



# *Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter*

*May 2009*

Vol. 15

[www.AustinTxGenSoc.org](http://www.AustinTxGenSoc.org)

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## **Monthly AGS Meeting** **Tuesday, May 26, 2009**

***Program: "Why Urbano and Maria Trinidad Can't Get Married:  
Social Relations in Late Colonial Texas"***

***Presented by: Dr. J. F. de la TEJA, State Historian of Texas  
and Chairman, Department of History, Texas State University – San Marcos***

Highland Park Baptist Church  
5206 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

6:30 – 7:00 P.M. – Social Time

7:00 – 8:30 P.M. – Program

***Even if you do not have Texas or Latino roots, you will enjoy this unusual  
presentation and it is a great opportunity to invite a friend to come with you!***



**Jesús F. De La TEJA** is chair and professor in the Department of History at Texas State University-San Marcos and president of the Texas State Historical Association. He arrived in New Jersey from Cuba in 1963. In 1981, he came to UT Austin for doctoral work in Latin American history.

Serving as a research assistant to the novelist James A. MICHENER fostered his fascination with Texas history. He developed an interest in serving the family history community while working in the Archives and Records Division of the Texas General Land Office.

He has published extensively on Spanish, Mexican, and Republic-era Texas. He has published extensively as well as being interviewed for a number of documentaries on Texas history. His work has appeared in *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Inter-American Cultural History*, the *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Historia Mexicana*, and the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.

In May 2007, he was sworn in as the first Texas State Historian and he served as the 2007-2008 President of the Texas State Historical Association. He is a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Catholic Historical Society, a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas, and an honorary admiral in the Texas Navy. In March 2008, he received the Americanism Medal from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

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## **AGS Annual Seminar**

The AGS Annual Seminar was a great success! Ninety-four people attended the morning and afternoon sessions. An excellent lunch was provided and a number of people enjoyed shopping in the gift-shop or walking the labyrinth during the lunch break. And there were door prizes galore! The speakers were knowledgeable about their topics and the information was well presented. To all who attended, we thank you for your participation. To those who didn't, we missed you ... and you missed a very good seminar!

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### **Membership** (by Barbara INNIS)

Although we had no monthly meeting in April, we were still quite active with two programs in the month!

The April 4th Mini-Seminar "Religion on the American Frontier" presented by Russell BAKER was very well presented. The presentation provided a great deal of interaction by those present in the form of numerous questions submitted to and answered by the speaker. Total attendance was 61 (50 members, 11 visitors).

April 25<sup>th</sup> was part of the AGS Saturday Series: Laptop Saturday at the Library: "Fast Forward with Family Search," presented by Karen MATHESON. Total attendance was 39 (35 members, 3 visitors, 1 new member). This program was also very successful.



### ***Additions to your 2009 Membership Directory***

#### **NEW MEMBER**

Karen FUSTES  
1011 Monroe  
Austin, TX 78704  
512.525.7207 (H); 512.921.0225 (C)  
[kefustes@yahoo.com](mailto:kefustes@yahoo.com)

#### **RENEWING MEMBER**

Maria Celeste COSTLEY  
601 North Bluff Drive  
Austin, TX 78745-4511  
(512) 444-1031  
[Mccos51@att.net](mailto:Mccos51@att.net)

***Welcome Karen and Maria!***



### ***Hospitality*** (by Elizabeth JOHNSTON)

For the regular meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>, refreshments will be graciously provided by Dona KURTZ, Linda MIEARS, Barbara FROCK, and Linda MILLIGAN.

Greeters will be Cynthia COUCH RODRIGUEZ, Angela EISERT, Carroll PATTERSON, Glenda BLACK, and Dona KURTZ.

### Can you help?

We need two greeters who can welcome people at the August meeting and one for September. We also need an additional person to help with refreshments in September and two to provide refreshments in October. If you can help with this, please contact Elizabeth JOHNSTON at [elizabethlj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elizabethlj@sbcglobal.net).

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## Coming Programs

The Education Committee continues its course of outstanding monthly programs throughout the summer. Next up are the following:

### Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Regular Meeting

Topic: *Having Fun with Our Ancestors*

Presenter: Teri FLACK

### Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

*Beyond Google Search and Ancestry.com:*

Topic: *Unique Online Resources*

Presenter: Sara GREDLER

### Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

Regular Meeting

Topic: *Finding Granddad's War*

Presented: Jeffrey BADGER

### Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Topic: *Tales and Imagery from the Tombstones*

Presenter: Janene JEFFREY

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## Educational Opportunities

*Summer is the time for SIGs, Saturday Series, Conferences and Seminars.  
So many choices, so little time!*

### Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Williamson County Genealogical Society (WCGS) Monthly Meeting

**Round Rock Public Library, 216 E. Main, Round Rock, Texas, first floor**

Program: **"20th Century Military Records: World War I to Vietnam"** presented by Cindy FOREMAN, president of the Austin Genealogical Society

**p.m. to 3:45 p.m.** Sara GREDLER will present **"From Paper to Pixels: Organizing Your Genealogy in the Digital Age."** Sara will discuss the numerous ways to get documents, photographs, artifacts, and other unique materials both digitized and organized.

