



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter
June 2008

Vol. 14

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

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Monthly AGS Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Program: Annual AGS Picnic - with an Italian flair!
Presented by: the Membership Committee

Highland Park Baptist Church
5208 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas



AGS INDOOR PICNIC...with an Italian Flair

It's your final opportunity to make reservations for our annual picnic, catered by Olive Garden and including lasagna (a vegetarian entree is available), salad, bread sticks, cheesecake, other special desserts, tea and coffee. Price is only \$8.00! Spouses and guests are welcome, too.

Reserve a table (or a half-table) to display some of your research, your family heirlooms, a "brick wall", or perhaps focus on an interesting character in your family tree. You get to design it. We get to enjoy it--and learn something, too.

Time: 5:30-6:00 set up "Show and Tell" tables
6:00 - Registration and socializing
6:45 - Dinner
After dinner - Program



FOR TICKET OR TABLE RESERVATIONS, CALL OR EMAIL BY JUNE 9

BARBARA INNIS or
340-9932
bags @sbcglobal.net

KAY BOYD
836-7484
mkdb1405 @ aol.com

The President's Corner

I was reminded this week that you need car insurance before you start researching in a new area of your genealogy. No, wait – I'm mixing two different subjects – but they do have something in common. If you go to get an inspection sticker for the car and you haven't planned ahead, (i.e. have insurance in force and required repairs done) you're going to be disappointed. Similar planning is necessary when starting research on a new family or a new part of the country.

Here's what I mean. Say you've heard that John and Mary Smith, your maternal great-great grandparents lived their entire lives in Gwinnett County, Georgia, dying there in around 1920. If you jump into researching this family with such a common name (and most surnames are common somewhere) in an area you are unfamiliar with, you may be disappointed with the results.

Unless you knew this couple personally, what you "know" about them is hearsay, not knowledge, at least until you do the research to find the documents that prove something. What you've heard may be true or not – and certainly it may be partially true.

Now most people will take different approaches to the research.

OK, say you look up census records for Gwinnett County, Georgia, beginning in 1920. Turns out there are several John and Mary Smith's there in 1920 – but how will you recognize "yours?" Do you know their ages or the names of the children living at home? So if you started looking for this couple in Gwinnett County, you may already be on the wrong track. If you haven't learned what you could about this couple's children, you may easily choose the wrong family to research. Maybe one of the children's birth or death certificates mentions their father's name was John Freeman Smith – wouldn't that help?

If four daughters of this couple married in Hardeman County, Texas around 1888, you might begin to wonder if the extended family was really in Hardeman County then. This doesn't prove the parents are in Texas in 1888, but it's a clue. Again, the records of the children are useful in identifying the parents.

So, back to the census records – you do not find a likely John and Mary Smith (one who fits what you know about your family) in Gwinnett in 1920, 1910 or 1900. Were they already dead? Maybe, or maybe they're just not where you "knew" they would be. A review of the Hardeman County, TX census records identifies a likely couple. Then a look at tax records for both places reveals John last paid taxes in Gwinnett in 1880 and began paying in Hardeman in 1882. A search in the land records of the two counties yields a document where John and Mary sold their land in Gwinnett in 1880 and another where they bought new land in Hardeman.

Another step in planning your research is to study the area you plan to research. Read everything you can find about the area – one book may mention that there was a five-year long drought in Gwinnett County beginning in 1876. That would certainly encourage a farming family to leave that area and look for land with water.

So remember, it is essential to your new research that you know everything you can about the family where you know them. There is no guarantee that you will make a connection to an earlier home this way, but you can be pretty sure if you don't study what you know, you won't make that connection. You may not get the family you really looking for.

Our May 27th program was "Using Maps in Your Genealogical Research," presented by AGS member Teri Flack. So many people who attended this program told me that they didn't know how many different kinds of maps there were, nor how many were useful in genealogical research. As Teri pointed out, a map alone probably won't solve your research, but it can fill in several different kinds of blanks.

