



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter
March 2008

Vol. 15

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

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**Monthly AGS Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2008**

**Program: Dowsing for Gravesites
Presented by: Paul H. Smith**

**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
Stop by the Help Desk to assist you with research questions.
Shop our used books.
Pick up freebies & flyers about upcoming events.**



**If you have not done so already, *time is growing short to register* for the
Austin Genealogical Society
Annual Seminar**

**Saturday, April 26, 2008, at the Norris Conference Center.
See additional information below.**

The March Program: "Dowsing for Gravesites"



Paul H. Smith is a retired Army officer and Desert Storm veteran who was raised in Boulder City, Nevada but has lived with his family in Austin, Texas for the past 11 years. He served for seven years in Star Gate, the government's psychic espionage program,

as an operational remote viewer and remote viewing instructor, where he first developed skills as a dowser. Other military assignments included Arabic linguist, electronic warfare operator, strategic intelligence officer for a Special Forces unit, Mid-East desk officer, tactical intelligence officer with the 101st Airborne Division during Desert Storm, strategic intelligence officer at the Defense Intelligence Agency, and chief of the intelligence and security division for the Military District of Washington.

Paul has BA degrees in Mid-East Affairs, Art, and English from Brigham Young University; an MS from the National Defense Intelligence College (Mid-East Concentration); and is presently a doctoral candidate in Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin, writing on consciousness, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of science.

He or his work as a remote viewer have been featured on television programs such as the Arts & Entertainment Network's "The Unexplained"; the History Channel's "History Undercover" and "Weird US" series; "Strange Universe"; "Inside Edition;" and "CBS Sunday Morning," as well as numerous radio programs. He was even featured on the documentary bonus features for the DVD of the feature film "Suspect Zero." He was interviewed for an article in US News & World Report and other periodicals, and has written articles for UFO Magazine, Phenomena Magazine, and The American Dowser, the quarterly journal of the

American Society of Dowsers. His book "Reading the Enemy's Mind: Inside Star Gate -- America's Psychic Espionage Program" (Tom Dougherty Books, 2005) was the Book Bonus Feature and Editor's Choice for the March 2006 issue of Reader's Digest.

He is president and chief instructor of Remote Viewing Instructional Services, Inc. (which offers

remote viewing training), and is a founding director and current president of the non-profit International Remote Viewing Association. He is also a student-member of the Parapsychological Association and of the Society for Scientific Exploration. Paul is a Life Member of the American Society of Dowsers, and has served as both vice-president and president of the Society's Chesapeake Maryland Chapter.

New at the monthly meetings: Meet Your Neighbor

In order to learn a bit more about each person who attends the AGS meetings and to find some cousins, we are asking you to "Meet Your Neighbor."

If your own surname ends with the letters D, E or F, please plan to stand up at the March meeting and 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. You never know what connections can be made. 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:

Sat, April 26

Annual full-day seminar – No regular meeting. See additional information below.

Tues. May 27

"Using Maps in Your Genealogical Research" presented by Teri Flack

Membership

From the Meeting on February 26th:

Attendance: 95 (The announcement of 100 at the February meeting was inaccurate.) *THANK YOU* to all who attended. It has been our goal for a long time to have 100 people in attendance at a regular meeting. Let's try again in March!

Visitors: 9 Karen Baker, Karen B. Thompson, Sherri Russell, Bill & Norma Neeley, Ilo Hiller, Pam Tobola, Katherine Blake Scattergood, Martha Halton Bernhardt.

Welcome to New Members. The following joined at the February meeting: Martha Staley Van Sickle, Karen B. Thompson,

Katherine Blake Scattergood, Cindy Kilmer, Ilo Hiller, and Martha Haltam Bernhardt.

A warm welcome is also extended to the following new members who joined between January 23rd and the February meeting: Alan Ferguson, Neal Newberry, Jack Drummond, Shirley Roberts, Debra Cox, Rebecca Broadbent, David Borg, Chris Bond, Donna Bailey, Alfred Rogers, and Murlene Johnston.