### AGS Saturday Series

**Saturday, May 30 2009, at the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, from 1:00**

Although a laptop is not necessary to benefit from this session, feel free to bring one as the library has free Wi-Fi. This help session will provide hands-on time to work on your own family research, as well as working through those technology issues that crop up on us!

**Genealogy SIG**  
(Special Interest Group)

**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

**"Digital photography for  
Genealogists."**

Presented by James Hollas

**Triumphant Love Lutheran Church**

**9508 Great Hills Trail**, in Austin

In the **Community Classroom**

Free **Wi-Fi** access to the Internet

The speaker for this session is James HOLLAS. He will cover choosing a digital camera, how to move pictures from the camera to the computer, some camera tips on how to shoot documents, books, microfilm, photos and even some people. James will also discuss a way to turn slides into digital files and a few other things you will just have to come to the SIG to find out about!

**Angelia College Annual Conference**

**July 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

3500 South First Street

Lufkin, Texas

(Hwy 59 South –

two miles south of Loop 187)

This conference is optional for two or three days, has a wide variety of topics and speakers scheduled, and is reasonably priced. It also has the unusual distinction of offering CPE and CEU credits. See more information at their website:

<http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm>.

**Fort Worth Genealogical Society's 2009**

**Summer Seminar**

**Saturday, August 1, 2009**

Travis Avenue Baptist Church

800 West Berry Street

Fort Worth, Texas

Trevia WOOSTER BEVERLY, a member of the Angelina College (Lufkin, Texas) genealogy faculty since 1998, speaks on the following topics:

1. The Orphan Trains and Other Lost Babes — We'll look for the child apprentices, and orphans, as well as those 'branded' in records such as fornication abstracts, bastard files, etc., and discuss adoption records.
2. Meet Mr. Draper & the Rev. Shane — Explore the Draper and Shane Manuscripts, premier frontier collections.
3. Women and their Records — Kings Daughters & Casket Girls, Maides to Make Wives, America's Witches, Soiled Doves, and Those Harvey Girls.
4. The Natchez Trace Papers — Housed at the University of Texas. Records collected from Southern states, especially Mississippi.



And the information many of you have been asking about ...

**Mark Your Calendars**

**for April 19-25, 2010!**

Plans are underway for another research trip to **Salt Lake City!** Details and costs will be available in early October. If you are interested in the trip and would like to be on the list to receive information, please email Pat OXLEY ([pat@theoxleys.com](mailto:pat@theoxleys.com)) or give her a call at the number listed in the membership directory.

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## Texas State Library Fundraising Update

(submitted by Connie PERDUE)

The Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas want to raise \$10 million to pay for such things at Texas State Library and Archives as archival shelving, both movable and freestanding, furniture for patrons and staff, equipment, energy efficient lighting, recording booths for the Talking Book Program, a conservation lab, and other items that are not covered by the initial \$15.5 million legislative appropriation. There's good news that about \$1.7 million has been raised through donations to the Friends' group for the Texas State Library renovation. Recently, the Houston Endowment has offered a match of \$500,000 if an additional \$1.3 million can be raised by May 2010.

If you are able to make a tax-deductible donation to help achieve the match from the Houston Endowment, please send your tax-deductible donation as soon as possible, payable to the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas. Mark "capital campaign" on your check. Send your donation to: Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas, PO Box 12983, Austin, TX 78711. You can also visit the website at <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/renovation/index.html> to learn more about the renovation and you can donate online through the Austin Community Foundation. Instructions for an online donation are shown on this website.

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## Bits & Pieces

AGS member Richard FOSTER, who works at the hospitality table each month, is **requesting a ride** to 45th and Guadalupe after the regular AGS meetings. If you can help him out, please let him know as you sign in at the attendance roster.



The **operating hours of the Austin History Center** have changed to Tuesday through Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. - 6 p.m. Note: the library is no longer open on Mondays, but is now open on Thursdays and Fridays.



