



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

January 2012

Advancing genealogy through wide-ranging research and education and supporting the preservation of the heritage of Austin, Travis County, and Texas.

Vol. 18

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

No. 1

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Published monthly except December
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Monthly AGS Meeting Tuesday, January 24, 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: Genealogical Chaining of Artifacts
Presented by: Cindy Foreman,
former President of AGS

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!

You may have in your possession objects that have passed from one family line to another but you know little of their history. What your ancestors purchased, kept, and valued can add a new depth to your research.

Artifacts of our ancestors make genealogy research tangible. This presentation provides a structured way of identifying, recording, tracking, and collecting knowledge about each of those artifacts. The intent is to create a catalog of artifacts that belonged to your family, and discuss ways to ensure their future retention, even to the point of adding a codicil to your will addressing their disposition.



(Continued from page 1)



Cindy FOREMAN is currently Vice President of the Wimberley Valley Genealogical Society and past President of Austin Genealogy Society. She is also a member of the Andrew Carruthers D.A.R. Chapter in Austin.

Starting her genealogical research in high school but hitting an immediate brick wall with her grandmother,

she stopped for thirty years. Then in 1999, two years from her parents 50th anniversary party, she began again. By this time, lots of pictures and other resources were available which gave her the basics to begin again.

Cindy holds a B.A. degree in Social Studies Education from the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, where she lived for eight years. For the past twenty years she has owned a business in Austin which provides insurance and investment products.

AGS Business

The new Board of Directors met in marathon session on Saturday, December 10, 2011. All Board Members were present and ready to tackle a lengthy agenda. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by 2011 President Sharon FOLEY.

Election of Officers

The first item on the agenda was the election of officers for the 2012 year. The following slate of nominees was offered and a motion was submitted that the slate be elected by acclamation. The vote was affirmative and the following officers were elected:

President	Sharon FOLEY
1st Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2nd Vice President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Secretary	Jacquie WILSON
Treasurer	Teri FLACK

Treasurer's Reports

Teri FLACK advised that due to some information that had not yet been received for November and time constraints related to her class assignments, the completion of the Treasurer's reports has been delayed, but will be submitted as soon as possible. The November and December reports will be presented for approval at the January Board meeting.

Committee Chairs & Other Appointments

The next agenda item was appointments and designations of committee chairs and other responsibilities. The following assignments were made:

Jane SCHWENDINGER	Programs
Sharon FOLEY and Dona KURTZ	Education
Missy HARRIS	Membership
Karin BRANAMAN	Hospitality & Historian
Earle McBRIDE	Facilities Manager
Jennifer WHITLEY	Publicity & Communications
Jean MAROSTICA	Membership Directory
Kay BOYD	Cemetery Committee
Dona KURTZ	Webmaster
Randy WHITED	<i>Quarterly</i> and Special Projects
Janis TRAYLER	Newsletter

As the new Historian, Karin BRANAMAN will prepare and keep up the Society's scrapbook throughout the year. Digitization of the scrapbooks was discussed as a future project.

Instead of assigning a Volunteer Coordinator, it was agreed that it will now fall under Special Projects. The Society is in great need of volunteers! Ideas were discussed on how to get more members to help.

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Facilities

The Board discussed problems with the meeting space at Highland Park Baptist Church (HPBC). Will the Church which has a "no Internet access policy" permit the Society to have Internet access for future meetings? Earle McBRIDE has sent an appeal to HPBC and, if turned down by the Church, then the AGS Board will consider a change of venue.

Bylaws and Mission Statement Revisions

Jim COOPER was appointed to chair the new Bylaws/Mission Statement Revision Committee. Jim and his yet-to-be-formed committee will examine the current mission statement and bylaws and make recommendations within the next 3-4 months.

Jim brought up the issue of financial liabilities Board members have and the possible effects on the Society. He will look into board member liability insurance and report back to the Board.

2012 Budget

Teri FLACK explained the major items in the 2011 budget (including Profit & Loss and the Balance Sheet) and answered questions. A discussion of Program expenses – Research Trips, Mini-Seminars, and the Writing Awards ensued. Membership is down 15% from 2010 as fewer people renewed in 2011.

Teri is still working on the 2012 budget and will have the new budget submitted and available for discussion at the next Board meeting in January.

