



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

March 2010

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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No. 3



Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Program: How Disease, Disaster, and Hard Times Changed Our Ancestors' Lives

Presented by: Teri Flack

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

6:30 p.m. — Refreshments & Networking

7:00 — 8:30 p.m. - Program

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!

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"How Disease, Disaster, and Hard Times, Changed Our Ancestors' Lives," presented by our own Teri FLACK, is the talk she presented at the FGS Conference in Little Rock last September. If you were one of those few who attended that conference, you know that the talk was informative and entertaining. Some of the moves and actions of our ancestors make much more sense when the difficulties of the times are taken into consideration.

A 6th generation Texan, Teri has been researching her family history for over 25 years. She's been the AGS Treasurer since 2008, currently serves the Texas State Genealogical Society as chair of the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC), and is the Texas state liaison to the national RPAC. She served on the Board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Teri has completed the Advanced Methodology Course at the National Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University, the National Institute for Genealogical Research at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and is also a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Teri holds a B. S. in Education with a History major, an MBA, and a graduate Paralegal Certificate from Southwest Texas State.

Teri retired in 2007 after working for the state of Texas for 26 years – most recently as Senior Advisor to the Commissioner of Higher Education. She was Director of Governmental Relations and Public Information for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Chief Investigator for the Texas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

AGS Business

Due to the inclement weather conditions on February 23rd, the regular meeting and the meeting of the Board of Directors were canceled.

Daryl GIBSON's presentation of *So You Think You Can't Write: Multiple Forms of Preserving Your Family Stories* has been rescheduled for the regular meeting on May 25th.



Membership

We **Welcome** the following **New Members** since the last report:

Nancy PARKINSON

available through the *Members Only* section of the AGS website.

Virginia WOODS

Joan Howard ALLEN



George R. & Velvet DIXON

After the distribution of the Membership Directories, all additions, corrections, and updates will be

Allen G. MARTINETS

Barbara Lindquist MILLER

AGS Communications Coordinator Jean MAROSTICA is currently preparing the 2010 AGS Membership Directories and expects distribution of those by the end of March.



Hospitality

The folks who volunteered to bring refreshments for the March meeting are Karin BRANAMAN, Lyndia SLAYTON, Kathi FOSTER, and Maurine ATWOOD. The greeters are Karin BRANAMAN and Chris BOND.



AGS WEBSITE NEWS

Worth repeating and then some... The AGS Website includes a **Members Only** section which requires a login ID and password. The **login ID** is "agsmember" and the **password** is "gene.AGS" (case sensitive).

Reminder: The surname list on the website has been updated. Please take the time to go to the website ([click here](#)) and verify that your surnames are listed correctly. Any additions, corrections, or deletions should be brought to Jean's attention by contacting her at jmarostica@sbcglobal.net or calling her at (512) 339-6455.



AGS Calendar of Activities

March 23 — AGS Monthly Meeting
How Disease, Disaster, and Hard Times Changed our Ancestors' Lives presented by Teri FLACK

April 19 to 25 — AGS Researchers travel to Salt Lake City

April 27 — AGS Monthly Meeting
Judges' Hill Historic District presented by Phoebe ALLEN

May 15 — AGS Mini-Seminar #2
3 Topics to be presented by Josh TAYLOR

May 25 — AGS Monthly Meeting
So You Think You Can't Write: Multiple Forms of Preserving Your Family Stories presented by Daryl GIBSON

June 26— Laptop Saturday
New England Historic Genealogical Society online
Presented by Sharon FOLEY and Lynn LeCROPANE

Educational Opportunities

AGS members continue to teach sessions for genealogy sessions sponsored by the **Lifetime Learning Institute's** current session of "A Genealogy Sampler" on **Tuesday mornings through April 13th**. There is a modest *registration fee*. For more information, refer to their website at <http://www.liaustin.org/>.

gigantic FamilySearch Library. Bring your questions about information you are looking for and let Ken show you were to find your answers!

Check www.austingensig.com for the latest information and announcements.



Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group (SIG)
Triumphant Love Lutheran Church
9508 Great Hills Trail

Saturday, March 13th, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
David Gray's People Finder Database
David GRAY will discuss his website that allows searching Texas birth record indexes for hundreds of thousands of names. Also available is the ability to search over 100 nationwide databases containing vital records relating to marriage, divorce, drivers license and general people information on over 800 million people.

Saturday, April 10, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
In-depth searches of the FamilySearch Library

Ken FETTE, Records Collection Specialist and member of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, shows us the secrets of searching for records in the

Saturday, March 20th
Williamson County Genealogical Society's Annual Seminar

Registration: 8:00 a.m.
Program: **8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
First United Methodist Church
2004 North Mays
Round Rock, TX
There is a *registration fee* for this seminar.
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwcgs/Seminar.htm>

Featured Speaker: Megan Smolenyak SMOLENYAK
Topics:
Trace Your Roots with DNA,
Beyond Y-DNA,
Remembering our Ancestors, and
Cases That Made My Brain Hurt!