A big round of applause is in order for the faithful four at the registration table each meeting: Richard Foster (contacts the greeters), Sharon Tieman (contacts refreshment volunteers), Wynnette Harris

and Arlene Zirkel (handle registrations and collect dues). Greeting in February were Carroll Patterson and Glenda Black. Bringing refreshments were Arlene

Zirkel, Patty Starkey, Linda Miers, Sharon Tieman. Our thanks to all of these members who make the meetings extra special!



When it's winter time in Texas and pollen season, too,
Turn your thoughts to summer and see what's coming true.

THE ANNUAL AGS INDOOR PICNIC is on the calendar for **Tuesday, June 17**. This year's theme is Italian! The meal will be catered by the Olive Garden. This is the annual meeting where AGS members "Show

and Tell" (family history and memorabilia, scrapbooks, "brick walls," etc.). More details will be revealed each month, but start planning now for what and how you can share family history and research.

Letter from AGS President

Hello to all of you,

Were you one of the 95 family researchers at the February AGS meeting? If you were, you probably learned something about one of the Austin area libraries – perhaps something that will help to propel your research forward. Representatives of the Perry-Castañeda Library, the Center for American History and the Round Rock Public Library shared information about their holdings of interest to genealogists.

You may have made a connection with an ancestor of another person who attended, in our "Meet Your Neighbor" segment. Or you may have simply enjoyed seeing old friends and having some refreshments, while you heard about the many activities the Society has planned for 2008, including a Bus Trip to the Dallas Public Library genealogy floor and a week-long research trip to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, one of the premier genealogical research facilities in the nation.

Don't forget our upcoming Annual Seminar on April 26th, with Susan Kaufman, Manager of

the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston. No matter your level of expertise, you will want to hear Sue's talks. It will be a fun and educational day.

Many of the beginning researchers who participated in our Spring Beginner's Class attended one of their first AGS meetings this month, taking their first step into the larger genealogical community. Our Spring classes were taught by Cindy Foreman, Randy Whited, Harold Hudnall, Teri Flack and John Marostica. The Beginner's Class will be repeated in the Fall.

This is an exciting year for members of the Austin Genealogical Society, and I could not be more pleased that so many of you are choosing to spend your time with us. There is strength in numbers, and the Society and your own research grows stronger when we share our knowledge with each other.

If you weren't there – see what you missed?
Won't you join us this month?

Best Regards,
Tommy Ingram
AGS President 2008



Cemetery Workday. Saturday, April 5th has been designated as our first cemetery workday of the year. The name of the cemetery will be decided upon and announced soon. Kay Boyd will notify volunteers once the location is determined. Or you may contact her at 836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com.

AGS Seminar

Don't Miss It! There's a Topic for Everyone.

The **Austin Genealogical Society 2008 Annual Seminar** takes place on **Saturday, April 26, 2008** at **9:00** at the **Norris Conference Center**. Susan Kaufman, Manager of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, is the presenter. She will speak on Newspapers, Convicts to the Colonies, PERSI, and The Allen County Library. Early registration is \$40. The cost includes lunch and material. For more information visit our website: www.AustinTxGenSoc.org or e-mail pat@theoxleys.com. Register by April 1st to get your surnames and contact information in the syllabus. Do it now, while you are thinking of it. Your 4th great-grandmother Mehitable will be glad you did.

Educational Opportunities

The next "**Brick Wall Saturday**" is scheduled for **Saturday afternoon, March 22nd 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!



If you live in the Lake Travis area, stop by the **Lake Travis Community Library** at 9:00 a.m. on **Fridays** for impromptu **genealogy workshops** with Katherine Scattergood. The library will be open only for the genealogy workshops at this time.



There may still be time to register for and attend the **Williamson County Genealogical Society annual seminar** on **March 15, 2008**. This year's speaker will be Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, the supervisor of the nationally recognized J. Erik Jonsson Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section. Lloyd's topics will be:

- *The Revolutionary War in the South*
- *Genealogical Research in Texas*
- *Newspaper Genealogy*
- *How to Find Maiden Names of Females*

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2008

Time: Registration and Vendors, 8:00 AM;
Seminar, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Place: First United Methodist Church, 1004 North Mays, Round Rock, Texas

Fee: \$45.00 at the door (Pre-registration is closed.)