Quarterly

Randy WHITED advised that due to the decrease in member contributions, only three issues of the *Quarterly* were published in 2011. According to Sharon, "We will continue with the *Quarterly*." The possibility of reducing the size of the *Quarterly*, reducing the number of issues, and creating a "writer's circle" to increase member contributions were discussed. We need content more than anything!

Membership

Missy HARRIS reported that members love to stand up at the monthly meetings and tell about their genealogical breakthroughs. It was mentioned these breakthroughs might be added to the Newsletter.

Discussion was held about membership renewals, especially the need to inform members at what point to renew their memberships. Members must renew by January 31 in order to be included in the Membership Directory.

AGS Website

Dona KURTZ talked about changes to the website. She has received quotes from two different web designers to move our website to a CMS (content management system). The first quote started at \$2600; the second was for \$1500. Dona will get a more detailed proposal from Parker Short (\$1500 bid) on how he will switch the website to CMS.

Society Trips

The Board discussed whether the Society should sponsor a major research trip once a year or once every 1½ years? A motion was submitted and passed to have major trips once per year. It was further agreed that we will ask Pat OXLEY to continue as our Major Research Trip coordinator and determine the schedule for a trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City sometime this year.

Programs

The issue of authorizing fees to be paid to speakers was addressed. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Society members who speak at monthly meetings will not be paid a stipend. Non-member speakers may be offered a stipend or honorarium plus expenses. Member speakers from out-of-town will be reimbursed their travel expenses.

AGS Printing Provider

The printing company the Society currently uses to print copies of program handouts, Newsletters, and

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Quarterlies, etc., is going out of business. The Board will look for a new printer that will provide good copies for a low cost to a non-profit association. If you know of someone who can help, please let us know.

Publicity

The value of metrics was discussed. Jennifer WHITLEY and Randy WHITED explained the need for tracking metrics and collecting data. An upcoming member survey is in the works.

Special Projects

Special Projects will be those projects which give back to the community as well as provide added value to the Society's members. Special Projects will include work involving cemeteries, records preservation, scanning and digitizing records, coordinating Family Search indexing of Travis County Records, and partnering with other entities in many of these endeavors.

There is an interest in participating in Heritage Day

(to be held in early 2012) which will promote Texas heritage. On March 25, PBS will premiere a 10-part series, *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Randy WHITED will look into possibly coordinating something with the local PBS station.

Digital scanning of important Austin and Travis County-related documents, especially those in deteriorating conditions, was discussed. There are so many valuable records that can be scanned and digitized but determinations of priorities and costs need to be discussed and determined.

Both Ancestry.com and Archives.com have expressed interest in partnering with the AGS in uploading and indexing documents. The need to partner with local repositories (George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, Austin History Center, THC, THL, and others) and possible reciprocal agreements were also discussed. Randy noted that a Volunteer List must be done for these special projects to be implemented.



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

**AGS DUES ARE PAYABLE BY
JANUARY 31ST**

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.

RENEW TODAY!

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

Jacquelyn J. MORGAN—San Antonio, TX

Carol MASON—Austin, TX 78726

John Copeland LUEDECKE—Colorado Springs, CO

Congratulations and Thank You to our newest
Life Member
Pat OXLEY
Round Rock, TX 78681



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.

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!



AGS Regular Monthly Meeting Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Program: "Get Your Lineage in Line" by presented by
Sylvia NIMMO

Other Genealogical Activities

Saturday, January 14, 2012

10:30 a.m.

North Village Branch Library
2505 Steck Avenue, Austin 78758

[Save Austin Cemeteries](#) presents the first of its Guest Speaker Series of 2012

Ever wonder what the meanings are behind those wonderful carvings on headstones, such as the lamb, dove, flowers, hands, and other symbols? Historian Sally VICTOR will present *Symbolism in the Cemetery*. She will discuss what many symbols mean to various ethnic and religious groups, along with some general symbols from several fraternal organizations. The presentation is free and open to the public.



Saturday, January 14, 2012

Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group
(AustinGenSIG)

Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library
7051 Village Center Dr. (off of Far West Blvd.) 78731
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We will continue with last month's topic of "Finding Published Genealogical Information On-line" and invite everyone to come and share what you found with us. We will spend a bit more time looking at these sites and then will look at an article published in the November 2011 *Family Tree Magazine*, [Considering the Source](#) that addresses the subject of how to use the information found in published family histories.

