



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

March 2006

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

Vol. 12

3

Society Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 2006
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive

Board of Directors - 6:00 p.m.
Get Acquainted Time: 6:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Business Meeting - 7:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Topic: Photo Restoration

□ **SPEAKER: Steve Smith**

Steve Smith, a photo restoration specialist at George town Image Works will be the speaker at the March meeting. Steve specializes in digital capture and restoration of old photos that are fading, torn or in other ways deteriorating. He also advises clients regarding proper display and protection of photos to improve their longevity.

The program he presents includes a short video, some historical perspective on photographic media, types of damage that can be repaired, and how to take care of what you already have.

His primary intent is to help folks better understand options, and should be of particular interest to those involved in genealogy and family history where photos play a role. Steve is a member of the National Association of Photo Shop Professionals (NAPP).

April is Cemetery Month

We have two related projects planned. On Saturday, April 1st volunteers will meet to survey several cemeteries in the Austin area. The location of the cemeteries will be determined later.

There will be something for everyone from stumping and reading stones, to sitting and writing the information. Bring a friend. AGS membership is not required.

If you would like to participate, contact Kay Boyd at 836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com, so that your name can be added to the list of workers.

Kay Boyd

April Meeting

On Saturday, April 22nd, AGS will go on a field trip to Oakwood Cemetery. There the Save Austin's Cemeteries group will conduct a workshop. Oakwood Cemetery is downtown on 16th Street, east of IH 35. Directions will be available.

The cemetery was created in 1839, so it is very old and historic. Plans are for a short walking tour with stories about selected persons. Also there will be a tombstone cleaning demonstration.

In connection with this demonstration, cleaning supplies will be sold. Since the Orvis soap comes by the gallon, they will have smaller quantities of this soap for sale for \$5.00. A complete cleaning kit with the soap, recommended brushes and laminated instructions will be \$10.00. If you want to purchase these items, please notify Kay Boyd at 836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com, so that a supply will be available.

Kay Boyd

Mark Your Calendars for the AGS Annual Picnic

Our annual pot luck picnic will be held on our regular meeting date of Tuesday, May 23rd. Be sure and mark your calendars!

This year we will purchase chicken as our main dish. Members are asked to bring a pot luck dish to share.

Now is the time to think about memorabilia you would like to share with other members and guests. In the past we have had books members have written, pictures, scrapbooks, etc. Some of our members come dressed as their ancestors, which adds to the fun. Look for more information in future newsletters.

Edna Youngbood
Membership Chair

Newsletter & Membership Directory

It has been brought to our attention that some couples that join under family membership might want to receive separate copies of the newsletter over the internet to their computers. We will be glad to do so if you let us know. In that case we will need to add the second e-mail address, so please make sure we have it.

Handbooks are printed and we order only a few extra copies to provide to new members at our meeting when they join. If we need to order more copies for a family membership, we will need to know that also, otherwise we will only order one copy per family.

I can be reached by phone or e-mail as listed below. Please put AGS in the subject line.

Edna Youngblood, Ph. 249-7007
Ednayoungblood@austin.rr.com

AGS Fall Trip

We are considering a trip in the Fall (Thursday, October 26 - Saturday, October 28, 2006), that would include a day at the National Archives in Ft. Worth and/or the Ft. Worth Library.

Following our day researching, the trip will continue to the Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Conference in Ft. Worth, featuring Mark Lowe and Pam Porter giving 8 exciting talks. We would have overnight accommodations for two nights and return home Saturday, late afternoon, after the conference.

The Conference Topics are:

1. Developing a Research Plan - Part 1
2. Developing a Research Plan - Part 2
3. Rogues and Rascals: Divorced, Litigious, or Downright Criminal Relatives
4. Finding Your Landless Ancestors
5. Some Real Research Sites on the Internet
6. Land Barons or Dirt Farmers: Finding Land Transactions
7. Maps: Where to Find Them & How to Use Them
8. Out on a Limb, Trapped by Bad Research

The trip would include transportation, overnight accommodations for two nights (double occupancy), the cost of the conference, the banquet on Friday and lunches at the conference. The approximate cost will be \$295.

We would like to figure out if enough folks are interested in this trip to continue making plans. Please e-mail Pat Oxley at pat@theoxleys.com, or call at 733-5993 and let us know if you're interested.

Pat Oxley

Dear Genie - A Column for Your Research Questions

The AGS Education Committee is inaugurating a column in this newsletter for your research questions. For those of us who have a thorny research problem or brick walls (and who of us do not?), another AGS member may be able to help by suggesting new avenues and new sources to explore.

The column will appear beginning in the April 2006 issue. Lynn Lecropane has agreed to write the column and she will respond to your questions, consulting when necessary with experts in specialized research areas. Please pose your questions in writing by mail to tommyingram@grandecom.net or regular mail to AGS Research Column, Attn. Lynn Lecropane, P. O. Box 10010, Austin, TX 78766-1010.