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Saturday, March 27th

Clayton Library Friends hosts Dick Eastman

Mr. EASTMAN will speak on **Technology in the New Decade... What's Hot and What's Not!**

There is a *registration fee*. See their website for more information. <http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org/Content-Public/Page-Edit/Page.asp?iID=-1274040927>



Excel spreadsheets can be excellent tools in genealogy research. AGS Member John MAROSTICA teaches an **Excel class** at the Austin Public Library (**Faulk Central Library**, 800 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78701, (512) 974-7400) every 4th Tuesday of

the month. For more information, call the library or follow the link below.

Austin public Library *Free* Computer Classes: <http://www.austinlibrary.com/programs/index.cfm?action=acecomputer>.

The **Houston Genealogical Forum** is sponsoring a seminar on **March 27** on **Civil War Military Records** featuring nationally recognized genealogist and historian Craig SCOTT. Visit the web site www.hgftx.org or contact the Program Chair Robert de BERADINIS at programs@hgftx.org or on the Genealine 713-968-9750 for additional information.



Family History Hits the Small Screen

[WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?](#)

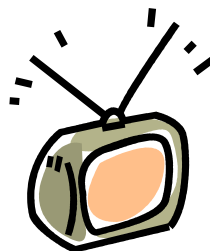
Did you see the premiere of this new show on NBC sponsored by Ancestry.com? The first show was on Sarah Jessica Parker and her search for her mother's family. The search led her to the gold fields of California and the witch trials in Salem. It ended with her having a much greater appreciation of her family's roots and a profound realization of her American heritage. Click the title to go to the webpage.

The show airs on NBC at 7:00 p.m. each of the next 6 Friday nights. Next up: Hall of Fame football star Emmitt Smith.



Did you miss it? Another television show that did not get much attend was [Faces of America](#) that aired on PBS channels.

What made America? What makes us? These two



questions were at the heart of a PBS series *Faces of America with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* The Harvard scholar turned to the latest tools of genealogy and genetics to explore the family histories of 12 renowned Americans — professor and poet [Elizabeth Alexander](#), chef [Mario Batali](#), comedian [Stephen Colbert](#), novelist [Louise Erdrich](#), journalist [Malcolm Gladwell](#), actress [Eva Longoria](#), musician [Yo-Yo Ma](#), director [Mike Nichols](#), Her Majesty [Queen Noor](#), television host/heart surgeon [Dr. Mehmet Oz](#), actress [Meryl Streep](#), and figure skater [Kristi Yamaguchi](#).

The series aired in January and February, but you can click [here](#) to view some of the episodes online.

(Information pulled from the Public Broadcasting System website.)





AGS—50 Years & Growing!

It's not too late to get your AGS 50th ANNIVERSARY TOTE BAG! Join or renew online or, better yet, join us for the MARCH MEETING on the 23rd and pick up your very own!

CALLING FOR YOUR REMEMBRANCES - A very special 50th edition of the Quarterly will be published in December, and we'd like to paint a picture of AGS history by using your words. Maybe you have a humorous story to tell from an AGS research trip, a Board meeting, or a monthly meeting. Maybe you'd reminisce about why you joined AGS or why you started searching for your "roots." Send your contribution to Kay Boyd (mkdb1405@aol.com) or Barbara Innis (bagns@sbcglobal.net).

Historically Speaking

During 2010, we will feature excerpts and information from the recorded history of the Austin Genealogical Society since its inception in 1960.

All about the AGS Quarterly

Its Editors: Jean WALKER, DeWitt C. NOGUES, Viola LONG, Dorothy SWICORD, Mrs. Roy MORRIS, Viola LONG, Annie GILES, Donna McBRIDE, Helen RUGELEY, Bill KOEHLER, Alana MALLARD, and Randy WHITED.

and some interesting tidbits

1960 - "AGS owes thanks to our member Mr. DeWitt C. NOGUES and the IBM Corporation at 1011 San Jacinto Boulevard. Mr. NOGUES arranged for IBM to lend us free-of-charge for 10 days one of their new IBM demonstration electric typewriters with carbon ribbon reels (worth nearly \$500) in order that we might type the multilith master for this issue of our Quarterly. This is a very special favor." *Quarterly*, Vol. I, #1, November 1960.

1967 - First cover design.

1972 - "You must remember that the Quarterly will only be as good as our members make it." *Quarterly* Vol. XIII, #1, March 1972.

1975 - "Our new cover design is peculiarly appropriate for the Quarterly of AGS because, aside from the obvious suggestion of a "family tree," it is based on the well-known "Treaty Oak" in a small citify park on Baylor between 5th and 6th street in Austin. Treaty Oak was the site of numerous treaties between the early settlers and the Indians, as well as many public assemblies and celebrations.

"The drawing, made by Mrs. Maydell McDERMENT, is of the iron work in front of a niche in the south foyer of the Capitol Besides the tree, the protective design, conceived by Fortunat WEIGL, includes the Texas Lone Star

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motif and scrollwork, all hand made with the simplest of tools by the late Mr. WEIGL and his sons, at a cost of approximately \$400. The value has, of course, multiplied tremendously since the day of the official unveiling, 2 March 1929 We are deeply indebted to Mrs. McDERMENT for realizing how fitting it would be for AGS to display this beautiful bit of art on the cover of its publication and for making a drawing of it to be so used." *Quarterly*, Vol. XVI, #1, April 1975.

