

- ◆ **Compilations:** Connie PURDUE for "Miscellaneous Texas Obituaries"

Runners Up: Robert SAGE for "Index to Travis County Marriage Books, Volume 2 (1857-1870), Groom Surnames L-N" and Kay BOYD for "Notes from Calendars of E.W. Raney."

Now is the time to begin work on *your* submission for one of the 2011 Quarterlies!



Getting to Know You!

For the next few months, this column will help you get to know the members of the Board of Directors.



SHARON FOLEY
AGS President

Sharon FOLEY is a native Iowan farm girl whose ancestors on all sides planted themselves there very early. Her favorite ancestor arrived there in 1838, ten years before Iowa became a state.

Sharon started doing genealogy after being inspired by her hus-

band's very elderly cousin. That was in 1996 and she hasn't once looked back to her pre-genealogy days.

In her "real" life, she taught high school sciences for 23 years and currently teaches Human Biology online for Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Sharon and her husband, Bob, have a son in Miami and a daughter here in Austin. The relocation to Austin occurred in June 2002. Sharon says she has too many hobbies and activities and wishes there were 34 hours in a day instead of 24. Besides genealogy, she enjoys home re-do projects, making jewelry, reading, sewing, baking, watching British mysteries, extensive travel with her husband, St. Louis Cardinal baseball, her grandsons' activities, spending time with family and friends, and hosting lots of houseguests from the cold North. It goes without saying that AGS is an important part of her life.



When **Kate ALLEN** accepted the nomination for a position on the Board of Directors, it was with the goal "to help strengthen the organization and its legacy, to participate in furthering the collective family genealogies of our members, and to advance my own genealogical knowledge so that I might share with others. "



KATE ALLEN
AGS Secretary

Her career background includes being a university professor and an expert witness in civil and criminal trials. Her expertise has been in the area of (contemporary) family dynamics/relationships and she now looks forward to excavating the same in honor of those who've gone before. It began with a trio of U.S. presidents, then moved to the Civil War. Then she looked into her own family history and found herself to be a 5th generation Texan!

Now she is addicted to the task of learning more — and awed by all the work that has gone before. Kate says "I believe we honor our ancestors when we show our interest in and respect for them and the times in which they lived."

Kate has served on a number of community non-profit boards and university committees in several states. She recognizes her ability to be a "big-picture person" and would love to see how we can share the fun of our society to others who perhaps may not have thought about us.

AGS Bus Trip?

Are you interested in a research bus trip to the Clayton Library in Houston? If so, please contact Kay BOYD at mkdb1405@aol.com or call her at 836-7484 and let her know. She also needs to know your preference for April or June and which day of the week (Tuesday through Friday).



Bits & Pieces

Need help with your brick wall? “Queries and Questions” is a new program the Board has initiated to assist members in finding help breaking through the brick walls in their research.

Just prior to the start of each general meeting, members are welcome to submit questions and place them in the box provided at the registration desk. At each meeting, a couple of questions will be read aloud to solicit help from those in attendance. Those queries that are not addressed at the meeting may be included in the Quarterly.

Please use the following format to prepare your questions in advance of the meeting:

Be Concise in your query: Limit your query to a single surname or question.

- ◆ Be specific in what you are seeking
- ◆ State what you already know and resources previously investigated.
- ◆ Always refer individuals by name; do not use pronouns.

Submit a Surname with Region(s): Include only one sur-

name or question per query.

- ◆ Narrow your query to as specific location or region as possible.

Include your Contact Info: Be sure your name and email address are at the bottom of your query.



The Texas State Library & Archives Commission continues to fight a battle for appropriations during the current legislative session. The budget is being slashed as are those of many other agencies.

Make your voice heard by your elected state and national officials about matters that concern you on a personal level.

Don't know or remember who your elected officials are? You can find out at [Who Represents Me?](#), a website created and maintained by the Texas Legislative Council.

Voting is your right and responsibility; having your voice heard is the next part of the process. Let your elected officials know what you think.

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

**And have your contact
information in the AGS 2011**

Membership Directory!

[Click here](#) to access the

Membership Form

at the AGS website.

Renew TODAY!

Editor's Corner

We are picking up steam again as the number of programs and activities available to genealogists become more numerous. Don't miss out on the Beginner's Classes on the 19th and 26th. Registration closes February 17th.

Budget cuts to libraries are already in place in a number of states. For Texas, it is just a matter of time. If you are considering library research, you may want to make it sooner rather than later.

See the article on page seven and let Kay know if you are interested in researching at Houston's Clayton Library!

Until next month, stay warm and Happy Trackin',

Janis

2011 Board of Directors

Term ending 2011:	Term Ending 2012:
Kate ALLEN	Karin BRANAMAN
Maud CAIN	
Teri FLACK	Sharon FOLEY
Dona KURTZ	Missy HARRIS
Mary TODD	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Randy WHITED	Janis TRAYLER

2011 Officers

President	Sharon FOLEY
1 st Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2 nd Vice President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Recording Secretary	Kate ALLEN
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 Are Always Welcome!

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