It will soon be time for the **AGS Quarterly** to go to press again. Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED says that historically the June issue has been the "members' issue," but he wants *every* issue to be for and by the members. So if you have something that you have contemplated submitting for publication in the Q, there's no time like the present! He would like to have submissions in by June 10<sup>th</sup> in order to meet his publishing deadline. If that deadline is too soon for you to be ready for this issue, please remember that member contributions are always welcome for each issue.

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## Congratulations

In a press release dated April 19, 2009, the Board for Certification of Genealogists announced that Nancy R. STEVENS, CG<sup>sm</sup>, of Kyle, Texas, is among its newest associates.

She published "Melvin and Ethel Hagerman," *Niobrara, Nebraska: 150 Years of History -- 1856-2006*. Stevens is a member of the Austin Genealogical Society and the Nebraska State Genealogical Society.

A freelance historical researcher who is retired from a career in research in Texas state government, Stevens previously worked in the government documents collections of several libraries. She earned a BA from North Texas State University, an MA from University of Kansas, and an MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin.

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## Condolences

Condolences are extended to AGS member Earle McBRIDE and his family on the death of his wife **Donna Joann (HIXSON) McBRIDE**, who died Friday, February 13, 2009. Born 1 August 1933 in Toulon, IL, she was the eldest of four children of Marvin Emery and Ellen (OLIVIER) HIXSON. In addition to Earle, her survivors include her daughters: Deborah SWEATMAN (Carl); Suzanne McBRIDE; sisters: Janet "Jan" DAILING (Bill), Andalusia, IL; Joline "Jody" McCLAIN (Chris), Dahinda, IL; brother, James "Jim" HIXSON (Jackie), Silvis, IL; grandchildren: John, Shaun, Jennifer, and Samantha SWEATMAN, Cedar Creek, TX; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. (Full obituary published in the Austin American Statesman and posted on the AGS website at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/news/mcbride.html>.)

Condolences are also extended to the family of AGS member **Gale Roger BILLARD** who was born July 19, 1925 in LaSalle, Illinois. He died April 6, 2009 in Austin, Texas. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lucile H. BILLARD; son, Edward (Ted) BILLARD and daughter-in-law, Alice RIEDMILLER of Monterey, CA; daughter, Mary A. BILLARD and son-in-law, Barry COOPER of New York; brother, L. Jack BILLARD of Atlanta, GA; sister, Jean BILLARD POHL; and numerous beloved nephews and nieces. (Full obituary published in the Austin American Statesman and posted on the AGS website at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/news/billard.html>.)

## Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference



The **Federation of Genealogical Societies** invites you to its **Annual Conference** for the nation's genealogists. Hosted by FGS and the Arkansas Genealogical Society, the conference will be held in **Little Rock, Arkansas, September 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>**. The theme for this year's conference is *Passages through Time*.

### Why should you make plans to be there?

- More than 160 educational presentations with well-known speakers from all over the U.S.
- Lectures that appeal to beginning, intermediate and experienced genealogists
- Sessions for professional genealogists
- A large exhibit hall with exhibitors and vendors
- Vendors loaded with genealogy and history books, magazines, databases, software, maps, CDs, magazines, journals, and more
- The host hotels, the Peabody and the DoubleTree Hotel, are wonderful
- The Statehouse Convention Center is connected to the Peabody Little Rock
- Shopping, historic sites, libraries, and more in the city
- Daily meal functions with exciting speakers and time for networking
- It's easy to drive to Little Rock on several highways and Interstates
- **AND** You save \$50.00 off the full registration price if you register by June 2, 2009

### To learn more

- Check the FGS Conference Website at [www.FGSConference.org](http://www.FGSConference.org)
- View the continually expanded Conference Blog at [www.FGSConferenceBlog.org](http://www.FGSConferenceBlog.org)
- Check the many topics and speakers at [www.FGSConference.org](http://www.FGSConference.org)

*Note from the Editor: If you have not had the chance to attend a national conference before, this is an excellent opportunity. No airfare is needed as it is within driving distance and the registration cost is very reasonable for a conference of this size. I encourage you to take a look at the list of topics and speakers via the website noted above. If you would like to have a brochure mailed to you, contact the FGS office at 1-888-FGS-1500.*

**2009 Board of Directors**

<b>Term ending 2009:</b>	<b>Term Ending 2010:</b>
Teri FLACK	Kay BOYD
Barbara INNIS	Inez EPPRIGHT
Dona KURTZ	Sharon FOLEY
Elizabeth JOHNSTON	Cindy FOREMAN
Robert SAGE	Sara GREDLER
Randy WHITED	Janis TRAYLER

**2009 Officers**

President	Cindy FOREMAN
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Kay BOYD
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays  
Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00  
Highland Park Baptist Church  
5208 Balcones Drive  
Austin, Texas

Visitors Always Welcome!

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