



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

May 2010

Advancing genealogy through wide-ranging research and education and supporting the preservation of the heritage of Austin, Travis County, and Texas.

Vol. 16

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No. 5

50 YEARS & GROWING

Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Program: *So You Think You Can't Write:*

Multiple Forms of Preserving Your Family Stories

Presented by: **Daryl Gibson**

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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Daryl GIBSON is a freelance writer and book editor specializing in political biography. She has co-authored *Peace, War, and Politics* (the autobiography of syndicated columnist and famed muckraker Jack Anderson). She also was a "ghost writer" on *With Honor*, the biography of former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, and is currently working on an autobiography of a former president of Freddie Mac, focusing on the role of the mortgage markets in the current economic crisis. She has a degree in journalism from Brigham Young University and has worked as a political reporter in daily newspapers for 20 years. Daryl lives in Brushy Creek with her husband Paul SMITH and 16-year-old son Will.

Daryl has provided advance copies of her handouts and those can be found on the AGS website under the Members Only section. Feel free to print them out and bring them to the meeting with you!

AGS Business

The AGS Board of Directors met in regular session prior to the general meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Committee and Treasurer reports were submitted and approved. The following topics were discussed and actions were taken:

Programs & Education: Daryl GIBSON, the speaker from February's meeting that was canceled due to weather, is rescheduled for the May meeting. The next Saturday event is the Mini-Seminar with Josh TAYLOR on May 15th. Pre-registration is requested, but not required.

Quarterly: Randy WHITED advised that he is now indexing the Quarterly with a full name index. This has turned out to be more of an effort than anticipated and is the reason for the delay in publishing this issue. The Quarterly should however, be printed and out to the membership soon.

All prior issues of the AGS Quarterly (from 1960 through 2008) have now been scanned and digitized. Dona KURTZ reviewed the project and found some errors. Those issues have been returned to the vendor and are being rescanned.

Records: All of the record extractions by the volunteers have been completed and Kay BOYD is in the process of reviewing them prior to posting on the web-

site. These records are from early issues of the AGS Quarterly and will be posted on the website as soon as the review is completed.

Anniversary Committee: AGS tote bags continue to be distributed at each meeting and event. Materials are being gathered to be used in the 4th edition of the 2010 Quarterly and several members are collecting materials and artifacts for the September meeting.

Financial Examination Committee: Mary TODD and her committee will meet this month and prepare their report for presentation at this month's Board of Directors' meeting. The report will be printed in the June edition of the AGS Newsletter.

Cemetery: Mary TODD reports she is looking for volunteers to record tombstone information at the Cook-Walden cemeteries in both Oak Hill and Pflugerville. These are large cemeteries that we can record, but we cannot take photographs of the tombstones due to the Cook-Walden policy. If you are interested in helping with this project, please email Mary TODD at westy42@austin.rr.com.

If you have signed up to record or research a cemetery and find you need assistance, please let Mary TODD know and she will help find volunteers for you.



AGS Website News

The "Members Only" section now includes a full copy of the membership directory. Information on new members will be posted there as those memberships are received.

Check out the website for the additional records mentioned in the AGS Business Section above. These records were originally included in early issues of the AGS Quarterly and include Bible records published in the 1960s, the 1860 and 1870 Travis County Mortality Schedules, and the earliest Travis County probate records. Other records will also be published over time.

The **Members Only** section of the website requires a login ID and password. The **login ID is agsmember** and the **password is gene.AGS** (case sensitive).



Membership

Membership Chair Maud CAIN reports there were 66 members and eight visitors present at the regular meeting on Tuesday, April 27th, as Phoebe ALLEN presented her program on *The Ghosts of Judges Hill: Searching for the Bones of Ancestral Homes*. The program was very informative and provided a wealth of information about some of the homes in one of the earliest sections of Austin. Information about some of the research tools Phoebe used in gathering her information can be found in the Members Only section of the website.



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

Dee Akard WELBORN

Linde CHASTAIN

Linda WERHANE

Hospitality

Our thanks go out to Bobbie HUDNALL, Joan TRAVER, Sharon TIEMAN, Mary Jane ERMIS, and Suzy SNYDER for providing the refreshments for the April meeting. Thanks also go to Sue Ann BUNNER and Cynthia RODRIGUEZ for being greeters at the meeting.

Those scheduled to bring good eats for the May meeting are Mary Jane ERMIS, Cynthia RODRIGUEZ, Maureen McCORMACK, and Suzy SNYDER. Greeters for May are Cynthia RODRIGUEZ and Ann COOPER.