Included: Morning Snacks, Lunch, Syllabus

Visit the Williamson County Genealogical Society website at WCGS or for additional information, contact Judy Bell Horick, 302 Thornton Cove, Georgetown, Texas 78628, (512) 863-2685, jbhorick@yahoo.com.



2008 Research Trips

SPRING BUS TRIP TO DALLAS on Monday, May 12. This year, for the first time, there will be *two* pick-up locations. Here are the details:

Anyone interested in genealogy is welcome to join us, but there is a limit of 50 riders. The bus will pick up riders in Austin at the LDS Church on Rutherford Lane. We will load at 6:15 and leave promptly at 6:30 a.m. The second stop is at the Outlet Mall in Round Rock. We will load there at 6:45 and leave the Round Rock location at 7:00 a.m. On the return trip, we will leave the Dallas Library promptly at 5:00 p.m. and arrive at the boarding locations at about 8:00 and 8:30 p.m. respectively.

The cost has not gone up since our last trip to Dallas. It is still \$50 and includes a light breakfast and a boxed supper. The deadline for signing up and paying for the trip is April 30th. Reservation forms are

available on the AGS website at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/bustrip.php>.

Please be sure to note on the registration form the location at which you will be boarding. Checks should be made out to AGS and mailed to Kay Boyd, 1405 S. Meadows, Austin, TX 78758.

If you are thinking about riding with us, but not sure you can include the trip in your schedule, Kay will maintain a "waiting" list and let you know if the bus is about to fill up. Contact Kay at mkdb1405@aol.com or call her at 836-7484.

Since Texas State Library is not up to speed for researchers this year, this is an excellent opportunity to access some of those genealogical resources not otherwise found at most libraries. The Dallas Public Library is known for its genealogical holdings. Check them out at www.dallaslibrary.org/CHS/cgc.htm.

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fort Wayne, Indiana

This year, AGS is sponsoring a research trip to the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This will be our second trip to this wonderful facility, but they have moved into their new building since our last visit. Mark your calendars and get your deposits in! Here are the details:

Sunday, October 5 - Saturday, October 11, 2008

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

As you might expect, Fort Wayne is a second tier city, so there is not much in the way of competitive airfares. We will be traveling on American Airlines, leaving Austin around 10 a.m. and arriving in Fort Wayne (via Chicago) mid-afternoon. On Saturday we will depart Fort Wayne at 4 p.m. 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. You can email Pat (pat@theoxleys.com) or call (512-733-5993.) 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.

Be sure to come to the AGS seminar on Saturday, April 26th when there will be a video tour of the library given and more details about researching there. See more at <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html>

Financial Reports

Austin Genealogical Society Profit & Loss January 1 through February 27, 2008	
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Annual Seminar Receipts	880.00
Bus Trips - 08 Bus Trip - Dallas library	450.00
Classes (incl LTL)	150.00
Contributions Rec'd	195.00
Envelope Collections	0.51
08 Membership Dues Rec'd	3,000.00
Misc Income	0.00
Sales - Earned Revenues	117.00
Total Income	4,792.51
Cost of Goods Sold	178.49
Gross Profit	4,614.02
Expense	
Charitable Donations	500.00
Education	
Annual Seminar	97.07
Classes	69.91
Program Exp (other)	1.07
Program Exp (spkr copies)	38.64

P&L Continued	
Total Education	206.69
Membership Costs - Socials	3.22
Operating Expenses	
Bank Fees	
Bank Service Fees	(13.90)
PayPal discounts	12.90
Total Bank Fees	(1.00)
Miscellaneous Expenses	(32.43)
Postage and Delivery	206.43
Printing and Copying	586.24
Rent - Meeting Rooms	200.00
Society Memberships	25.00
Total Operating Expenses	985.24
Research Trip Expenses	
2008 Ft. Wayne trip expenses	1,062.25
08 Bus Trip Expenses	152.30
Total Research Trip Expenses	1,214.55
Total Expense	2,908.70
Net Ordinary Income	1,705.32
Other Income - Interest Earned	2.81
Net Income	1,708.13

