



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

July 2008

Vol. 14

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

7

Special Event: **Saturday, July 12, 2008** **10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Program: A workshop on "What to Look for in Wills & Probate Files"
Presented by: Teri FLACK, Randy WHITED, & Cindy FOREMAN

Location: the [George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center](#)
in the Boyd Vance Theater
1165 Angelina Street, Austin, Texas

[Map to the Carver Museum](#)

(<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver/contact.htm>)

This *free* workshop will provide a good working knowledge of where to search, what to look for, and how to use indexes for both will and probate file searches. Some of the topics will include:

- Types of Wills
- Value of Wills to a Genealogist
- Typical Probate File Content
- Terminology
- Court Process of a Probating a Testate & Intestate file
- Guardianships
- Court Record Books and Indexes

You will also want to allow some time after the workshop to enjoy the numerous galleries and exhibits on display.

Regular Monthly AGS Meeting **Tuesday, July 22, 2008**

**Program: Piles, Files and Folders;
Let's Get Organized!**
**Presented by: Panel presentation led
by Sharon FOLEY**

Highland Park Baptist Church
5208 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

6:30 P.M. – Doors Open
**7:00 P.M. – Meeting & Program
Begin**

Meet & Greet Old Friends & New
Shop our used books.
**Pick up freebies & flyers about
upcoming events.**



The July 22nd program will be presented by a panel of our very own members consisting of Karen MATHESON, Bob TIEMAN, Sara GREDLER, and Sharon FOLEY. They will share ideas, insights, and suggestions regarding how to organize your considerable collection of family history materials, be it paper, electronic, photographs, or a combination of all three. The program will outline a list of materials you should have including various genealogy programs, the use of "Word", "Excel," recommendations on safe keeping, those all important back-ups, and more. Bring your questions and ideas. Please feel free to look at items on the display table before and after the program.

(continued)

Panelists for the Piles, Files & Folders program at the Regular Meeting:

Karen J. MATHESON has been doing genealogical research for herself and others for more than 17 years. While most of her papers have made it into an organized filing system within a filing cabinet, some have unfortunately escaped to her desktop and office chairs! Karen loves to use computers (especially her new Dell Inspiron in pink) to keep all her genealogical data organized, accessible, and portable.

Robert E. (Bob) TIEMAN is a third generation Austinite. He earned his BS in Engineering from the University of Texas and after a two-year stint as an Engineering Officer in the Marine Corps, he returned to Austin and began his career as a structural engineer with a large architectural and engineering firm. Bob's start in genealogy began about 35 years ago when a second cousin presented him with a dog-eared yellow tablet filled with handwritten

notes detailing the Tiemann Family Tree. He transferred the information into one of the early genealogy computer programs and seems to always be dabbling with various computer applications as they relate to genealogy.

Sara GREDLER, a native of Virginia, has lived in Austin for two years. She currently works at Mead & Hunt, an architecture and engineering firm, in the historic preservation division. Her undergraduate degrees are in History and Classics, and her graduate degree in Historic Preservation. She has been researching her family's genealogy and history for over 10 years. Her work as a historic preservationist and her hobby of genealogy are entwined, and each has a great effect on the other.

Sharon FOLEY, the Moderator for the panel, describes herself as "very left brained and organized." She has a BA in biology, MS in Science Education, taught HS sciences for many years and certainly had to be organized. She also says, "I can't function in a mess."

Meet Your Neighbor

We continue to learn a bit more about people who attend AGS meetings and to find some cousins as we are ask you to "Meet Your Neighbor."

If *your* own surname ends with the letters **J, K** or **L**, please plan to announce your name as well as four to six surnames that *do not appear on our website*, along with the earliest American location of each. (For example,

Wampler, in Boston, Massachusetts, 1742, etc.) We will continue this project through the coming months until we've completed the alphabet.

If you hear a surname and/or location of interest, make sure you contact the person that night at the meeting, or right away by email afterwards. We began this project in January and already several people have realized they share ancestors with common surnames.

Coming Programs

The Education Committee has printed bookmarks listing the programs for the entire year. Be sure to pick one up at the hospitality table at the monthly meetings. Meanwhile, here is the list for the next few months:

Tues. August 26

"Cemetery Preservation" presented by Anne D. SHELTON

Tuesday, September 23

"Using Online Resources" presented by the AGS Education Committee

Membership

(submitted by Barbara INNIS)

Welcome to New Members.

