



The *Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter*

June 2011

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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Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Program: "Genealogical and Historical Resources at the Texas General Land Office"

Presented by: James HARKINS, Director of Public Services for the Archives and Records of the Texas General Land Office

Special Location:

Texas General Land Office

1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas

5:30 p.m.— Tour of the Texas General Land Office

6:45 p.m. — Refreshments & Networking

7:00 — 8:30 p.m. - Program in **Room 170**

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!

Visitors are welcome to attend. You are welcome to come for just the tour or just the presentation if your time is limited.

This month the Austin Genealogical Society is taking a field trip to the Texas General Land Office for our regular meeting on Tuesday the 28th.

This exciting event begins with a guided tour of the General Land Office and Archives at 5:30. Bring your camera for the tour! (However, no flash photography is permitted in the Archives section.)

PARKING: Surface lot just south of the building on 17th Street

QUESTIONS: Address your questions to: programs@austintxgensoc.org

DOOR PRIZES: Special door prizes will be awarded to two attendees.

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James Harkins is the Director of Public Services for the Archives and Records of the Texas General Land Office. James graduated from Texas State University - San Marcos with a bachelor's degree in communications in 2005 and received a master's degree in public administration from Texas State in December of 2010. He has worked for the Texas General Land Office since May of 2005.

In his presentation, "Genealogical and Historical Resources at the Texas General Land Office," James will discuss the more than 35 million documents and 10,000 maps at the GLO and how they relate to genealogical research. The presentation will include extensive information about the four main groups of research housed at the GLO:



One of *many* rows of shelves of land records at the Texas GLO.

1. Spanish Collection for ancestors prior to 1836.;
2. Land grant records, Muster Roll, & Court of Claims records for ancestors who fought in the Texas Revolution, the Republic of Texas, or early statehood;
3. German Immigration Contracts; and
4. Confederate Scrip Vouchers for ancestors who served in the Civil War.

For each of the four groups of research, James will show examples of what is included in the group and explain what information you may learn from a record.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Texas General Land Office & Archives.

AGS Business

The Board of Directors met in regular session at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, prior to the general meeting. The following items were discussed and/or actions taken:

The TSGS Archival Grant has been applied for and we are awaiting a response from them.

The Burnet County Genealogical Society has already secured the needed funds to buy the digital printer they need and it has been purchased. This topic brought a number of comments from the membership and members of the Board after last month's meeting. Although this matter has resolved itself without action on our part, we will revisit the bylaws regarding future donations made by the Society.

The Financial Review Committee has completed their work. Mary TODD presented their report to the Board. A copy of the report is included in this issue of

the Newsletter and can be found on pages 8 and 9.

The Board unanimously agreed that our new Publicity volunteer, Jen Whitley, is doing a great job.

A discussion was had with regard to knowing which members are interested in volunteering to assist with various projects. This information is shown on new and renewal membership forms, but not everyone answers that section. We are considering a poll of the membership to get a clearer understanding of how members are willing to assist the society.

The Board also discussed the possibility of having the November Mini-Seminar at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church where we held the May Mini-Seminar. We will be checking to see if the scheduled date (November 5th) is available. Do *you* have an opinion on this? Please let us know.

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The Board agreed that since the regular cost for the meeting room at HPBC in June will not be required and since the June speaker is not allowed to receive honorariums, a donation of \$500 will be made to TGLO's *Save Texas History—Preservation Program*.

The Board also agreed to send \$50 to the French Legation in place of an honorarium to Stephanie JARVIS, the speaker at our meeting in April. Stephanie was also a state employee and not allowed to accept honorariums.

Maud CAIN reported that as of May 24th, there were 323 members of AGS. She also advised that the hospitality committee will make an effort so that the refreshments at meetings will include some more healthy options such as cheese and crackers, fruit, and other less or non-sugary foods.

Randy WHITED reported that the first issue of the Quarterly for 2011 was finalized and uploaded to the website. Additional copies have been printed and mailed to those requesting paper copies.

Membership

Membership Chair Maud CAIN reported there were 74 members and 4 visitors at the May meeting

The visitors were: Art COLTHORP , Ronnie RABEN, Marian ROBERTSON, and Darwin MACHU.

Since last month's report, we have added the following new members to the AGS role:

Bennie STASNY, Austin, 78753

Hugh BRADY, Austin, 78757

Virginia HORSMAN, Austin, 78749

Michelle JAMES, Austin, 78717

We welcome all of you to AGS and hope to meet you soon!

