



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

February 2012

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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Published monthly except December
Janis Trayler, Editor
[Newsletter](#)
@AustinTxGenSoc.org

Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

6:30 p.m. — Refreshments & Networking
7:00 — 8:30 p.m. - Business & Program

Program: Get Your Lineage in Line
Presented by: Sylvia L. Nimmo

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!

“Get Your Lineage in Line” is a discussion of various types of lineage societies, how to locate them, and some general strategies for completing a successful application.

Membership in a lineage society is a research objective for many genealogists. A successful application requires a great deal of research not only into the specific lineage involved, but also into the society's reason for being.

While status is *one* reason for joining a lineage society, additional reasons for joining a lineage society are to obtain recognition for and validation of your research by a society genealogist, obtain access to otherwise unavailable information, and receive a way to preserve your research and make it accessible to others.

In addition, you may be able to meet researchers with common interests at local or state chapter meetings and receive informative publications or attend educational programs that will further your research.

Sylvia L. NIMMO has been a Certified Genealogical Records Searcher as designated by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. She has also been a member of the Association of Genealogical Educators. In addition, Ms. NIMMO is included in Who's Who in Genealogy & Heraldry and is a 35-year Family History Center volunteer.

Ms. NIMMO has studied genealogy at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City; the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and has had special training with National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution Membership

Committee & Library. Sylvia is also a Daughter of the Republic of Texas and says that becoming one of the owners of The Alamo was "WOW!"

The most exciting thing in genealogy since microfilm, copiers and computers has been primary records and research tools available on the internet. This has completely changed methods of research, even making documentation easier.

After family, genealogy and travel are her passions.

AGS Business

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 24th prior to the regular Society meeting. The following items were discussed and action taken.

Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer's reports for both November and December of 2011 were approved as submitted. At the Treasurer's request, approval of the 2012 Budget was delayed until next month so that two additional items can be included.

AGS Website

Webmaster Dona KURTZ advised that a detailed proposal was received from Parker Short regarding the cost and plan for the transition of our current website to a content management system (CMS). The CMS will allow additional, designated individuals to access the website and make changes or corrections without having to go through the webmaster. This will allow for additions, updates, and corrections on the website to be made more quickly.

Facilities

The Board again discussed the need for having internet access at our meeting place (Highland Park Baptist Church). (Update: 2/4/12: HPBC has authorized internet access by two individuals during future meetings. This will allow online access by program

presenters and one other individual as may be needed from time to time.)

Quarterly

Quarterly Editor Randy Whited advised that the Q will be ready for publication by January 28th. There is still a great need for additional content.

Membership

Membership renewals have been a bit slow coming in. The deadline for getting members' names in the Membership Directory will be extended to February 29th. The Directory will be published in March.

Bylaws

It was agreed that we will continue with a review of the AGS bylaws. President Sharon FOLEY asked Jim COOPER to begin a search for members who would be willing to assist in the review of the bylaws and be willing to serve on a committee created for this purpose.

Printing & Mailing

Karin BRANAMAN has volunteered to take care of the society's printing and mailing requirements for program handouts, *The Quarterly*, and the AGS newsletter.

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Beginning Genealogy Classes

Registration for these classes has been slow. We will be placing fliers in various locations around town to increase interest and try to increase the number of registrations.

AGS Mini-Seminar in April

The board discussed the possibility of having four topics instead of three at the next mini-seminar. The cost for the speaker would be the same, but it could increase the cost of the facility. The matter was tabled until further information can be determined regarding our options for the space. (See page [five](#) for more information on this topic. Full details will be in the March newsletter.)

Also discussed was the possibility of coordinating the mini-seminars with other possible genealogical activities.

AGS Member Survey

The board agreed that it is time to seek out the thoughts and opinions of the membership on a variety of topics. To that end, we will be creating a membership survey and sending it out to all members. If there is a particular idea, concern, or topic you think would be helpful if addressed by the survey, please contact any of the AGS Board members and let them know what it is.

AGS Bus Trip

Speaking of the member survey, one of the questions to be included in the survey will be to determine interest in an AGS-sponsored trip to either the Clayton Genealogy Library in Houston or to the well-respected Genealogy Department at the Dallas Public Library. In order to break even on either trip, we would need at least 40 or more riders. Costs are being determined and will be included in the question on the survey.

Preparing for the release of the 1940 Census.

Randy Whited brought up Family Search Indexing and the upcoming release of the 1940 Census on April 2nd. An AGS group will be created on

FamilySearch.org so that AGS is entitled to the benefits and awards of indexing. (More information about this is found on page [seven](#).)

