Many genealogists struggle with organizing the abundant physical and digital materials they collect and work with. Randy Whited, Sharon Foley, and Sara Gredler will discuss their methods about “HOW TO ORGANIZE ALL THAT STUFF.” Join us for a fun, interactive meeting with this knowledgeable panel of experts who will guide us through various organizational schemes for both physical and digital files. They will discuss how such systems can help make our research more efficient; how we can collaborate with others, and also show us ways to share what we have collected. The audience will interact with the presenters so you can go home and use your new-found information to get rid of those piles of genealogical “finds” cluttering up your home and computer!
Randy WHITED will discuss various ways to share photos and collaborate with family members using a number of online tools and websites including 1000Memories, Flickr, and Google Photos.

Sharon FOLEY cannot work or live in disorganization and has never seen a paper stack she can live with. Sharon’s filing, folder, and binder systems work well for her. While she spends many hours on the computer and has her materials scanned, filed, and backed up electronically, she has to make a case for also keeping paper files and having them under control.

Sara GREDLER will discuss digital file organization and how it can help make research more efficient. A defined folder system and file naming scheme can save hours of "re-researching" and eliminate some of those digital "piles" of documents.

Sharon FOLEY moved to Austin ten years ago from Eastern Iowa where she raised her two children and taught high school sciences for 23 years. Her interest in genealogy began a few years before the move to Austin and, because her ancestors arrived in Iowa early and seemed to stay there, she made fast progress. She enjoys her role as AGS President very much. In her non-AGS/genealogy time she teaches Human Biology online, makes jewelry, sews, reads, travels, and goes to an unbelievable number of her grandsons’ baseball games.

Sara GREDLER, a Virginia native, has lived in Austin nearly six years. She currently works at Mead & Hunt, an architecture and engineering firm, in the historic preservation department. Her undergraduate degrees are in History and Classics, and her graduate degree in Historic Preservation.

Sara has been researching her family's genealogy and history for over 15 years. Her work as a historic preservationist and her hobby of genealogy are entwined, and each has a great effect on the other. Currently Sara is working on two descendant projects.

... to this!

AGS Business

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, February 28th, prior to the regular Society meeting. The following items were discussed and action taken.

Treasurer’s Reports

The Treasurer’s report for January was approved as submitted. The 2012 budget was approved earlier in the month by an email vote.

AGS Website

Webmaster Dona KURTZ advised that Parker SHORT has begun the transition of our current website to a Content Management System (CMS). Estimated completion of the project is mid-April.
Membership

Membership renewals have been coming in slow but steady. Membership Chair Missy HARRIS reported that in February, she and Kay BOYD sent out over 100 hand-addressed, personalized notes to non-renewing members. The deadline for getting members’ names in the Membership Directory was February 29th. The online Membership Directory will be published in March and updated as new members join the Society.

Bylaws

President Sharon FOLEY announced that we have had one member volunteer to assist Jim COOPER with the review of AGS Bylaws. We still need one or two more members to assist in this review. If this is something you would be willing to assist with, please contact Sharon FOLEY or Jim COOPER.

Beginning Genealogy Classes

Ten people registered for the AGS Beginning Genealogy Classes which were held on February 25th and March 3rd. AGS Members Nancy STEVENS and Dona KURTZ did a super job of presenting the materials and information for the classes.

AGS Mini-Seminar in April

For a full description of the Spring Mini-Seminar, see page seven.

AGS Member Survey

Preparations for the AGS member survey are ongoing. We can expect the survey to be ready by the first part of May.

AGS Research Trips

The Board has decided to begin preliminary inquiries as to the interest level and relevant cost of offering another one-day bus trip to the Clayton Genealogical Library in Houston. See page four for additional details.

The Board has also agreed to sponsor another week-long research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. This trip is tentatively scheduled for April of 2013. Mark your calendars and begin your preparations for this always-popular opportunity for some in-depth research with your fellow AGS members. More information will be provided next fall as plans for the trip begin to take shape.

Preparing for the release of the 1940 Census.

AGS has created an indexing “Group” through FamilySearch Indexing by which AGS can receive benefits and awards based on our members’ indexing efforts.