Hospitality

Our appreciation goes out to Cynthia RODRIGUEZ, James HOLLAS, Nancy STEVENS, and Eva HUDDLESTON for providing snacks at last month's meeting and also to Nancy STEVENS for serving as the greeter .

Members of the Board will serve as greeters as needed at the June meeting. Those scheduled to bring refreshments are Scott and Martha CARPENTER, Jim NELSON, and Robin RABEN.



Request from the Q:

Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED is ready for stories, case studies, family group sheets or pedigree charts. Virtually anything submitted in the way of family information is acceptable as we are trying to use more membership submissions than transcribed records. Of course there is the writing contest that is currently under way, too. The contest is open to all AGS members. The categories are:

- Original research (well researched, proper source citations, analysis of data)
- Entertaining stories (a pleasure to read, draws the reader's attention)
- Compilations (transcriptions, extractions, etc.)

Your submissions can cover a broad spectrum of topics: family stories, family histories, family trees, Bible records, historical records, genealogical how-to's or best practices, original research, etc. If you have a story or information you've been working on or planning, now is a great time to send it in!

AGS Calendar of Activities

Saturday, June 18, 2011 — Breaking Brick Walls
session at the **Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe**,
next to the main library.

In a slight departure from our normal laptop Saturday format, this will be an informal meeting where AGS members and visitors can gather to discuss their genealogical brick walls. Brick walls are those dead ends that you hit in your research. We all have one we could use some fresh ideas about. Please prepare a question related to your research problem, be able to summarize the work you've done, and the group will suggest some possible new directions for your research. Then stay a while and help others with their brick walls.

For more information, please contact the [programs](#)

[chair](#). This is a free event!

Tuesday, June 28, 2011 — AGS regular meeting at a **different location!** James HARKINS, Director of Public Services at the TGLO Presents: “*Genealogical and Historical Resources at the Texas General Land Office*” See more about this on pages one and two.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 — AGS Night at the Movies!
We will watch a phenomenal video featuring Pulitzer Prize winning historian David McCullough who believes all history is family history and says, "It is through the family that we get to the vital nerve center of history. History is about life, one generation to another."

Other Educational Opportunities

Saturday, June 25th at 1:30

Save Austin's Cemeteries welcomes Wayne Bell, FAIA, as he shares his personal reminiscences of Miss Ima Hogg gained over a decade-long friendship. Wayne Bell is thought of by many as the father of Texas historic preservation.

Please plan to join SAC at the **Austin History Center**, 810 Guadalupe, for this uplifting and rare glimpse into the personalities and philosophies of two Texas icons.



Saturday, July 9th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group
(AustinGenSIG)

Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library
7051 Village Center Dr. (off Far West Blvd.)

Check the AustinGenSIG [website](#) for program information or contact John MAROSTICA
(John@marostica.org) for more information.

Angelina College Genealogy Conference
Lufkin, Texas.

Family Myths and Realities



Logo © 2007 Charlie Gardes

Special optional all-day workshops on

Thursday, July 14

Eight Speakers offering 24 sessions

July 15 & 16, 2011

Exhibitors & Vendors

This is one of the most popular genealogy conferences in the south. See the wide range of speakers and topics at <http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy/genealogy.html> Click [here](#) for the registration form and more information.

AGS researchers are headed to Fort Wayne, Indiana

AGS Research trip organizer Pat OXLEY reminds us that the AGS-sponsored research trip to the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is scheduled for October 3-8. There are *just a few rooms left in the hotel block* we have reserved. For specific details on the trip, click [here](#) to access the flier from the AGS website.

The website for ACPL also has a great deal of information that will help you plan your trip. Visit them at <http://www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx>.

To reserve your spot on this trip, please send your check for \$100 (made out to AGS) to Pat OXLEY, 2012 Red Oak Circle, Round Rock, TX 78681. Send questions to Pat at the above address or email her at pat@theoxleys.com. Please specify your desire for either a single or double room (and give the name of your roommate). Please also include your email and phone number.

**Final payment is due
August 15, 2011.**



From the [FGS website](#), we find the following:

FGS Radio

Did you know that FGS now has its own radio show? [My Society](#) is broadcast each Saturday afternoon live on the Internet at 1:00 pm Central Time and focuses on the issues that confront genealogical societies. Each episode features a guest speaking about a specific topic such as increasing society membership, moving to digital publications, and more. In addition, each episode is archived and available for playback at a later date.

[How to listen to FGS Radio](#)



Preserve the Pensions

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Archives, and the genealogical community have started a project to digitize the War of 1812 pension files—a fitting beginning to the bicentennial commemoration of this important war.

These images will be available **for free**.

Contributions to this project have already made [these files available](#) and they are also free on Footnote.com.