Tommy Ingram

GENEALOGICAL STANDARDS

Standard for Sound Genealogical Research Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently....

- record the source for each item of information they collect.
- test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported the evidence.
- seek original records, or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusions.
- use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records, or as contributions to the critical analysis of the evidence discussed in them.
- state something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.
- limit with words like "probable" or "possible" any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.
- avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
- state carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.
- recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories and by welcoming critical comment.
- consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

Copyright 1997, 2002 by National Genealogical Society. Permission is granted to copy or publish this material provided it is reproduced in its entirety, including this notice.

Source: Tommy Ingram

Featured Web Sites: A Look at Online Research

Would you like to explore online research? Not sure where to start? Well, it might help to explore the types of genealogical finding tools that are available out there in cyberspace. Oh, there are several types, more than we can cover in one newsletter article. So, we're going to start by looking at three types of web sites: Portal, Super Sites, and Libraries.

Portals. What's a portal? Well, a portal is defined as "a doorway, gate, or entrance... any point or place of entry." (Webster's New World Dictionary, 2nd edition.) So what does this mean for us when we're online? Well, think lots of links! In general, a portal site won't offer you specific information or records. Portal sites, like www.cyndislist.com and www.genealogytoday.com, will provide you with plenty of links to sites; sites you might not easily find in a book or a general search.

For instance, not sure where to start with Native American research? Go to "Cyndi's List" at www.cyndislist.com and you will find several suggested sites to visit. In fact, "Cyndi's List" provides over 180,000 sites in more than 150 categories. At www.genealogytoday.com, you will find information on getting started with your research, including research tools, as well as advanced topics for the more experienced researcher.

Super Sites. Super Sites, like www.familysearch.org and www.ancestry.com, are amazing sites, offering a wide range of resources and records to genealogists of all experience levels. In fact, either site could easily be a newsletter article on its own. Use of www.familysearch.org is free. You will find research guides for specific countries and regions, as well as searchable databases, like the one for the 1880 U. S. Census. An individual record found using the 1880 U. S. Census database on Family Search will provide specific information such as the birthplace and occupation of the individual.

However, viewing the actual image of the census record will require a fee paid through the other site www.ancestry.com. Full use of what Ancestry.com has to offer requires a paid subscription. Certainly, we suggest that you explore the resources available to you that are free. However, for some researchers, like those who may not have the flexibility to travel to an ancestral city or to go to the Family History Library, Ancestry.com offers a research alternative. The site provides access to the U. S. Census records, newspaper collections, immigration and military records, and much, much more.

Libraries. The information available online for libraries is very valuable to genealogists. First, consider www.familysearch.org, a site already mentioned. This site provides access to the online catalog for the Family History Library. Whether you are planning a research trip to Salt Lake City or looking for microfilm records you can rent through the local Family History Center, the Family History Library Catalog is a must see for virtually every genealogist. Another useful site www.LibDex.com, which is an index to over 18,000 libraries.

Want to squeeze in some research during your next family vacation? Run a search on the city to identify the libraries in that area. The site provides information about the library identified in your search and, if available, links you to the library's home page. We have only scratched the surface of what is available to the online researcher. Hopefully, the sites we have considered here give you an idea of the types of online tools available to beginning genealogist, as well as those with experience. Next month, we will return to examining one site in more detail. Until then, have you found an online gem? Have fun with your research and shave your online discovery with a friend!

Lynn LeCropane

AGS welcomed the following visitors and new members to our February 28, 2006 meeting.

Ellen G. Doenges
Mary B. Fox
* Mike Hankey
Cindy Hunter
Betty Kersch
Chester Lloyd
Maureen McCormack
Jan Miller
Charlene & Don Owen

Linda Shanhouse
* Gene Schubeck
Joan Summersett
Betty Jean Steinke
Reva Truitt
Helen vonSchweinitz
Laura & Raymond Voith
Ken Wilson
Janis Zimmerman
* new members

□□□

AGS Member Recognized as Special Education Pioneer

M. C. Forister, longtime member of AGS, is recognized as a Special Education Pioneer in an article by Mary Drennon, in South Texas Living section of the Wilson County News.

The Wilson County News reports M. C. is an author, family historian and artist who dedicates a great deal of time and effort in supporting children with physical and mental challenges. Read this inspiring story online at www.wilsoncountynews.com. Click on South Texas Living Features for February 1, 2006.

"You give your children two things:

You give them roots

and

You give them wings."

~Anna Tochter

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.

3/1/06

"Keep Searching"

Wilena D Young

E-mail: Wdky75@aol.com

Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter
P. O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010
Published monthly except August & December
Deadline for submitting information is the
1st. of the month