ATTENDANCE REPORT by Missy HARRIS for the AGS meeting on February 28, 2012: 60 people signed in, but 69 people were counted.

We welcomed the following visitors at the meeting:

Dorothy WILLIAMS, Susan GETTMAN, Samuel FLESNER, Kristina SCOTT, and Lynn PARENT.

We hope each of you will visit us again soon.

AGS welcomes the following new members who came to us from the recent Beginners’ Class:

Josephine LITTLEFIELD of Austin
Donald PADFIELD of Georgetown
Pat SCHIER of Austin

HOSPITALITY REPORT. Our thanks go out to the greeters who served at the February meeting: Bob TIEMAN and Joann TRAVER. Our thanks also extend to Sheila SARGENT who was in charge at the refreshment table; to Marcia ARN, Glenda BLACK, Sharon FOLEY, Cynthia RODRIGUEZ, and Janis TRAYLER who brought refreshments.

Scheduled greeters for March are Marcia ARN and Shirley ROBERTS. Refreshment providers will be Shirley MEYER, Julia MELLENBRUCH, Wynnell NOELKE, Elisse NEWEY, and Betty Jean STEINKE.
AGS on the Small Screen

The local Fox Network channel featured four AGS members on its early morning show Good Day Austin during the week of February 13. Sharon FOLEY, Karen MATHESON, Teri FLACK, and Randy WHITED were each interviewed by one of the show’s anchors. Clips of the four segments of the show are available on the AGS website home page.

Sharon’s topic was “Tracing Your Heritage;” Karen’s topic was “What is Family History?”; Teri discussed “Get[ting] Help Finding your Family History;” and Randy’s topic was “Social Media Tools for Family Research.” Each of them did an excellent job and represented AGS very well.

AGS Activities

Tuesday, March 27th — Regular AGS Meeting
Program: “How Do I Organize All This Stuff?” with Sara GREDELER, Sharon FOLEY, and Randy WHITED

Tuesday, April 24th — Regular AGS Meeting
Program: “Researching the 1940 Census” with Randy WHITED

Saturday, April 28th — AGS Spring Mini-Seminar
Guest Speaker: Lloyd DeWitt BOCKSTRUCK (see page seven)

Friday, June 8th — AGS Bus Trip to Clayton Genealogy Library in Houston

AGS is sponsoring a day-trip to Clayton Library in Houston for members interested in doing some hands on genealogy research. To accommodate more researchers the date for the Trip to Clayton will be Friday, June 8th. We will leave from the LDS church at 1000 Rutherford, Austin, promptly at 6:30 a.m. and leave Houston at 5:00 p.m. The cost of $55.00 includes transportation, light breakfast, box supper, and drinks.

To reserve your seat, mail your check, payable to AGS, to Kay Boyd, 1405 S. Meadows, Austin, 78758. Contact Kay at mkdb1405@aol.com with any questions. Prepare for the trip by checking the holdings of Clayton Library at http://www.houstonlibrary.org/more-resources

This trip is open to all researchers. Seating is limited to 50 people. May 21st is the reservation deadline.

Other Genealogical Activities

Saturday, March 17, 2012

The Williamson County Genealogical Society hosts its Annual Seminar at the First United Methodist Church, 1004 North Mays, Round Rock, TX

D. Joshua TAYLOR, nationally recognized genealogical author, lecturer, and researcher is the guest speaker. His topics for the Seminar will be

- Bridging the Gap: Finding Your Ancestors in the United States between 1780 and 1830;
- Land Records: Beyond Grantees and Grantors;
- Putting it Together: A Case Study; and
- The Web, the World, and YOU!

(Continued on page 5)
Registration and vendors start at 8 a.m. and the Seminar will be from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Early registration is closed. The current fee is $55, whether in advance or at the door.

For additional information on the speaker, the topics, or the location, visit the WCGS website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwcgs/Seminar.htm, email Judy Belle HORICK at jbhorick@yahoo.com, or call her at 512-863-2685.

Saturday, March 24, 2012

The new family event “Six Degrees of Connection: Texas Heritage,” will be held on March 24, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, and is hosted by the Save Austin’s Cemeteries, City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department, German-Texan Heritage Society, Heritage Society of Austin, Neill-Cochran House Museum, and Preservation Texas.