This initiative seeks to raise \$3.7 million. Preserve the Pensions! seeks to raise the bulk of the funds before the bicentennial of the start of the war and finish digitization before the bicentennial of the war's end in 2015. With 7.2 million images in 180,000 files, there is much digitization to do.

A \$25 donation will digitize 50 images -- a \$500 donation will digitize 1,000 images!

Bits & Pieces

The San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society has changed its annual seminar from November to October 15th. This year's guest speaker is Maureen TAYLOR, the photo detective. Make your plans now to take advantage of this unique presentation. Watch for more information in future issues of the AGS Newsletter.



Regular AGS meeting attendees who have not received their printed Quarterlies can pick them up at the next meeting.

Getting to Know You!

For the next few months, this column will help you get to know the members of the Board of Directors.



DONA KURTZ

Dona KURTZ has been researching her family history for five years. She luckily found AGS early in her genealogical career and has benefited from the education and support of this group since the beginning.

Dona is a sixth-generation Texan and has ancestry that stretches across the South. She once found a great-great-great-grandfather who was born in New Hampshire and fought for the Union, and immediately stopped researching that line (mostly because she doesn't know where to start with New England research).

She is the AGS webmaster and in her third year on the board of directors, which doesn't leave much time for research!

In her non-genealogical life, Dona is employed at the University of Texas as the assistant to the Dean of the School of Information. She grew up in Waxahachie, Texas, but has called Austin home for thirteen years. Dona says she goes to the movies more than anyone she knows and travels when she can afford to do so. The picture above is a good indicator she was recently in Paris!



MAUD CAIN

Maud became interested in genealogy through a “Lunch ‘n’ Learn” program she attended while working for the IRS in Austin. It was a very interesting program and Maud decided then that when she retired, she was going to get involved in genealogy. The presenter at the program was a member of AGS who also worked with her. In hindsight, Maud recalls that, “Unfortunately, I didn’t ask questions of my relatives at that point ... while they were still living.”

After working on her father’s lineage, she started working on her husband’s lines. Luckily, all his dad’s ancestors were from the same state and in counties very close to where they live now. Her mother-in-law’s lines were also from the same general area as were Maud’s mother’s family. Maud reports she is now at a brick wall on most of her lines in the mid-1700’s.

Maud has been a member of AGS for several years and joined to get some ideas on what to research for, where to research, and how to keep records of what she found. She also wanted to be associated with folks who were interested in genealogy, hoping they would be able to help her.

Maud was born and reared in Temple, Texas. She moved to Austin to continue her education after graduation from high school and Austin is where she met her husband of 54 years. They are both retired from the IRS.

The Cains have four daughters, nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren. Their five grandsons and one granddaughter live in the Austin area. All the great grandchildren, except one great granddaughter, live in California.

AGS WEBSITE INFORMATION

The login and password for the Members’ Only section of the [AGS website](#) have been changed. The new information is:

login: ags2011

password: aU5t!n

Odds & Ends

Do you have British ancestors – English, Welsh, Irish, or Scottish?



The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History is holding its 2011 British Institute in Salt Lake City between October 3-7, 2011, featuring classes on various areas of British research. This organization has been helping people find their British ancestors for more than thirty years. For more information on the organization and on the Institute, roam around on their website at www.isbgfh.org.



Genealogy on a Mac

AGS member Betty WILLIAMSON wrote in saying she has a fairly new Mac and wants to buy a genealogy software program for it. She is researching what is available, but is not sure how to find the best one.

If you use a Mac genealogy program, you know it can sometimes be difficult to find a good one. Click [here](#) to email Betty and let her know what program you use, how long you have used it, the single best and worst features about it, and an estimate of the price. If you would not mind a contact from Betty to discuss your comments, please say so in your email address and/or provide your phone number. Results will be published in the July Newsletter if there are enough responses.



AGS is on Facebook and Twitter!

We are excited to offer two new ways for you to keep up with your society and your fellow researchers. If you are on Facebook, drop by and “like” our page at <https://www.facebook.com/AustinGenealogicalSociety> to get AGS updates directly in your newsfeed. And if you use Twitter, come follow us at <http://twitter.com/#!/AustinGenSoc>. If you have any questions or suggestions about our new accounts, feel free to let administrator Jennifer Whitley know at jennifer.whitley@gmail.com. See you online soon!

Editor's Corner:

We *REALLY* hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to attend the meeting on the 26th of this month at the Texas General Land Office. This facility is a gold mine of information and learning how to “prospect” here can bring you great rewards. Even if you do not have ancestors in Texas, learning what types of information can be found in this type of facility can be a great help to your research.