Since our last newsletter, we have had one new member join, and she is a special one. Mary C. BOHLS is our newest "Senior Life Member," and she started getting acquainted by attending the June indoor picnic!



And speaking of THE Picnic...

If you didn't get to gather with other members and guests at the Annual Indoor *Picnic with an Italian Flair* on June 17, you missed a great one! Attendees were welcomed with a video presentation of the 2007 Indoor Picnic, courtesy of John MAROSTICA, and we dined to the sounds of Dean Martin and Jerry Vale, doing favorite Italian pop vocals, thanks to CDs from Arlene ZIRKEL. We feasted on bountiful servings of lasagna, cheese ravioli, salad, and bread sticks, all from Olive Garden, but we left plenty of room to sample two luscious cheesecakes and a key lime pie. The real dessert treats, however, were three sinfully delicious homemade treats created by members Kay BOYD, Pat OXLEY, and Evelyn SYLER.

Rounding out the evening, we were introduced to the delightful displays of family history, memorabilia, and a tall tale or two from the following members: Lorrie HENDERSON, Bob TIEMAN, Sharon TIEMAN, Teri FLACK, Sara GREGLER, Sheila SARGENT, Cindy FOREMAN, Julia MELLEBRUCH, Edna YOUNGBLOOD, Kay BOYD, and Pat OXLEY. Tommy INGRAM served as emcee.

Very special thanks go to those who helped to advertise, to greet, to decorate tables, to serve dinner, and to clean up. There wouldn't have been a picnic without these folks: Sharon FOLEY, Elizabeth JOHNSTON, Richard FOSTER, Claude and June CHAMBERS, Sheila SARGENT, Karin BRANAMAN, Pat THOMAS, Joann TRAVER, and the AGS Board,

NOTICE: Business to be addressed at the July meeting.

Section 6 of the AGS Bylaws requires the creation of a Nominating Committee at the July meeting. The Nominating Committee consists of two members elected by the Board of Directors, one member appointed by the AGS President, and two members elected by the general membership attending the July meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for one of these committee positions, please check with that person prior to the meeting to be sure that person is willing to serve. If you would like to serve on that committee, please advise someone on the current Board of Directors. The Committee is tasked with submitting a slate of proposed Directors at the September meeting. Elections are then held at the October meeting.

Anyone with an interest in serving on the Board of Directors is encouraged to share that information with a member of the Nominating Committee or a current Board member.

Pioneer Certificates

It appears we are remiss in announcing two recipients of Travis County Pioneer Certificates. In October of 2007, Certificate Number 07-040 was issued to Anne Darden Brown GILBERT for her ancestor Franklin Tate BROWN who was in Travis County by 1846.

In December 2007, Certificate Number 07-041 was issued to Laverne Lindsey for her ancestors Crockett J. and Caroline GRAY. The Grays were in Travis County by 1877.

Congratulations to both Anne and Laverne for their successful work in tracing these families and we thank you for expanding our data base of research to include your ancestors.



Do YOU have a Travis County Ancestor?

Individuals who can prove that their ancestors were living in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880 are eligible to apply for a Travis County Pioneer Certificate.

To qualify for the certificate, an applicant must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who lived in Travis County on or before December 31, 1880, must submit a completed [application form](#) and must provide proof of such descent. The fee of \$20.00 covers the costs of verifying the application and producing the certificate. Documentation can be birth, death, marriage certificates; probate, census, military records; obituaries and Bible records. Applicants do not have to reside within Travis County in order to receive a pioneer certificate. If you would like to apply for this certificate, complete the instructions on the application form, and mail it and your check for \$20.00 to AGS, PO Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010. Legible copies of your supporting documentation for each item listed must accompany your application.

For further information or questions about the Pioneer Families of Travis County certificate contact [Kay Boyd](#).

Educational Opportunities

One of the most popular activities offered by AGS is **Brick Wall Saturday**. Our next "brick buster" session is scheduled for **Saturday afternoon, July 26th from 1 to 4 p.m.**, at the **North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library**. The North Village Branch is located at the southeast corner of **Burnet Road and Anderson Lane in the North Village Shopping Center**.

We all have a "brick wall" (an ancestor who stubbornly refuses to give up their life story to you) - what's yours? Come and discuss your brick wall challenge with other genealogists. Please prepare a question related to your research problem (including place and time), be able to summarize the work you've done, and the group will suggest some possible new directions for your research.

You are welcome to listen and participate in everyone's discussions. There is no charge for this service and we even provide refreshments!