The event will illustrate—through a variety of activities, speakers, craft demonstrations, and musical performances—that Austin’s current and past residents are connected more closely than we might realize.

Speakers and topics include Austin’s master builder Abner Cook, Austin history, and ethnic heritage.

Demonstrations include:
- Soap making
- Lace tatting
- Blacksmithing
- Wood crafting
- Basket weaving
- Headstone cleaning
- Storytelling
- Flint knapping

Exhibits include booths representing:
- Quilters
- Swedish Friends
- Moving Images
- Travis County Archives
- Texas Land Office
- Face painting
- Austin Genealogical Society

Activities will take place at historic Oakwood Cemetery, Austin’s oldest city cemetery, to emphasize Austin’s origins as a community and our connections with current and past Austinites and Texans.

The Six Degrees of Connection event website has more information about demonstrations, exhibitors, speakers, and living interpreters.

Costumed actors, Swedish singers, and Buffalo Soldiers will also be on-site.

Speakers will discuss cemetery markers, Texas History, Scottish heritage, and the German Free School. Reservations must be made in advance for the speakers sessions and for the vocal performance. These are the only paid events. Cost is $5 per person and there is limited space. Click here to order your tickets which are on sale now.

Friday, April 13, 2012

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 1201 Brazos Street, will host a Genealogy After Dark event on Friday, April 13, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Click here to download the registration form.

The deadline for registration is Friday, April 6th, and the event is limited to 30 participants. There is a fee of $10 per participant.

The State Library building will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at 6:00 p.m. for Genealogy After Dark participants. The building will again be locked at 6:45 p.m. and no participants will be admitted after that time.

Parking is usually available in the Capitol Visitors Parking Garage at 1201 San Jacinto, one block to the east of the Lorenzo de Zavala Building. There is no charge for visitors who arrive after 5:00 p.m.

6:00 Sign-in
6:15 “Eureka! Tips to Help You Strike it Rich in the 1940 Census!” program
Old Quarry Branch Library  
7051 Village Center Drive (Far West Blvd.)  
Austin, Tx 78731  
1:00 to 3:30 pm  

Road Trip-Pure Adrenalin  
Presented by Cindy Foreman

Become a free-style traveler so you can have fun preparing, traveling, and discovering some new and different genealogical finds along the way.

The discovery process with focused pre-planning will make your trip, regardless of distance and time, a pure adrenalin rush we all respond to when finding new and unexpected information. Sometimes what you find is not at all what you expected, but that’s the rush!

Come learn from an experienced, expert traveler; if Cindy has not been there, it’s because they don’t have any genealogical records.

For more information, you may check their website at www.AustinGenSIG.com, send an email to either john@marostica.org or john.marostica@gmail.com, or call him at 512-294-1999.

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Congratulations!

We have learned that AGS member Connie PERDUE has won the essay contest sponsored by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in conjunction with the Society of American Archivists’ “I Found It At The Archives” contest.

The purpose of the contest was to collect stories of what researchers have found at the archives. Entries were accepted from December 2011 through February 15, 2012. Each contestant was required to submit either a 400-word written essay or a two-minute video sharing tales of discovery and results of research at the Archives. Anyone doing research at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission or at the Sam Houston Library and Research center was eligible to participate.

Finalists were announced on February 15th and those submissions were posted online. The TSLAC online community voted for their favorites for one week after that and the winner was announced March 1st.

As the TSLAC winner, Connie’s entry will be submitted into the national competition sponsored by the Society of American Archivists. The winner(s) of the SSA competition will be announced at its Annual Meeting & Award Ceremony during the 2012 annual conference at San Diego in August of this year.

We congratulate Connie on winning the TSLAC contest and wish her the very best of luck in the national contest! Good job, Connie!
The Austin Genealogical Society  
2012 Spring Mini-Seminar  

Saturday, April 28, 2012

AGS is very pleased to welcome Lloyd de Witt BOCKSTRUCK as the featured speaker for our Spring Mini-Seminar. Lloyd is a widely experienced genealogical scholar, writer, speaker, and educator. From 1973 to 2009, he served as a librarian with the Dallas Public Library. He was an instructor with Southern Methodist University for 17 years, and the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America for 11. Since 1974, he has been on the faculty of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University. He holds an M.A. in early modern European history and an M.S. in library science.