Have you registered to help index the Texas County Tax Rolls at FamilySearch yet? You'll remember from last month that this is a TSGS sponsored project and all societies are encouraged to help out with the indexing. It is a project where AGS as a society can really make an impact. To find out more about the project check their website at: <https://indexing.familysearch.org/projtab/viewProject.jsf?url=USTexas-CountyTaxRolls1837-1910PartA/ProjectHelp1.html> (If text wrapping on the address is a problem, try this link: <http://tinyurl.com/3b4ksdr>)

Until next month, stay cool, and

Happy Trackin',

Janis

**Report by the Financial Review Committee
of the financial records of the Austin Genealogical Society
for the year 2010**

The review committee met on May 3, 2011 and on May 13, 2011, to examine the records of the Austin Genealogical Society for fiscal year 2010. The committee reviewed monthly bank statements, annual budget, statement reconciliation reports, treasurer's reports and supporting documentation.

Bank reconciliations. The committee verified that:

- End-of-month balances on Reconciliation Summaries matched bank statements, cleared and outstanding transactions, and treasurer's reports.
- Bank reconciliations were completed within 30 days of bank statement ending dates.
- Outstanding or reconciling items were cleared the following month.
- Balance in the bank account at the beginning of the year plus total deposits minus total disbursements balanced with the ending bank account balance at end of the year. (Atch. 2)

Bank statements. The committee

- Determined there were no cash corrections on bank statements;
- Compared the checks noted in the bank statement to the reconciliation summary;
- Verified that cleared checks contained signatures of individuals authorized to sign checks.
- A third Board member reviews monthly bank statements.

Receipts. The committee reviewed receipts for 12 months.

- Deposits to bank reconciliations and bank statements were verified for accuracy.
- Deposit receipts agreed with deposit slips, bank statements, and reconciliation statements.
- Receipts were presented to the treasurer for deposit in a timely manner.

Disbursements. The committee reviewed monthly payments.

- Canceled checks matched supporting documentation along with correct payee and check amount.
- Disbursements (checks and debit card receipts) were included on approved budget and/or meeting minutes.
- Bank withdrawals for use as cash-box change were traced and re-deposited.

Fundraisers. The committee found that there were no fundraisers in 2010 and no items on hand to be inventoried.

Miscellaneous:

- The treasurer submitted an inventory of the checks which showed that all checks are present and sequential. All checkbooks are retained in a secure location.

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- Seven checks were voided in 2010. They are either retained in the records and have been modified to eliminate the possibility of clearing the bank, or the treasurer received verification from the payees that the checks were destroyed.
- The Texas Sales and Use Tax Return was filed and remitted in a timely manner to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. No sales tax is due.
- The IRS Form 990-N was filed. Since annual revenue is less than \$50,000, a 990-N is appropriate.

Exceptions:

The committee noted the following exceptions:

Comments:

According to the AGS Bylaws, a check over \$1,000 must have signatures of two of the following: President, Treasurer and a Board member appointed by President.	Two debit transactions were for over \$1,000; however, there was only one signature on the Debit Transaction Form.
Form 1099-M forms are required to be filed if the speaker fees are \$600 + for the year.	One speaker in 2010 was paid a fee of \$600 as noted in AGS financial records. No 1099-M was filed.

Overall Findings

- The 2009 financial review noted three exceptions and two recommendations. Recommended action was met with one exception (1099-M submission).
- The committee finds the financial records to be fundamentally accurate and in good order.
- The committee finds that the treasurer has consistently met the requirements of Article V, Section 6, of the AGS By-Laws.

Recommendations:

The committee makes the following recommendations:

- Although a policy was established on what types of reimbursements should be included on the Form 1099-M forms when the annual disbursement to a contracted individual is more than the annual limit set by the IRS, no Form 1099-M was submitted. Recommend this be corrected.
- According to the AGS Bylaws, a check over \$1,000 must have two signatures. Recommend this policy also be established for a debit transaction of over \$1,000.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mary Todd
/s/ Karin Branaman

Attachments:

Audit checklist
 Monthly Balance Verification



2011 Board of Directors

Term ending 2011:	Term Ending 2012:
Kate ALLEN	Karin BRANAMAN
Maud CAIN	Earle McBRIDE
Teri FLACK	Sharon FOLEY
Dona KURTZ	Missy HARRIS
Mary TODD	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Randy WHITED	Janis TRAYLER

2011 Officers

President	Sharon FOLEY
1 st Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2 nd Vice President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Recording Secretary	Kate ALLEN
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

Visitors Are Always Welcome!

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