Mark your calendars (June 17th) for the AGS Indoor Picnic. This year's theme is Italian and Barbara Innis is putting together a fun evening. The cost is \$8.00 for Olive Garden. Please plan to attend and prepare a display about one of your families. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our friends in the society.

I'm looking forward to seeing you.
Tommy Ingram

More about maps ...

During her presentation on using maps to explore your ancestors' lives at the May meeting, Teri Flack, promised to provide in this newsletter the link to a map of the great wagon road (a major migration route from Pennsylvania into North and South Carolina in the 18th century). The link is www.waywelivednc.com/maps/historical/great-wagon-road.htm. She found the map through the website "CensusFinder.com" looking for North Carolina resources (it's not just for census information). The map was first published in the book, *The Way We Lived in North Carolina*, Joe A. Mobley, ed. (Raleigh, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 2003). The website is sponsored by the University of North Carolina Press and the North Carolina Office of Archives and History.

Also, Pat Oxley has been notified by Arphax Publishing that they will be at the July 10th meeting of the Williamson County Genealogical Society in Round Rock. Greg Boyd will be the speaker and they will be selling their new Texas County Books. They will not be bringing their entire selection of books, but will concentrate on Texas books. These maps were mentioned in Teri Flack's program at our May AGS meeting.

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. June 17 (one week earlier than usual!)
"The Annual AGS Picnic" See above for additional information

Saturday, July 12 – at Carver Museum

Probates & Wills Workshop presented by
Cindy Foreman, Randy Whited and Terri Flack

Tuesday, July 22

Piles, Files and Folders – Let's Get Organized!
presented by Sharon Foley and a panel of the
AGS Education Committee.

Tuesday, August 26

Cemetery preservation

Membership Committee Report

(submitted by Barbara Innis)

Information from the May 27th meeting:

NEW MEMBER: Sherri Russell.

VISITORS: Ursula Gaines and Patty Otts.

THANKS to GREETERS: Carroll Patterson, Glenda Black, and Bob Tieman.
And THANKS to those who brought REFRESHMENTS: Sylvia Martins, Pat Thomas,
Sheila Sargent, Sherry Healy, and Sharon Tieman.

ATTENDANCE: Visitors - 2; New Member - 1; Members - 79. TOTAL: 82

Cemetery Workday (submitted by Kay Boyd)

Just a reminder - the first Saturday of every month is designated as a workday at the Oakwood Cemetery Annex. This month, that's **June 7th**. Next month the date will be **July 5th**. All helpers are welcome to help record and

verify information from the headstones of the Oakwood Annex for the database prepared by Robert Sage. Contact Kay Boyd at 836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com for more details.

Educational Opportunities

The Austin Genealogical Society will be hosting a **workshop** on “**What to look for in Wills & Probate Files**”. It will be held on **Saturday, July 12th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Carver Museum Theater at 1165 Angelina**. There is no expense or fee in attending this workshop.

The three workshop presenters will be Teri Flack, Cindy Foreman, and Randy Whited -- all members of the AGS education committee.

The workshop will give you 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 the following:

- Types of Wills
- Value of wills to a genealogist
- Typical Probate File Content
- Terminology
- Guardianships
- Court Process of a probating a testate & intestate file
- Court Record Books and Indexes

Here is the URL for a map to the Carver Museum: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver/contact.htm>



Make sure you leave time after the meeting to view the Carver's wonderful exhibits including the Families Gallery, which will be of interest to any genealogist:

"Our permanent exhibit on Austin African-American families highlights 10 families who have contributed greatly to the Central Texas landscape. From the area's first black settlements to some of this generation's strongest community leaders, this interactive gallery explores the history of Austin's African-American community and allows guests to present their own family stories for all to see." (From the Carver website.)

Please email Kay Boyd at mkdb1405@aol.com for more information about this workshop. The museum has a parking lot and additional on-street parking.