There will be a short course on creating GEDCOM files using several different programs (PAF, FTW2011, and Legacy). We will also learn how to privatize them and look at all the other useful options for creating GEDCOM files. For more information, contact John MAROSTICA at 512-339-6455, email him at john@marostica.org or check the website at <http://www.austingensig.com/>



Friday, January 20, 2012

The **Texas State Library and Archives** hosts another **Genealogy After Dark** session at the Lorenzo DeZavala Building, **1201 Brazos Street**
6:30 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 *Countdown to April 2: Getting Ready for the 1940 Census Release!* will be presented

At 7:30 the Research Room will open and at 7:45 the Archives will open for research

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.

Cost is \$10 per person and registration is limited to 30 participants. Registration closes on Friday, January 13th. [Click here](#) for more information and a registration form or contact the Library at geninfo@tsl.state.tx.us or 512-463-5455.



Saturday, February 4, 2012

Annual Hill Country Family History Seminar

Sponsor: the [Genealogical Society of Kendall County](#)

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Doors open at 8:15

Boerne Convention and Community Center

820 Adler Road, Boerne, TX

Registration is \$50 for non-members/\$60 at the door

Lunch & Snacks provided

Speaker: **Colleen FITZPATRICK, PhD**

Her topics will be:

- Forensic Genealogy—CSI Meets Roots
- Database Detective
- Looking at Old Photographs
- 6 Degrees of Separation—How to Find Anyone

For more information and a registration form, visit their website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc.
The early registration deadline is January 26th.



Saturday, March 17, 2012

The **Williamson County Genealogical Society** hosts its **Annual Seminar**

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 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, the location, visit the WCGS website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwcgs/Seminar.htm or call 512-863-2685.

Bits & Pieces

Do you have a Round Rock Public Library card? If so, you have online access to the following databases FROM your HOME!

- GenealogyBank
- Fold3 (Formerly Footnote)
- HeritageQuest;
- Historic Map Works; and

- databases for the New England Historical and Genealogical Society

Don't have a Round Rock Library card? An out-of-area card costs only \$25 and is good for a year. You will have to go to the library in Round Rock to get your card, but they have an excellent genealogy section upstairs and it could be well worth your while!

Bits & Pieces ... continued

Have you checked out familysearch.com lately? Kay BOYD reports there is quite a bit of new information posted, especially for Alabama. Estate Records for many counties are posted in their entirety. Some are 5 pages and she found one that was 134 pages—complete with every scrap of loan and IOU information.



Speaking of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society (see article about the Round Rock Public Library on page 6), we thank Earle McBRIDE for submitting an article by Daily Genealogist Editor Lynn BETLOCK about "... [Preparing for the Opening of the 1940 Census](#)."

The online debut of the 1940 census is rapidly approaching and on Monday, April 2, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., the National Archives will make the census available for research. The article by Ms. Betlock offers a great deal of helpful information on locating your relatives while the index for this census is being compiled. The article is too long to publish here, but click the link above to read it in its entirety.

Other links included in the story include:

- The National Archives' [FAQ page on the 1940 census](#);
- [Start Your 1940 Census Research Page](#); and
- Steve Morse's [1940 census information page](#) with numerous strategies for locating ancestors using his free [One-Step tools](#) and a source checklist that might yield 1940 addresses.

And, by the way, [FamilySearch.org](#) is looking for genealogists to help with this tremendous indexing project. Click the link above to access their website and learn how you can help speed up the indexing process! And thanks again to Earle for sending this information.



Now is a good time to remind you of the various ways you can keep up with AGS activities and information. The most obvious is, of course, our website:

[www.AustinTxGenSoc.org](#), but in addition to that, we also have a presence on Facebook. All you need to do is "like" us at: <https://www.facebook.com/AustinGenealogicalSociety>. You can also subscribe to our AGS mailing list through RootsWeb. Search for "TX-AGS" at <http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/index.html> in the General Interest section in the TX option of the "USA" list of states. While you're there, check out the mailing lists for the surnames you are researching. You might subscribe to one or two just to see if this is something that would be helpful to you. (OK, now that you have this information, the easiest way to find the AGS mailing list is on the AGS website home page!)



Have Swedish ancestors? Kay BOYD reports that ArkivDigital should be available in many, if not most, Family History Centers and accessed via the FHC Portal now that Genline has become part of [ancestry.com](#).