1991 - "For Sale: AGS QUARTERLY INDEX- 1971 -1987. The Index is 524 pages in alphabetic sequence by surname and given names... Pre-publication cost is \$35, including shipping and tax" *Newsletter*, November 1991. (No Volume or Number)



And speaking of The Quarterly ...

Last month's newsletter included a mention of Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED's plan to present an award at the end of the year for the best family story submitted and published in the Quarterly during 2010. We had hoped to have details regarding the contest in this issue of the AGS Newsletter but, the Board having not met in regular session due to the cancelled February meeting, we are still in the process of finalizing the rules around the contest. The Quarterly is always looking for input from AGS members, so get those brain cells working and start working on your submission now! The **deadline for the next Quarterly is extended to March 13th**, so don't waste any time ... start writing! The next issue of the Quarterly will have a whole new look in honor of our 50-year anniversary.

Bits & Pieces

Do you have German roots? Austin has a very active group called the German-Texan Heritage Society. Check them out at <http://germantexans.org/> or call their office in Austin at 512-482-0927.



From Anne SHELTON, Cemetery Preservation Coordinator at the Texas Historical Commission:

Proposed new cemetery rules for Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 22 of the Texas Administrative Code were posted in the Texas Register for comment on Friday March 5th. The comment period will end Monday, April 5th. The purpose of the rules is to implement changes to the law regarding cemeteries made by House Bill 2927, 81st Texas Legislature, 2009.

To view the posted rules, visit www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml and look for the Points of Interest window in the right-hand portion of the screen. Choose to view an HTML or PDF version of the Register.

To comment on these posted rules, send written comments to the Texas Historical Commission, attention Mark Wolfe, PO Box 12276, Austin TX 78711-2276. Please feel free to forward this message to interested persons.





Joseph and Susanna Dickinson Hanning Museum & Texana Library

The grand opening of the Joseph and Susanna Dickinson Hanning Museum was held on March 2, 2010, Texas Independence Day. Located at 411 East 5th Street in Austin, Texas, the building was the former home of Alamo survivor Susanna Dickinson Hanning.

The Museum will house a small reference library full of books on Texana, including the Texas Revolution and the Alamo, women in 19th century Texas, family life of the pioneers, and biographies on Texans such as Susanna Dickinson, Sam Houston, Enrique Esparza, and more. Books for children and adults will be featured.

The museum and library are part of the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department. For hours and other information, visit their website at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/dickinson/default.htm>



The Federation of Genealogical Societies will host its annual conference August 18-21, 2010 at the Knoxville Convention Center in Knoxville, Tennessee. This year's theme is "Rediscovering America's First Frontier." Co-Sponsors for the event are the East Tennessee Historical Society and Kentucky Historical Society. Speakers from across the United States will present lectures and workshops on topics of interest to genealogists and family historians. Regardless of one's level of experience, learning opportunities abound for those seeking to improve their research. The exhibit hall will be filled with booths displaying print and electronic publications, software, membership opportunities, and services. Complete information on the conference and online registration is available at the conference web site, <http://www.fgs.org/2010conference/index.php>. You can check the conference blog (<http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org/>) for regular updates.

Be sure to take advantage of the early bird discount by registering before June 1, 2010.



Editor's Corner

Did you miss having our February meeting as much as I did? AGS meetings are something I really look forward to and having to miss one is always a disappointment to me. There is *always* a very positive energy in the room when genealogists get together! I'm happy to know the program speaker has been rescheduled for our May meeting. I can certainly use some tips on writing my family's story.

I hope you were able to see the "Who Do You Think You Are" premier. It was well done and very interesting. The only concern I have is they made it look too easy!

Have you looked at the Members' Only page on the AGS website yet? Our intention is to include the login information to this section in each issue of the Newsletter. You'll find it on page two of this edition. The Member's Only section will grow steadily over time, so check it out periodically.

February was a very hectic month for me and March has started out the same way. But I always look forward to spring as a time of new opportunities to travel and do more research. I moved at the beginning of this month and now I have the best opportunity in years to organize my research. If you have any tips on that, let me know!

I hope spring brings you great opportunities for continued research. So until next time ... Happy Trackin'!

Janis

2010 Board of Directors

Term ending 2010:	Term Ending 2011:
Kay BOYD	Kate ALLEN
Inez EPPRIGHT	Maud CAIN
Sharon FOLEY	Teri FLACK
Cindy FOREMAN	Dona KURTZ
Sara GREDLER	Mary TODD
Janis TRAYLER	Randy WHITED

2010 Officers

President	Cindy FOREMAN
1 st Vice President	Kay BOYD
2 nd Vice President	Sharon FOLEY
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 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 Always Welcome!

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

50 YEARS & GROWING