Liability Insurance

Jim COOPER recently attended a seminar regarding financial responsibilities for non-profit organizations. One of the items discussed at the seminar is the need to have liability insurance. Jim is looking further into this matter and will report back to the Board in March.

Six Degrees of Connection: Texas Heritage

The Board decided to participate in the upcoming "Six Degrees of Connection: Texas Heritage" event at Oakwood Cemetery on Saturday, March 24th. (More information on this event is found on page [six](#).)



Membership Renewals Due

Have you remembered to renew your membership? The renewal form is on our website at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/membership/ppappform.php>

**IT IS *NOT* TOO LATE TO RENEW
AND HAVE YOUR INFORMATION
INCLUDED IN THE
2012 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY!**

New and renewal members will be listed (if they wish) in the Annual Membership Directory if payment is received by the end of February.

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.

PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

We **welcome** the following **new** members not previously reported:

Elisabel BORDALLO — Austin 78748
Christopher COWAN — Austin 78753
Shennandoah DIAZ — Austin 78734
Faye Anne HUNT — Austin 78727
Elisse NEWAY — Austin 78705
Daniel A. NORTON — Austin 78749
Kevin PATTERSON — Austin 78704
Dene STOVALL — Austin 78728

We are so glad to have you join us and hope to have many opportunities to get to know you!



ATTENDANCE REPORT by Missy HARRIS for the AGS meeting on February 24, 2012: 64 people signed in but 67 people were counted from the back of the room.

We welcomed the following visitors at the meeting:
Carol SNYDER from Smithville, TX - researching:
McCommas, Menefee, and Sutherland
Donna COCKRELL from Flatonia, TX - researching:
Cockrell and Day
Sue McCONNELL from Austin, TX - researching:
Dessoffy, Mann, and O'Malley

Adrienne CARTER from Austin, TX - researching:
Carter, McLeod, and McInnis

We hope each of you will visit us again soon.



The 2012 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 REPORT by Karin BRANAMAN. Our thanks go out to the greeters who served at the January meeting: Chris BOND and Sarah GREGLER. Our thanks also extend to Sheila SARGENT who was in charge at the refreshment table; to Shirley ROBERTS, Karen BAKER, and Shirley MEYER who brought refreshments, and to Kay BOYD who worked the popcorn machine for us.

February's scheduled greeters are still pending; the refreshment providers are Cynthia RODRIGUEZ, Marcia ARN, Chris BOND, Karin NELSON, and Janis TRAYLER.



AGS Activities

AGS Semi-Annual Beginning Genealogy Classes

**Saturday, February 25, 2012, and
Saturday, March 3, 2012**

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

**Location: Community Classroom
Triumphant Love Lutheran Church
9508 Great Hills Trail, Austin, TX 78759**

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** which includes a complete notebook for each student.

Topics:

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

Contact Dona KURTZ at education@austintxgensoc.org to reserve your place. [Register online](#) now!



Mark Your Calendars NOW for the next

AGS Mini-Seminar

The morning of **Saturday, April 28, 2011**

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church

Featuring guest speaker Lloyd BOCKSTRUCK

Lloyd BOCKSTRUCK, former head of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library, became a Fel-

low of the National Genealogical Society in 1992. In 1994, he was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research. He received the Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship in 1999, and in 2003, he received the Northeast Texas Library Systems Lifetime Achievement Award.

Check back here next month for a list of topics and registration information.

Other Genealogical Activities

Saturday, February 18, 2012

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Monthly Genealogy Lecture at **George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center**

1165 Angelina Street, Austin, Texas 78702

Diana HOUSTON of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, will speak on the upcoming release of the 1940 census records. In less than two months, the 1940 census schedules will be released by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The highlights of the presentation include:

Questions asked for the 1940 census,
Indexing of the 1940 census, and
Preparing for April 2, 2012.

Diana will also answer questions about what is available at the Texas State Library and Archives. For more information, call the library at (512) 974-1010.



Saturday, March 3, 2012

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mary Collie Cooper Lecture sponsored by the [Texas Research Ramblers Genealogical Society](#) at the **A&M United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall**
417 University Drive,
College Station, Texas

Guest Lecturer is [Emily Anne CROOM](#), professional Genealogist and author of five widely-acclaimed books on genealogical research.

Topics: (1) "Seeing is Not Always Believing" which addresses issues that all of us need to consider ; (2) "Gooly Girl and Fried Ham" that deals with one of my husband's female ancestors and our search to identify her; and (3) "The Other Half of the Story" about researching female ancestors in general.