A prolific writer, Mr. BOCKSTRUCK was a columnist for the Dallas Morning News from 1991 to 2008 and is the author of several genealogical publications. His most recent book is Revolutionary War Pensions Awarded by State Governments 1775-1784, the General and Federal Governments Prior to 1814, and by Private Acts of Congress to 1905. He was named a fellow of the National Genealogical Society in 1992 and of the Texas State Genealogical Society in 2009.

The topics for the day include:

* Migrations East of the Mississippi  
* War of 1812  
* Deeds & Wills

If you wish to register and pay online with PayPal, you must do so before 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 26th. If you wish to register by mail and pay by check, it must be received not later than Friday, April 27th.

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church  
9508 Great Hills Trail  
Austin, TX 78759

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Seminar begins at 9:00 a.m.  
Seminar ends at 12:30 p.m.

Light snacks and beverages will be provided during breaks.

AGS Members — $10  
Visitors — $15  
Everyone at the door — $15

As always, our events are open to both AGS members and guests.

For more information, email: programs@austintxgensoc.org
Editor’s Corner

The next meeting promises to be a really good one. I hope most of you can be there.

Have you signed up with FamilySearch to start indexing? It’s fast, easy, and a great way to give back to the genealogical community for all those records you’re able to find online. We’ll have a demo at the next meeting. Randy WHITED will talk about the 1940 U.S. Census at our April meeting and provide information on what it contains, how to find your people in it, and helping to index this census so it becomes searchable.

I hope to see you soon!

Until next time…

Happy Trackin’,

Janis

AGS WEBSITE INFORMATION

The login and password for the Members’ Only section of the AGS website:

login: ags2011 password: aU5!n

You can have the website “remember” the information so that you do not have to enter it every time.

** NEW ** This information will change after the website update has been completed. Members who have joined or renewed their membership for 2012 will receive an email blast with the updated logon and new password. It will also be in this space of the Newsletter after the change.

AGS Regular Meetings

Program Schedule

Tuesday, January 24th
“Genealogical Chaining of Artifacts” presented by Cindy FOREMAN

Tuesday, February 28th
“Get Your Lineage in Line” presented by Sylvia NIMMO

Tuesday, March 27th
“How Do I Organize All This Stuff?” presented by AGS Member Panel

Tuesday, April 24th
“Researching the 1940 Census” presented by Randy WHITED

Tuesday, May 22nd
“I’ll Bet You Didn’t Know That …” presented by AGS members

Tuesday, June 26th
“Getting the Most From Familysearch.org” presented by Karen MATHESON

Tuesday, July 24th
“Preserving Paper and Photos” presented by Claudia ANDERSON

Tuesday, August 28th
“Trailing Old West History” presented by Mike COX

Tuesday, September 25th
“Social History of the Confederate States” presented by Jackie JONES

Tuesday, October 23rd
“Who Do You Think You Are” LIVE—featuring a well-known Austin personality as researched and presented by a group of AGS members

Tuesday, November 27th
Fall Festival— Special Program on “Austin’s Sixth Street” presented by Dr. Allen CHILDS
2012 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2012:  
Karin BRANAMAN  
Earle McBRIDE  
Sharon FOLEY  
Missy HARRIS  
Jane SCHWENDINGER  
Janis TRAYLER

Term Ending 2013:  
Jim COOPER  
Dona KURTZ  
Randy WHITED  
Jennifer WHITLEY  
Jacquie WILSON

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Sharon FOLEY

1st Vice President  
Janis TRAYLER

2nd Vice President  
Jane SCHWENDINGER

Recording Secretary  
Jacquie D. WILSON

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  78759

Visitors Are Always Welcome!

Inside

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AGS Activities Schedule

Bus Trip Scheduled

Other Activities Schedule

Congratulations!

AGS Mini-Seminar

Published monthly except December
Janis Trayler, Editor
newsletter@AustinTxGenSoc.org

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Promoting genealogy through research,  
education, and preservation.