



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

July 2006

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

Vol. 12

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**Society Meeting
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Tuesday, July 25, 2006**

**6:30 P.M. - Doors Open
7:15 P. M. Meeting & Program Begin**

**Meet & Greet New Friends
Our Help Desk is Open to Assist you with Research Questions
Shop Our Used Books, Pick up Freebies & Flyers about
Upcoming Events**

PROGRAM

A Brief History of the Huguenot Movement

Tom Ridpath, president of the Fleur-De-Lis Chapter of The Huguenot Society of Texas, and a member of the state society's Board of Directors, will be the speaker at the July 25, 2006 meeting.

Tom has researched his family genealogy for a number of years, but in 2001 a friend described the Huguenot Society and the possibility of Tom qualifying for membership since he had French ancestors.

With further research and subsequent documentation, he did indeed have Huguenot ancestors. and he became a member of the Fleur-De-Lis Chapter, which draws its membership primarily from the Central Texas area.

Tom is a microbiologist with the Texas Department of Health and is married with two grown children.



Condolences

Virginia T. Rowley, 94, died June 16, 2006 in Austin, Texas. Mrs. Rowley was interested in history, she researched her ancestry to join the United Daughters of the Confederacy and served that organization for several years. Survived by her husband, Alvin and her daughter, Jo Ann Rowley Minhoto, AGS member. Internment was in Capital Parks Cemetery.

BULLETIN BOARD

News Items of Interest from the Board...

It has been called to our attention that the general membership might like to know about some of the decisions made by the Board. We would like to highlight a few things each month that we think would be of interest to you:

--A Dell laptop computer has been purchased for use with data projector for our meeting programs and for educational classes and seminars.

--A banner was purchased for display at meetings and outside events.

--After studying the statistics of "hits" to our web site, it was decided to encourage members to add surnames to the web site. -- AGS had 24,035 hits to its web site in June 2006.

AGS Meeting Notice!

There will not be a meeting of the Society in August, nor will a newsletter be published. Watch for your September newsletter notifying you of the meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 and the program planned.

Queries

Queries are needed for publication in our quarterly. These are printed at no charge, and the surnames appear in our online index, so anyone can find them. Send a paragraph or a few sentences to Kay Boyd at mkdb1405@aol.com or call 836-7484.

DNA Seminar

Want to know more about DNA and how you can use it in your genealogy? AGS is sponsoring a half-day seminar on Saturday, November 11, 2006, at the Highland Park Baptist Church, our regular meeting hall. Reserve that date today.

The speaker will be Max Blankfeld, VP Operations/Marketing of Family Tree DNA of Houston, Texas. He is one of the founders of FTDNA, one of the earliest genealogy DNA testers.

AGS is also working out a deal with FTDNA to allow a discount on members's testing. For more information, e-mail JamesHollas@austin.rr.com.

Brick Wall Saturday

Join other AGS members at the Texas State Library for the next "Brick Wall Saturday" which takes place on July 15th at TSL, 1201 Brazos, room 202 from 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

You can use this time to work on your research or to get some new ideas. Education Committee members will be able to assist you with your research or provide some new directions for your stalled research. You will have access to the Genealogy Library on the first floor. Bring your research and join us. You are welcome to bring snacks or lunch to the meeting room. Bottled water and snacks will be provided and a soft-drink machine is nearby. Free on-street parking is available.

Pioneer Families of Travis County, Texas

Two years ago the Austin Genealogical Society began issuing a **Pioneer Families of Travis County Certificates** to individuals who can prove that their ancestors were living in Travis County, Texas prior to the close of 1880. To qualify for the certificate, a person must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who lived in Travis County on or before December 31, 1880, submit proof of such descent and pay a fee of \$10.00.

On September 1, 2006 this introductory **fee will be raised to \$20.00**. Applications can be picked up at the Texas State Library, mailed to you or down loaded at www.austintxgensoc.org/PioneerCertificate.php. If you have delayed sending your application, now is the time to mail it to AGS, P. O. Box 10010, Austin, TX 78766. Please contact Kay Boyd if you need more information.

Austin State Hospital Cemetery Transcriptions

The listing of burials at the Austin State Hospital is now searchable at www.austintxgensoc.org. It was compiled by David Rupe, Austin State Hospital, Plant Maintenance Director and transcribed by Stephanie S. Sorensen, Historian, Texas State Cemetery 2005.

This cemetery houses a community. Therefore, doctors, nurses, teachers, and students were and are buried alongside the patients. Because the patients were in a State Hospital does not mean they were mentally ill. Many inmates were treated for alcoholism or other various illnesses.

The first date listed is the date the patient was ADMITTED. The Austin State Hospital was originally named the Austin Asylum. The name change occurred in 1925. One of the first people to be buried in the cemetery was John Neely Bryan, the founder of the city of Dallas, Texas. He was moved to the cemetery in 1882.

The cemetery is located off 51st Street, if your heading west off I-35, the cemetery will be on your right, if you're heading east off Lamar, the cemetery will be on your left. The gates are closed 99% of the time due to no traffic and people will need to call the maintenance department ahead of time, if they wish to visit the grounds. Their direct number is: (512) 419-2367.

Texas State Genealogical Society Writing Awards

It is time again when the TSGS is offering awards to societies and members. There are eight categories with varied topics and each offers monetary prizes of \$25, \$50 and \$100. One is for children, divided into three age groups, with prizes ranging from \$25 -\$100.