Save Austin's Cemeteries will meet at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 12th** at the Doubletree Hotel, 1617 N IH35. Janene JEFFREY will speak on the "Symbolic Art on Tombstones." Ms. Jeffrey is a professor at Austin Community College and teaches a course on "End of Life" which includes field trips to several local cemeteries. She is interested in the history related to the cemeteries and persons interred there as well as memorialization facts and symbolism. www.sachome.org.



Other Seminars & Conferences

Angelina College – Keys to Discovery

Thursday – Saturday, **July 17-19, 2008** at
3500 South First Street, Lufkin, TX

10 different speakers on a wide variety of
topics. Website:

<http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm>

Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Saturday, 9 August 2008, 8:15 a.m. in Oak
Hall at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center
Featured speaker is Henry Z. "Hank" Jones, Jr.

Topics are:

1. When the Sources Are Wrong
2. Tracing the Origins of Early 18th
Century Palatine and Other Emigrants
3. Family Tradition: How to Separate Fact
from Fiction in Genealogical Research
4. How Psychic Roots Became an
"Unsolved Mystery"

Website:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/>

Victoria County Genealogical Society Fall Seminar

Saturday 4 October 2008, 9:00 a.m. at First
Christian Church Fellowship Hall

2106 North Ben Jordan, Victoria, TX
Featured Speaker is Christine Rose

Topics are:

1. The "Rites" of Inheritance, Dower,
Entail and Primogeniture
2. Federal Land Records to Locate
Ancestors

3. Too Young for the Revolution; Too Old
for the Civil War--Military Records
Between these Wars

4. Using Little Known and Neglected
Sources: A Potpourri.

Website:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txvicto2/RoseSeminar.pdf>

San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society

Annual Fall Seminar with Dick Eastman

November 8, 2008,

No additional information available at this time

And for the truly dedicated, hard-core
genealogists who wants some concentrated
course time with a variety of speakers there is:

Genealogy Seminar at Sea

October 25 – November 1, 2008

Royal Caribbean's newest ship: Liberty of the
Seas; **sailing** from the Port of Miami to San
Juan, Puerto Rico to Philipsburg, St. Maarten
to Labadee, Haiti, and back to Miami.

Featured Speakers are:

John Philip Colletta, Stephen J. Danko,
Michael J. Leclerc, Paul Milner, George G.
Morgan, Donna M. Moughty, Laura G.
Prescott, and Paula Stuart-Warren

Website:

<http://www.genealogycruises.com/index.htm>



Texas State Genealogical Society 2008 Annual Conference

(submitted by Teri Flack)

This year's conference is set for Abilene on **October 24 & 25**. The featured speaker this year is Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL who will present six sessions on the theme of "Following the Evidence Trail."

In addition to the lectureship sessions, the Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists will again do their Road Show with free 15-minute Consultations to help on a brick wall problem. Also available are: a Partner Society Special Session to discuss issues that genealogical societies face; round table mini-sessions -- small group discussions on a large variety of topics.

Additional information and a registration form, can be found at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/tsgs2008conference.pdf>.

Volunteering Works!

(submitted by Karen MATHESON)

FamilySearch is at it again! An orange box labeled “Sneak Peek” was recently added to the FamilySearch.org website. This link encourages you to “Take a look at millions of records and great new search features.” What genealogist wouldn’t want to do that? By clicking the “Go” button, you will be taken to the Record Search – Pilot Program website. On the right side of the page is a list of databases that are searchable, meaning they have been indexed. On the left side of the page is a list from which you can browse (not indexed, but broken down into sections). If you want to get involved in moving the indexing process along, take advantage of the invitation in the upper right corner to “Do Your Part. Become An Indexer.” Give back to the genealogical community by helping to index the billions of images that FamilySearch would like to make available to the public!

Included among the records that have been indexed are census records, vital statistics, Czech church records, West Virginia birth and death records, and Texas death certificates. There are also many other records available. Do yourself a favor and take a look!

Bits & Pieces

Interesting and helpful websites that have been submitted this month:

FreeSurnameSearch.com including **What's New?** Links to FREE Databases Added Recently – a World-wide directory of free genealogy databases and record transcriptions

SurnameSearchDaily (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SurnameSearchDaily/#ans>) – A Yahoo users’ group for getting a list of free online surname databases.

What do the numbers in a social security number mean? The first three numbers indicate a geographic location. Since 1973, the numbers have been issued by the SSA’s central office and the zip code noted on the application has been the determining factor for the first three numbers. Prior to that, the numbers were issued by SSA regional offices. For more information, visit the SSA’s website at <http://www.ssa.gov/employer/stateweb.htm>.