Also check the AGS website: <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/probates.php>



Emily Croom to speak in Round Rock
(Submitted by Elizabeth Johnston)

Well-known speaker Emily Croom will be the guest speaker in June at the Williamson County Genealogical Society meeting at the **Round Rock Public Library, 216 East Main Street**. Her topic is **“Hidden in Plain Sight:**

Details We Sometimes Miss.” Ms. Croom has authored a number of helpful genealogy books and will have copies of some of those with her for sale at the meeting. **Thursday, June 12, 2008, 7:30 – 9:00 P.M.** For more info, contact Elizabeth Johnston at 251-0093 or elizabethlj@sbcglobal.net.



If you can't make it to the major genealogical conferences, there are others around the state that might be of interest. Here are a few:

July 17-19	Lufkin, Texas	Angelina College has announced its annual 3-day conference "Keys to Discovery." For registration and other information, go to www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm or send an e-mail to treviawbeverly@comcast.net .
August 9	Ft. Worth, Texas	Ft. Worth Genealogical Society Summer Seminar featuring Henry "Hank" Jones, Jr. speaking on <i>When the Sources are Wrong, Tracing the Origins of Early 18th Century Palatine & Other Emigrants, Family Tradition: How to Separate Fact from Fiction</i> , and <i>How Psychic Roots Became an "Unsolved Mystery."</i> More information at: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/html/2008-summer-seminar.html
September 13	Tyler, Texas	Desmond Walls Allen will be the keynote speaker at the East Texas Genealogical Society's Seminar. E-mail Scott Fitzgerald at scottfitzgerald@tyler.net or go to the society's Web site www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txetgs/meetings.html for more information.

2008 Research Trip

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ft. Wayne Research Trip

(Submitted by Pat Oxley)

DEADLINE - June 17th will be the last day to sign up and pay your \$100 deposit for the research trip to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. **Because of contractual agreements with the airline and the hotel, we must release any unreserved seats or room shortly after this date.**

The trip is scheduled for **Sunday, October 5 - Saturday, October 13th**.
The hotel package is \$350 (double occupancy)* and includes the following:

6 nights at the Fort Wayne Inn
6 breakfasts

A dinner banquet with Curt Witcher, Director of the library, as our speaker
Transportation and tips to/from the airport and hotel in Ft. Wayne
Snacks and drinks for our hospitality suite

* Single occupancy is \$605 for the hotel package

Airfare is \$372 plus \$15 ticketing plus taxes

Fort Wayne is a second tier city, so there is not much in the way of competitive airfares. We will fly on American Airlines, leaving Austin around 10 a.m. and arriving in Fort Wayne (via Chicago) mid-afternoon. We will depart Fort Wayne at 4 p.m. Saturday and arrive home (via Chicago) at 8:30 pm.

To reserve your spot, please send a \$100 check (payable to "AGS") to Pat Oxley, 2012 Red Oak Circle, Round Rock, TX 78681. Please specify single or double occupancy, your roommate, and IF you want a plane ticket. Please also include all your contact information: Name, address, phone number, email, etc. You can email Pat (pat@theoxleys.com) or call (512-733-5993.)

Find out more about the library through their website: <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html>.

Tantalizing Tidbits!

(Submitted by Connie Perdue) FamilySearch has started something I urged Ancestry to do ages ago. They've begun a volunteer indexing program that makes MILLIONS of records available for FREE! They offer up their ridiculously immense microfilm library in image format, and we, the people, index them page by page - a few minutes at a time - to create a free microfilm search for everyone. I just found dozens of my family's death certificates, and made a ton of connections through it. Sending away for these records takes weeks - even months - and a lot of money. Also, you have to know what you're requesting to get the copies.

The Family Search Lab offers up an index that *includes* parents' names. I was able to search for children of my great-grandparents, leaving the actual name blank, and determined a handful of other family members I would have otherwise not known of (including babies!). They also have parish records, census records, and more. It doesn't seem to be TOTALLY complete, as it is missing a few names that I've found in a book version of the Ohio death index, but it has just about everything that the Ohio genealogical society's website offers. And we're talking about actual images - not just an index! Check it out at the link below. And if you've got 10 minutes, volunteer to transcribe a page or two to keep this free service going!