From a recent post on the Scotch-Irish RootsWeb mailing list comes the following information:

"Someone on another board asked how we in Ireland find so much stuff on Google that they don't seem to... I suggested going to [google.ie](#), this is a reply from someone who tried it.

"My default Google is google.com (the US engine) which is strange considering that I'm in Canada. When I specifically enter [google.ca](#) things get a little better. When I enter [www.google.ie](#) the search results are entirely different, and much, much better. Cheers"

"So, wherever you live, it might be worth trying [google.ie](#), [yahoo.ie](#), etc... I presume the same applies to me to change to the local search engine in US, Australia if I am searching there.

"Also [www.google.co.uk](#) is worth trying."

Editor's Corner

Thank you for reading through the first of eleven issues for 2012. You can see from the "AGS Business" section, there are a number of activities in the works for this year. The Board's constant goal is to make our Society one that assists our members with their genealogy research in a variety of ways.

I encourage you to remember that this is an all-volunteer organization and there is always a way for members to be involved in not only big projects but small ones, too. Please won't you consider how you can be of help and let us know?

Missy HARRIS, Membership Chair, and Karin BRANAMAN, Hospitality Chair, are always looking for folks to help with refreshments or to serve as greeters at the door. It's an excellent way to help. Look for a signup sheet to be available at the January meeting.



Another opportunity is sending in something for the *Quarterly*. As you read in the AGS Business section, we were so short on submissions there will be only three issues this year instead of four. Why is that? We have over 200 members, but few people are submitting information. Perhaps you have a story about your grandparents or parents that would be interesting to folks other than your family. How about the story of when you and your cousin ... you fill in the rest! Whether it is a few paragraphs or a few pages, your contribution makes a difference.

Would you be interested in attending a class or classes to help with writing your stories? Is this a service AGS can provide? Please let us know.



The new year has brought us an opportunity to *renew* those resolutions we made *last* year and didn't quite accomplish... you know, the one about spending more time researching, or the one about organizing the masses of information we accumulated over the past umpteen years, or the one about digitizing photos, or the one about beginning to actually *write* articles or

maybe even start that book, or I'd better stop there, but you get the idea! I had a kind of epiphany recently... I have a year less to accomplish the things in my life that I want to get done. For me, the years seem to get shorter and fly by faster. Is that true for you, too? It reminds me that my mother has often said, "There's no time like the present." I'd better get cracking!

We hope to see you soon at one of our monthly meetings or other AGS events. In the meanwhile, my wish for you is that you have great success in keeping whatever resolutions you made not only for this year, but for all the days to come.

Until next time...

Happy Trackin',
Janis



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 1st. Members who have renewed their membership by January 31st will receive the updated logon and new password in the February Newsletter.

2011 Financial Reports

**Austin Genealogical Society
 Profit & Loss
 Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2011**

INCOME

Bus trip receipts	1,555.00
Contributions Rec'd	873.41
Education (Classes, Mini-Seminars)	2,000.00
Membership Dues Rec'd	6,695.00
Misc Income (Lifetime Learning; Pioneer Certificates; TSGS preservation grant)	854.50
Total Income	11,977.91

GROSS INCOME 11,977.91

EXPENSES

Awards & Prizes	215.64
Charitable Donations	550.00
Education & Program Costs	5,951.38
Membership Costs	244.08
Operating Expenses	
Advertising	80.00
Bank Fees: PayPal discounts	144.55
Equipment Expense	92.45
Ofc. Supplies and Materials	106.28
Permits & Licenses	185.00
Postage & Delivery	481.30
Printing & Copying	1,436.58
P.O. Box Rent (annual)	110.00
Society Memberships	100.00
Software & Peripherals	<u>221.27</u>
Total Operating Expenses	2,957.43
Pioneer Certificates	15.54
Bus trip expenses	<u>1,644.23</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	11,578.30
Net Ordinary Income	399.61
Other Income - Interest Earned	<u>51.02</u>
NET INCOME	450.63

**Austin Genealogical Society
 Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2011**

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Public Employees Credit Union	10,599.23
Wells Fargo	11,192.90
Total Checking/Savings	21,792.13
TOTAL ASSETS	21,792.13

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	0.00

EQUITY

Retained Earnings	21,341.50
Net Income	450.63
Total Equity	21,792.13
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	21,792.13

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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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2011 Financial Report

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