Austin Genealogical Society Balance Sheet As of February 27, 2008	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings - Wells Fargo	
AGS Operating Acct ... 6054	5,790.73
CD	5,147.69
Savings Acct...5879	8,080.90
Total Wells Fargo	19,019.32
Total Checking/Savings - Wells Fargo	19,019.32
Other Current Assets	
Bulk Mail	244.75
Inventory Asset	-8.00
Prepaid Rent	400.00
Total Other Current Assets	636.75
Total Current Assets	19,656.07
TOTAL ASSETS	19,656.07

LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Research Trip Deposits - 08 Ft. Wayne	450.00
Total Research Trip Deposits	450.00
Sales Tax Payable	8.01
Total Current Liabilities	458.01
Total Current Liabilities	458.01
Total Liabilities	458.01
Equity	
Retained Earnings	17,489.93
Net Income	1,708.13
Total Equity	19,198.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	19,656.07

Spring and Summer Quarterly

To both current and new members: are you ready to share your research? Put a pedigree or genealogy report in the AGS Quarterly. Two pages per member are ideal, but we can fit in more pages. Send your pages to AGS Quarterly editor Alana Moehring Mallard at alanasuzy@earthlink.net or mail them to 3310 Hancock Dr., Austin, Texas 78731-5430. For more information, call Alana at 512-453-1117.

Swedes in Texas

If your ancestry includes early Swedish immigrants to Texas, you are probably familiar with the two-volume publication SVENSKARNE I TEXAS (or "Swedes in Texas"). This informative work has been scanned and can be read and searched for names at www.swedesintexas.com. This is a database that can be up-dated with family information, notes, and photographs.

Proofreader Needed

Kay Boyd has transcribed a city directory and would like to have someone help her proofread it before it is published. If you have time and are interested, please contact her at mkdb1405@aol.com or 836-7484.

Need Some Lookups?

A volunteer organization known by its abbreviation RAOGK (**Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness**) may be able to help. Here is a comment from its website:

RAOGK was established in 1999 as a resource for networking among researchers.

RAOGK links researchers who need documents from a distant location with others able to obtain them. RAOGK is a global volunteer organization. With volunteers in every U.S. state and many International locations, we have helped thousands of researchers. Our 4000 volunteers take time to do everything from looking up courthouse records to taking pictures of tombstones. All they ask in return is reimbursement for their expenses (never their time) and a THANK YOU.

This Lincoln, Nebraska, based organization is administered by Bridgett and Dale Schneider. Both are former employees of RootsWeb.com and MyFamily.com. The site is solely funded by contributions from appreciative users and sales from its two online stores. See: <http://www.raogk.org/index.html> for more information. There are 9 members of RAOGK active in Travis County, of which Earle McBride is the only AGS member. Contact Earle at: efmcbride@mail.utexas.edu.

Get Well Soon

Our wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to AGS/WCGS member Jerry Barton as he faces some serious health issues. We hope you're back in the thick of things soon, Jerry.

Condolences

Our condolences are extended to the families of:

Elnor Mueller Roth, mother of AGS member Carolyn Spillers. Elnor died in Seguin on 25

February 2008. Born on 24 September 1913, she was buried on 1 March 2008 at West Side Cemetery, Yorktown, TX.

And also,

Mary Grace (Mayfield) Foster, 84, died February 12, 2008 in a San Diego, Texas nursing home. She was born September 15, 1923 in Abilene, Texas. Mrs. Foster was the mother of AGS member Richard Foster. She was buried in Freer, Texas.

Notes from the Newsletter Editor:

Well, that's a wrap for this edition. Thanks for taking the time to read through 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. As I said in the last edition, if you are having trouble viewing this online, please let us know so we can address your issues.

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	Terry 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:

March 22- "Brick Wall" Saturday

March 25 – Monthly Meeting

April 5 – Cemetery Workday

April 26 – Annual Seminar

May 12 – Research Trip to Dallas

Also included is information for other events in the surrounding area including Williamson County and Lake Travis

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