<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html?datestamp=1210350651050#>



AGS has a mailing list through RootsWeb which provides a way for AGS members to submit information, share genealogy finds or tips, ask questions, etc. Sign up to receive notices of AGS events and activities and share information about genealogy research in Austin. To subscribe, go to the AGS website, mailing list and send an e-mail by clicking on TX-AGS-L-request@rootsweb.com then typing "subscribe" in the message area.



CONDOLENCES

Our condolences are extended to the family of Leo W. Little at his unexpected passing on May 21, 2008. Leo was a former member of AGS and a highly respected national expert on DNA as it relates to genealogy and the "null439 project" at Family Tree DNA. Leo will be sorely missed by many people in the genetic genealogy community and equally missed by the Austin Genealogical Society not only as an exceptional speaker, but as a gentleman and fellow researcher. For more information about his work or to leave a message of condolence, go to:

<http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com/2008/05/27/in-memoriam-leo-william-little/>.

Financial Reports for May

Austin Genealogical Society		
Profit & Loss		
January through May 2008		
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Annual Seminar Receipts	3,898.00	
Bus Trips - Dallas	2,340.00	
Classes (incl LTL)	150.00	
Contributions Rec'd	245.00	
Envelope Collections	5.51	
Membership Dues Rec'd - 2008	3,440.00	
Misc Income	958.68	
Sales - Earned Revenues	393.00	
Total Income	11,430.19	
Cost of Goods Sold	344.49	
Total COGS	344.49	
Gross Profit	11,085.70	
Expense		
Cemetery project	3.68	
Charitable Donations	500.00	
Education		
Annual Seminar	3,876.99	
Classes	69.91	
Program Expenses	51.71	
Total Education	3,998.61	
Membership Costs - Socials	7.46	
Operating Expenses		
Bank Fees	21.69	
Miscellaneous Expenses	291.57	
Permits & Licenses	175.00	
Postage and Delivery	304.43	
Printing and Copying	983.66	
Rent - Meeting Rms	250.00	
Society Memberships	25.00	
Supplies and Materials	42.09	
Total Operating Expenses	2,093.44	
Research Trip Expenses		
2008 Ft. Wayne trip exp.	1,062.25	
Bus Trip Expenses	2,096.96	
Total Research Trip Exp.	3,159.21	
Total Expense	9,762.40	
Net Ordinary Income	1,323.30	
Other Income - Interest Earned	52.52	
Net Income	1,375.82	

Austin Genealogical Society		
Balance Sheet		
As of May 31, 2008		
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
PECU		10,025.00
Wells Fargo		
AGS Operating Acct	6,539.71	
Savings Acct	3,278.30	
Total Wells Fargo		9,818.01
Total Checking/Savings		19,843.01
Other Current Assets		
Bulk Mail		339.82
Inventory Asset		-8.00
Prepaid Rent		350.00
Total Other Current Assets		681.82
Total Current Assets		20,524.83
TOTAL ASSETS		20,524.83
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Research Trip Deposits		1,650.00
Sales Tax Payable		9.08
Total Liabilities		1,659.08
Equity		
Retained Earnings		17,489.93
Net Income		1,375.82
Total Equity		18,865.75
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		20,524.83

That's all for this edition. I hope you found something helpful. Summer has arrived here early this year, and with a vengeance. Most libraries are nice and cool -- excellent places to spend the afternoon researching. Try one where you haven't researched for a while ... or ever! Perry-Castañeda, Center for American History, and Round Rock are all good options!

Until next time, stay cool and 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 activities & events:

June 7 – Cemetery Workday

June 17 – Annual Picnic

July 5 – Cemetery Workday

July 12 – Probates & Wills Workshop

Also included is information for other events in the surrounding area and Texas

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