Registration fee: \$25 (non-members) Box lunch is included in the price. Click [here](#) for registration information. Registration deadline is February 29th (in order to receive a box lunch).



Saturday, March 10, 2012

1:00—3:30 p.m.

Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group

1:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Old Quarry Branch Library,
7051 Village Center Drive, Austin, Tx 78731

"Your Family Never Looked So Good" presented by Gayle OPIE from Evergreen Expressions.

Gayle will talk to us about how to turn that box of photos, stories, and artifacts into a beautiful album that your family will cherish for generations to come. There are many types of albums (heritage, event, wedding and theme albums, just to name a few) and the variety of their contents is limited only to your imagination.

Come join us as Gayle discusses the process of creating that special album - from selecting the

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pictures and items you want to include, to selecting the paper and other decorative elements you will use. For more information, go to www.AustinGenSIG.com or contact [John Marostica](mailto:John.Marostica).



Saturday, March 17, 2012

The **Williamson County Genealogical Society** hosts its *Annual Seminar* at the **First United Methodist Church, 1004 North Mays, Round Rock, TX**

D. Joshua TAYLOR, nationally recognized genealogical author, lecturer, and researcher is the guest speaker. His topics for the Seminar will be

- Bridging the Gap: Finding Your Ancestors in the United States between 1780 and 1830;
- Land Records: Beyond Grantees and Grantors;
- Putting it Together: A Case Study; and
- the Web, the World, and YOU!

Registration and vendors start at 8 a.m. and the Seminar will be from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration fees are: \$45 members / \$50 non-members/ \$55 after February 24th and at the door.

For additional information on the speaker, the topics, or the location, visit the WCGS website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwcgs/Seminar.htm, email Judy Belle HORICK at jbhorick@yahoo.com, or call her at 512-863-2685.



Saturday, March 24, 2012

“Six Degrees of Connection: Texas Heritage,” at Oakwood Cemetery, 1601 Navasota (south of the UT baseball field) from **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



Sponsored by the German-Texan Heritage Society of Austin, Neill-Cochran House Museum, Preservation Texas, and [Save Austin's Cemeteries](http://www.saveaustincemeteries.com), the purpose of this event is to illustrate—through a

variety of activities, speakers, craft demonstrations, and musical performances—that Austin's current and past residents are closely connected, more closely than we might realize. Activities will center on historic Oakwood Cemetery, Austin's oldest city cemetery, to emphasize our start as a community and our first connections with the city and each other.

Six Degrees of Connection: Texas Heritage has invited several history experts to give presentations on historical aspects of Texas. Ranging from Austin's master builder, Abner COOK, to a pictorial representation of Austin's evolution and from the Scottish infusion into Texas to stories about the famous Alamo, the speaker presentations will be hosted in the 1914 rusticated Gothic Revival chapel at Oakwood Cemetery.

The presentations will be approximately 30 minutes long with a 15-minute Q&A session. Each session will be followed by a book signing where the speakers' books and CDs may be purchased and signed by the speakers.

The speaker presentations are the only ticketed event at Six Degrees of Connection and require advance reservations due to the limited seating within the chapel. Tickets are \$5 per session and will be available for sale in late February via TicketBud.com.



Friday, April 13, 2012

The **Texas State Library and Archives** hosts another *Genealogy After Dark* session at the **Lorenzo DeZavala Building, 1201 Brazos Street 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.**

The Library will close at 5:00 p.m. and open again at 6:00 p.m. for *Genealogy After Dark* participants. The building will be locked at 7:00 p.m. and no participants will be admitted after that time.

At 6:15 *Eureka! Tips to Help You Strike it Rich in the 1940 Census!* will be presented.

Research and reference materials will be available to registrants between 7:30 and 9:45.

Parking is available in the Capitol Visitors Parking Garage at 1201 San Jacinto, east of the Zavala Building. There is no charge to park after 5:00 p.m.

The cost is \$10 per person and registration is limited

to thirty participants. Registration closes on Friday, April 6th. Click [here](#) for the registration form or contact the Library at geninfo@tsl.state.tx.us or 512-463-5455.

Bits & Pieces

From Randy WHITED:

The Austin Genealogical Society is thrilled to be the first local society in Texas to be taking part in the [1940 U.S. Census Community Project](#). Upon the release of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census on April 2, 2012, the project, a joint initiative between [Archives.com](#), [FamilySearch.org](#), [findmypast.com](#), and the [Federation of Genealogical Societies](#), will coordinate efforts to provide quick access to these digital images and immediately start indexing these records to make them searchable online with free and open access.