The Fiskville Cemetery Association is trying to identify everyone who is buried there. The cemetery has been cleaned up, but many headstones are missing and no records of burials have been kept. Information on the identities of people buried without a headstone has been lost over the years. The same is true for those whose headstones have deteriorated, or have been damaged or removed.

If you know of someone who was buried at Fiskville, or if you know someone who may know of someone who was buried there, please contact Mary CANNON at mcangwtx@yahoo.com. Mary is an interim Board member as the group begins the cemetery association organization process. They are gathering names and addresses of anyone with family or friends buried there in order to advise as many people as possible about the formal organizational meeting.

Tantalizing Tidbit!

From the University of North Texas: **The Portal to Texas History** is a state-wide collaborative digital program that offers students and lifelong learners a digital gateway to the rich collections held in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and private collections. It features digital

reproductions of photographs, maps, letters, documents, books, artifacts, and more. In addition, Portal Primary Source Adventures and curriculums that comply with TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) standards highlight relevant materials for students and classroom teachers. The Portal team at UNT provides strong leadership by supporting collaborative efforts with its partners, while pursuing the goals of accessibility, best practices, and preservation of historical material. Direct access at: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

Financial Reports for June

Austin Genealogical Society Profit & Loss January 1 through June 30, 2008		
Income		
Annual Seminar Receipts	3,898.00	
Bus Trips	2,340.00	
Classes (incl LTL	150.00	
Contributions Rec'd	245.00	
Envelope Collections	5.51	
Membership Dues Rec'd	3,740.00	
Misc Income	1,182.68	
Sales - Earned Revenues	393.00	
Total Income	11,954.19	
Cost of Goods Sold	344.49	
Gross Profit	11,609.70	
Expense		
Cemetery project	3.68	
Charitable Donations	500.00	
Education (includes seminar costs)	3,998.61	
Membership Costs	578.57	
Operating Expenses	2,149.33	
Research Trip Expenses	3,259.21	
Total Expense	10,489.40	
Net Ordinary Income	1,120.30	
Interest Earned	52.79	
Net Income	1,173.09	

Austin Genealogical Society Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2008	
ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	19,940.28
Other Current Assets	681.82
TOTAL ASSETS	20,622.10
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	1,959.08
Equity	18,663.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	20,622.10

Are you planting genealogy seeds?

This week I had a chance to look at a website that listed the men who died at the Alamo. There were two men with the last name of "WALKER"... a name that happens to be in my line, but not one that I've ever researched. As it happens, it's also the name of a childhood schoolmate I'm still in contact with. I sent her the list and asked if these were "her" Walkers. She didn't know, but it seemed to pique her interest. Maybe she will be curious enough to check it out. We'll see. But the seed is planted.

Notes from the Newsletter Editor:

WOW! There are THREE excellent opportunities to add to our genealogical knowledge this month. The Wills & Probate workshop on the 12th, how to get organized (boy, can I use THAT one!) at the regular meeting, and the ever popular and helpful Brick Wall Saturday on the 26th. Even with the busy schedules that summer often brings, I hope you can take full advantage of these opportunities.

One of the ways to keep AGS strong and helpful is to serve. If the nominating committee (see article above) contacts you, please consider serving.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read the AGS Newsletter. I hope you found some useful information here and that you will let us know if you have any ideas on how it can be improved. .

Until next time... Happy Trackin',
 Janis Trayler, Editor
newsletter@austintxgensoc.org

2008 Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors for the Austin Genealogical Society for 2008 are:

Term ending 2008:	Term Ending 2009:
Kay Boyd	Teri Flack
Inez Eppright	Tommy Ingram
Cindy Foreman	Barbara Innis
Alana Mallard	Elizabeth Johnston
Connie Perdue	Robert Sage
Janis Trayler	Randy Whited

2008 Officers

President	Tommy Ingram
1 st Vice President	Kay Boyd
2 nd Vice President	Cindy Foreman
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 share those with us.

INSIDE:

News about coming AGS events:

July 12 – Wills & Probate Workshop

July 22 – Monthly Meeting

July 26 – “Brick Wall” Saturday

August 2 – Cemetery Workday

Bits & Pieces

Tantalizing Tidbits

Coming Conferences

Austin Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 10010
Austin, TX 78766-1010

Published monthly except December
Janis Trayler, Editor
newsletter@AustinTxGenSoc.org

Deadline for submitting material for publication
Is the 1st of the month unless otherwise stated.