The deadline for submitting materials for 2006 in the student category is September 15, 2006. The adult entries must be received by August 15, 2006. The winners will be announced at the TSGS Convention in Fort Worth, Texas on October 28, 2006.

Find more information about TSGS writing awards, at http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsgs/TSGS_writingawds.htm. Complete details on the categories can also be seen in the STIRPES publication or you can contact Kay Boyd.

Giving Back

How often during the day or week do you sit down at your computer and search Ancestry.com, Rootsweb.com; Familysearch.org; Usgenweb; Google or any of the state or county genealogy web sites seeking information on your family? I bet quite often. Do you know how this information becomes available to you?

Some of these are commercial sites, but many are non-profit. Probably a volunteer somewhere typed up his records or family history, sent in his pictures, or scanned his Bible records in hopes of finding a cousin or simply to share information.

Have you given back? There are so many little things you can do to help build genealogy databases, type up your probate records, old obituaries, transcribe old high school annuals or cemetery records or just send in your family group sheet to the locales where your family lived. All of these services will help give back to the genealogy community and will be your way of saying Thank You for the information you were so thrilled to find.

Kay Boyd
AGS Records Compiler

Texas Death Certificates on Microfilm

Notice was recently received from the Friends of Clayton Library in Houston that their order of the microfilmed Texas Death Certificates will be available as soon as they are processed. Previously this microfilm of state death certificates for the years 1903-1976 was only available at the Dallas Public Library. The indexes for these records are in the Genealogy Collection, Texas State Library. Before you make a special trip, you should check to be certain they are ready for researchers.

Research Tip : Investigate a Sibling or Cousin

To often we get tunnel vision in our quest to find our own ancestors, and we overlook extended family members. Choose a sibling, cousin in-law, stepparent, stepchild or some other collateral relative and see how much you can learn about him or her. You'll be surprised at how often the information you gather on seemingly distant family members aids in your direct-line research.

Ancestry Weekly Journal
6/12/06

Web Sites

Abbreviations Found in Genealogy

<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/abbrev.html>>

Swedish Immigration & Settlement Patterns in America

<<http://www.kindredtrails.com/Where-Did-The-Swedes-Go.html>>

Online War of 1812 Indexes & Records

<<http://www.militaryindexes.com/warof1812/index.html>>

Online Mexican War Indexes & Records

<<http://www.militaryindexes.com/mexicanwar/index.html>>

Online Spanish American War Indexes & Records

<<http://www.militaryindexes.com/spanishamericanwar/index.html>>

Online World War I Indexes & Records

<<http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone/index.html>>

Online World War II Indexes & Records

<<http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwartwo/>>

In case you ever wondered why a large number of your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history check out...

<http://hawkshome.net/misc_items/events/epidemic_timeline.htm>

State & Other History Timelines

<<http://www.e-referencedesk.com/resources/state-history-timeline/>>

Sources: Kay Boyd, Genealogical Gleanings, Vol. 10, # 25

AGS Welcomed these visitors to our June meeting

Shirley Gerber

Donald McCanless

The Potential Importance of Coroner or Medical Examiner Records

If you discover that the subject of your genealogical search passed away as a result of an accident, suicide, or other questionable means, you should always turn to the records maintained by the Coroner or Medical Examiner. Records maintained by Funeral Home and Cemeteries, and the information they contain will vary by region and time period. The same obviously holds true with Death certificates.

However, deaths that fall into any type of questionable category will involve some form of investigation by law enforcement authorities. These circumstances will often be noted in most records maintained by Funeral Homes, Cemeteries, and the Certificate of Death generated by the County Health Department. The Coroner or Medical Examiner will always be called on by law enforcement to determine a cause of death when suspicious circumstances arise during the investigation. These circumstances generate a paper trail. The information from the Coroner or Medical Examiner must be completed before the local law enforcement agency can complete its police report.

Information in a typical entry may include some or all of the following: name of the deceased, age, date of birth, cause of death, occupation, next of kin, witnesses to the event (if any), and other family members or acquaintances who knew the person. Though the information may be in brief details, they often provide significant information regarding family members that were interviewed or who provided information about the deceased.

Coroner or Medical Examiner records are often housed in the municipal archives of the city or in the county or state archives. You must determine whether the Coroner or Medical Examiner was a local, county, or state position at the time of the death you are researching. Step two involves determining if the records are in an archive or still in the city or county of original jurisdiction. Step three will involve determining what the latest guidelines are for access to the data. Some jurisdictions may limit access based on your ability to prove a direct ancestral connection to the deceased. This is most likely for any death that has occurred within the past 50-75 years.

One example of a major published source used by genealogists searching in New York City would be the "Coroner's Reports, New York City, 1823-1842." This title is published by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Similar titles have been published in other areas of the country. Some of these sources are also available through a variety of on-line sites as well.

Bryan L. Mulcahy

Reference Librarian

Fort Myers-Lee County Library

Source: The Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library Family Tree - December/January 2006

AGS Newsletter Statement

The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter and the editor have attempted to make the information in this newsletter as accurate as possible, by obtaining it from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, and to identify the sources. The information contained herein is for the personal and/or educational use of AGS members only and is provided in good faith without any express or implied warranty. It is the policy of AGS to avoid publishing personal information that is considered private.

Any mention of commercial products within this newsletter is for information only, it does not imply recommendation or endorsement by AGS unless otherwise stated.

7/1/06
"Keep Searching"
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