



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

May 2006

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

Vol. 12

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**Society Meeting
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, Texas
Tuesday, May 23, 2006
Time - 6:30 p.m.**

AGS Annual Potluck Dinner



Make your Reservations Now for the Potluck Dinner, Tuesday, May 23, 2006

It is time again for our Annual Potluck Dinner and a chance to share memorabilia and stories.

AGS will supply the chicken and drinks and the members are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. Tickets will be \$2.00 per person to cover the meat cost. Guest are welcome.

You can reserve a table or half of a table to share your memorabilia, which might include pictures, scrapbook, etc. If you wish, come dressed as one of your ancestors and add to the fun!

You may reserve an entire table or half a table for your memorabilia. Table setup will be at 6:00 p.m. Dinner should start around 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are appreciated so we will know how much chicken to order.

For reservations for the dinner and tables, please either call or e-mail Kay Boyd or Edna Youngblood. Tickets will reserved for you at the check-in-desk.

Reservations:

Kay Boyd: Ph. 836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com

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

Edna Youngblood,
Hospitality Committee

BULLETIN BOARD

Welcome to the "Help Desk"

You are invited to take advantage of a new research tool we call "Help Desk", offered by the AGS Education Committee. Some members of the Committee will staff our Help Desk from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. before each monthly Tuesday evening business meeting.

You are welcome to bring your genealogical questions to the Help Desk and the staff will assist you. When possible, we may be able to provide new research directions and resources at the Desk. If not the staff will make a note of your questions and provide a follow-up at a later date.

Please prepare your questions in advance, including the location and time period in which you need assistance. We regret that the staff cannot conduct research for you, but we will be happy to assist you in seeking out new aids.

Tommy Ingram

"Help, Help"

Do you need help and assistance with your genealogical research? It does not matter if you are a beginner or an experienced researcher, everyone hits a brick wall or needs help sometime.

Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Room 202 of the Texas State Library, 1201 Brazos. AGS volunteers will be on hand to assist you and hopefully provide some answers and new direction to your research. We can help you with your computer searches or possibly guide you to some tools in the genealogy library downstairs. Stop by. The second "Brickwall Saturday" is scheduled for July 15, 2006.

Kay Boyd

Summer Quarterly: Member's Pedigrees, Trees, Stories

Now's the time to send your family history info to the AGS Quarterly. Our Summer issue will be full of member's pedigrees, trees, family group sheets, stories of great-greats - and they don't need to be Central Texas lines or stories.

Our annual Member Issue gives AGS members without Central Texas roots a chance to publish their family history info in Austin, so pull it out, dust it off, fluff it up and e-mail a couple of pages to Alana Moehring Mallard, AGS Quarterly Editor at alanasuzy@earthlink.net or send it by Uncle Sam to 3310 Hancock Dr., Austin, TX 78731. Call me at 453-1117 if you have any questions.

Alana Moehring Mallard

A Response to the March "Dear Genie" Article

The Patrick Henry Chapter (Austin, Texas) of the Sons of the American Revolution has a web site @ www.austinsar.org. On the Resource Page we have a number of local, area and Texas sites and web sites for anyone researching their Revolutionary War ancestors. The design of the web site is focused on helping people with their research. The site is available and open to anyone to use.

Mike Dunavant

Mike, a member of SAR, is willing to help with Revolutionary War research information. He can be reached at mdunavant@austin.rr.com or at the AGS meetings.

Tommy Ingram

"Dear Genie"

A reader writes: Dear Genie, how would you find the maiden name of three sisters, found living in Missouri, either married or widowed, in 1920?"

In this instance, the women's given and married names, and sibling relationship are known. The suggestions below should be researched for each of the three women. While one sister may not have mentioned her family name in a record, another may.

Begin with the 1920 census. "Although the 1920 census does not ask how years a person has been married, as the 1900 census does, it does ask the person age and where they were born. A educated guess should get one close to when they were married." The woman's marriage record is the best place to locate her maiden name. It may also list the names of witnesses, possibly relatives.

The minister's name can lead to his church, which may have records for her family.

Other places to look for clues for a woman's surname are Cemetery Records - a tombstone may list the woman's maiden name.

Funeral Home Records

Probate Records - may list bequests to the woman's siblings or their descendants.

Land Records - land records often show the passing of land from one generation to the next.

City Directories - it may be possible to locate other members of the woman's family.

Local Newspapers - often contain family news.

Common Names - surnames used as middle names, or a parent's unusual given name for a child.

