



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

March 2012

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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Newsletter@AustinTxGenSoc.org

Monthly AGS Meeting Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

6:30 p.m. — Refreshments & Networking
7:00 — 8:30 p.m. - Business & Program

Program: How Do I Organize All This Stuff!
Presented by: AGS Members
Sarah Gredler, Sharon Foley, and Randy Whited

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!



From this ...

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!

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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.

Randy W. WHITED, an avid genealogist for over twenty-five years, is an active member of multiple genealogical organizations. A Director with the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Randy chairs its Education committee. He also has regular columns in the FGS FORUM.

A member of the Austin Genealogical Society since 2005, Randy is serving a third term on its Board of Directors and is in his fourth year as Editor of the AGS Quarterly. Randy was also recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Texas State Genealogical Society to head up its technology initiatives.

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.

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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 MELLEBRUCH, Wynnell NOELKE, Elisse NEWWEY, 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 GREDLER, 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!

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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

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- 7:15 Light refreshments
7:30 Texas Family Heritage Research Center and
the Reference and Information Center open
for research
Orientation: Requesting and Using Materials
in the Texas State Archives (required for anyone
planning to use archival materials during the event)
7:45 Texas State Archives open for research
9:45 Microfilm, Archives, and photocopy rooms
close
10:00 Building secured

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to con-
tact TSL at geninfo@tsl.state.tx.us or 512-463-5455.



Saturday, April 14, 2012

**The Austin Genealogical Special Interest Group
(Austin GenSIG)** (Submitted by John MAROSTICA)

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.

Congratulations!

We have learned that AGS member Connie
PERDUE has won the essay contest sponsored by the
Texas State Library and Archives Commission in con-
junction 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 ei-
ther 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 Hous-
ton Library and Research center was eligible to partici-
pate.

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 sub-
mitted into the national
competition sponsored by the Society of American Ar-
chivists. The winner(s) of the SSA competition will be
announced at its Annual Meeting & Award Cere-
mony 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 na-
tional 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.

Please pre-register if possible.

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 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



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Or let us hear from
you with a Tweet!



AGS WEBSITE INFORMATION

The login and password for the Members'
Only section of the [AGS website](#):

login: ags2011 password: aU5t!n

You can have the website "remember" the in-
formation 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 pass-
word. It will also be in this space of the
Newsletter after the change.**

2012 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2012:	Term Ending 2013:
Karin BRANAMAN	Jim COOPER
Earle McBRIDE	Teri FLACK
Sharon FOLEY	Dona KURTZ
Missy HARRIS	Randy WHITED
Jane SCHWENDINGER	Jennifer WHITLEY
Janis TRAYLER	Jacque WILSON

2012 Officers

President	Sharon FOLEY
1 st Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2 nd Vice President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Recording Secretary	Jacque 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.*

Published monthly except December
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newsletter@AustinTxGenSoc.org

Austin Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 10010
Austin, TX 78766-1010

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

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!

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Congratulations!

AGS Mini-Seminar

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