The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project needs volunteers from genealogical societies to provide essential support in this effort. Societies and individuals can provide expert help to transcribe census records from the states where they live or have interest, creating an accurate, searchable index.

You do not need to wait until the 1940 U.S. Federal Census project begins to make a difference. Sign up to index other records today. A record set needing indexing that would serve as practice would be the Texas County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910.

Click [here](#) to get more information on Familysearch.org indexing.



From Kay BOYD:

The earliest editions of the *Texas Posten* are available for reading on the Portal to Texas History. So far only the years 1896-1902 are available. They are working on copyright issues of later years. If you have Swedish family in Travis County or even Texas or had other family that lived in the Manor, Decker

area you might find this newspaper of interest. Go to <http://texashistory.unt.edu/> and search for "Posten."

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Season 3 of NBC's popular program is in full swing. This year's season features six popular celebrities. Show times are **Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (Central Time)**. In case you've missed ANY previous shows, click the title above to go to the website. From there you can view *all* previously shown episodes from this *and* seasons one and two!

FINDING YOUR ROOTS *PBS Series, 2012*

The basic drive to discover who we are and where we come from is at the core of the new 10-part PBS series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, the 12th series from Professor Gates, the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research. Filmed on location across the United States, the series premieres nationally on Sunday, March 25 with a two-hour episode, followed on April 1 through May 20 with one-hour episodes. ([check local listings](#)).

Each hour of *Finding Your Roots* features a different pair of celebrity guests who are bound together by an intimate, sometimes hidden, link whether it be as old friends, through long lost relatives, or even through a common past. This season's celebrity guests include Barbara Walters, Robert Downey, Jr., Kevin Bacon, Tyra Banks, John Legend, Michelle Rodriguez, Margaret Cho, Samuel L. Jackson and Martha Stewart, among many others. Click [here](#) for a promotional preview.

Editor's Corner

Thanks for reading through the February AGS Newsletter. I hope you found it informative and useful. See the Program Schedule to the right? You will be able to find this column in every issue going forward.

Be sure to read the information on Familysearch.org indexing on page 7. I've just downloaded the program and am starting on my first batch!

Are you missing a very nice umbrella? Someone left it behind at the January meeting. Give Sharon Foley a call or click [here](#) to drop her an email. She nabbed it before leaving the church.

Until next time...

Happy Trackin',

Janis



Follow us on Facebook ...

Or let us hear from
you with a Tweet!



AGS WEBSITE INFORMATION

The login and password for the Members' Only section of the [AGS website](#):

login: ags2011 password: aU5t!n

You can have the website "remember" the information so that you do not have to enter it every time.

This information will change on March 15th. Members who have renewed their membership by February 29 will receive an email blast with the updated logon and new password and it will also be in the March Newsletter.

AGS Regular Meetings **Program Schedule**

Tuesday, January 24th

"Genealogical Chaining of Artifacts" presented by
Cindy FOREMAN

Tuesday, February 28th

"Get Your Lineage in Line" presented by Sylvia
NIMMO

Tuesday, March 27th

"How Do I Organize All This *Stuff*?" presented by
AGS Member Panel

Tuesday, April 24th

"Researching the 1940 Census" presented by Randy
WHITED

Tuesday, May 22nd

"I'll Bet You Didn't Know That ..." presented by
AGS members

Tuesday, June 26th

"Getting the Most From Familysearch.org"
presented by Karen MATHESON

Tuesday, July 24th

"Preserving Paper and Photos" presented by
Claudia ANDERSON

Tuesday, August 28th

"Trailing Old West History" presented by Mike
COX

Tuesday, September 25th

"Social History of the Confederate States"
presented by Jackie JONES

Tuesday, October 23rd

"Who Do You Think You Are" **LIVE**—featuring a
well-known Austin personality as researched and
presented by a group of AGS members

Tuesday, November 27th

Fall Festival— Special Program on "Austin's *Sixth*
Street" presented by Dr. Allen CHILDS

2012 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2012:	Term Ending 2013:
Karin BRANAMAN	Jim COOPER
Earle McBRIDE	Teri FLACK
Sharon FOLEY	Dona KURTZ
Missy HARRIS	Randy WHITED
Jane SCHWENDINGER	Jennifer WHITLEY
Janis TRAYLER	Jacque WILSON

2012 Officers

President	Sharon FOLEY
1 st Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2 nd Vice President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Recording Secretary	Jacque D. WILSON
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 78759

Visitors Are Always Welcome!

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