Children's Death Records - may list the mother's maiden name. Birth and death records after 1910 for Missouri are available from the Bureau of Vital Records in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Books on this subject include: "A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors: Special Strategies for Uncovering Hard-to-Find Information About Your Female Lineages" by Sharon Debartolo Carmack. "The Hidden Half of the Family: A Source book for Women's Genealogy" by Christina K. Schaefer. A more comprehensive version of this article is available online at www.austintxgensoc.org

To submit a question to "Dear Genie", please e-mail it to tommyingram@grandecom.net or place it in the submission box at the monthly AGS meeting.

Tommy Ingram

How to Date Old Envelopes

If you have old undated letters in your collection of family papers, do not discard the envelope in which they were mailed. The postage stamp, along with your estimate of the approximate age of the writer, may help date the letter.

Prior to 1847, stamps were not used on letters carried by the U. S. Postal Service. Later, the first class postage rates, per ounce, as of the following dates were: July 1, 1882: two cents; Nov. 3, 1917: three cents; July 1, 1919: two cents; July 6, 1932: three cents; Aug. 1, 1958: four cents; Jan. 7, 1968: six cents; May 16, 1971: eight cents; Mar. 2, 1974: ten cents; Dec. 31, 1975: thirteen cents; May 29, 1979: fifteen cents; Mar. 22, 1981: eighteen cents; Nov. 1, 1981: twenty cents; April 3, 1988: twenty-five cents; Feb. 3, 1991: twenty nine cents; Jan. 1 1995: thirty-two cents; Jan. 10, 1999: thirty-three cents.

Source: The Family Tree,
Dec./2001/ Jan 2002

Google

Google has scanned in and posted the page images of a host of books. Included are the published vital records of the following 40 Massachusetts towns: Alford, Arlington; Auburn (formerly Ward); Becket; Bellingham;; Boxford; Boylston; Bradford; Charlton; Dalton; Gardner; Gill; Grafton; Great Barrington; Hinsdale; Holden; Hubbardston; Leicester; Lynnfield; Medfield; Medway; Middleton; Montgomery; New Braintree; Norton; Oakham; Palme; Pelham; Princeton; Royalston; Rutland; Saugus; Sudbury; Templeton; Topsfield; Tyringham; Upton; Washington; West Stockbridge; Westborough. They can be accessed at <http://print.google.com/> by using (for example) the following search terms: "vital records" +massachusetts+alford. The page images are indexed by every name appearing in the book.

Upcoming Genealogical Events

National Genealogical Society Conference & GENTECH 2006

NGS will be holding their annual conference June 7-10, 2006 in Chicago, Illinois. The theme this year is "They Passed This Way." The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency at O'Hare Airport. This means you can fly in and shuttle right to the conference. For more information, see the NGS web page at www.ngsgenealogy.org.

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2006 Conference

FGS and the New England Historic Genealogical Society are co-hosting this conference in Boston this year. If you have New England research, or if you have Irish, English or Canadian research, this is the conference you'll want to attend. The Exhibit Hall will have over 200 vendor booths plus an Irish Pavilion. There will be vendors and speakers from around the world. This conference will be held August 30-September 2, 2006. For more information, see the FGS web site at www.fgs.org.

RIGS Alliance Workshop at the National Archives in Ft. Worth

Once again the RIGS Alliance will be holding their outstanding workshops at NARA in Ft. Worth. These workshops are designed for genealogists, historians, or librarians who want to improve their research skills and techniques, need an introduction to regional archives or want guidance with research in original records. This is not a beginner level workshop. To assure a quality experience, the workshops accommodate a limited number of attendees. The workshop will be held October 2 -6, 2006. Brochures are available at the AGS meetings, or visit the RIGS Alliance web site at www.RIGSAlliance.org or e-mail info@RIGSAlliance.org.

Research and TSGS Conference in Ft. Worth

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.

The End of a Perfect Day

**Grandma, on a wintry day,
Milked the cows and fed them hay;
Saddled the mule,
An got the children off to school;
Did the washing, scrubbed the floors,
Wash some windows and did some chores;
Cooked a dish of home-dried fruit;
And pressed her husband's Sunday suit.
She swept the parlor, and made the bed,
And baked a dozen loaves of bread;
Split some firewood and then tugged in
Enough to fill the kitchen bin;
Cleaned the lamp, filled it with oil,
And stewed some apples she thought
might spoil.
She made a supper that was delicious,
And afterward washed the dishes.
She fed the cat, and sprinkled the
clothes,
And mended a basketful of hose;
Then opened the organ and began to play,
"When you come to the end of a perfect
day."**

Author Unknown

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.

5/1/06

“Keep Searching”

Wilena D Young

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