News about The Quarterly

Worth Repeating: As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Board has approved having a contest for best submissions printed in the AGS Quarterly this year. Even better news is that we will be awarding *three significant prizes* for submissions to the Quarterly by an AGS member published during the 50th Anniversary year of 2010. The prizes will be awarded at the first meeting of 2011. Your submissions can cover a broad spectrum of topics: family stories, family histories, family trees, Bible records, historical records, genealogical how-to's, genealogical best practices, etc., etc. If you have a story or information you're itching to share, *now* is the time!

The first of the 50th Anniversary issues should be hitting your mailboxes very soon. We hope you will enjoy reading it and we look forward to seeing *your* submission later this year!

If you have any questions about the contest or contribution guidelines, please contact Q Editor Randy WHITED at randy.whited@sbcglobal.net. Please use "AGS Quarterly submission" in the subject line of your email.

PRESENTING THE SECOND of the 2010 MINI-SEMINAR SERIES

AGS is proud to present Joshua TAYLOR as the speaker for our May Mini-Seminar. There will be a modest charge of \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Although you may register at the door, pre-registration is appreciated and can be done online at the AGS website. Online payment through PayPal has been set up for your convenience. You may also print the online form and mail it with your check to the Austin Genealogy Society, P. O. Box 10010, Austin, TX 78766-1010.

Pre-registration helps to ensure the committee can arrange to have enough tables set up and plenty of snacks for everyone prior to the program and during the short breaks! We hope you can join us for this special program.

Saturday, May 15th

Guest Speaker: Joshua TAYLOR

Highland Park Baptist Church

[5206 Balcones Drive](#)

Austin, Texas

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

The program begins at **9:00 a.m.** and will conclude about **12:30.**

AGS is proud to present Joshua TAYLOR, as the speaker for our May Mini-Seminar.



D. Joshua TAYLOR "Josh" is Director of Education and Programs of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and is a nationally known and recognized genealogical author, lecturer, and researcher. A frequent speaker at genealogical societies, libraries, and other organizations, his previous speaking engagements include GENTECH, the Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conferences, the National Genealogical Society Annual Conference, and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. He has authored articles in *UGA Crossroads*, *FGS Forum*, *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, and *New England Ancestors*, and was a columnist for *Digital Genealogist*. He is the recipient of the 2003 and 2004 Distinguished Service Awards from the Utah Genealogical Association, the Rubincam Youth Award from the National Genealogical Society, and an Award of Merit (2009) from the Federation of

Genealogical Societies. Active in the genealogical community, Josh is a member of the Board of Directors for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and serves as Program Director for the Massachusetts Genealogical Council. Prior to becoming Director of Education at Programs, Joshua oversaw the Society's Research Services Department.

The topics Josh will discuss are

- *New England/Mid-Atlantic Research*
- *Southern States*
- *Online Resources*

We hope to see you there!

*** UPDATE! ***

Information published in last month's newsletter has changed. The program will cover only the three topics listed above and will last until about 12:30 rather than 2:30.

Snacks will be available during short breaks between the 1st and 2nd topics, but there is no need to brown-bag for lunch.



AGS Calendar of Activities

June 22— AGS Monthly Meeting

Always a favorite format, it's "Member to Member." This format could just as easily be called "Breaking Those Brick Walls with the Help of Your Fellow AGS Members." In order for us to help you break those walls that *all* of us have, we need to know what your walls are. Think for a few minutes about those walls, then send us an email with your dilemma(s).

Is it too optimistic to believe that all brick walls will come tumbling down? Maybe, but let's give it a try!

Sharon FOLEY (sharonfoley2gmail.com) or Sara GREDLER (sarakg@yepmail.net) are looking forward to receiving your questions and creating a plan for tackling them at the June meeting. You will not want to miss this super opportunity!

CANCELLED

June 26— Laptop Saturday
New England Historic Genealogical Society Online

Other Educational Opportunities

Friday, June 4, 2010

Texas Scottish Festival
GENEALOGY SEMINAR
Maverick Stadium, Arlington Texas
8:00 a. m. – 3:30 p.m.
\$45—early registration; \$50 after May 5th
Presented by: Richard L. HOOVERSON

Seminar Topics

Tricks of the Trade: Tried and True Research Techniques
A Scottish Gentleman and Witches of the North Wind
Lowlands to Uplands: The Saga of the Scots-Irish
The Natchez Trace: Historic Route of the Old Southwest

Find more information & a registration form at page 5 of their website

<http://www.texasscottishfestival.com/forms/pdf/2010/2010%20TSF&HG%20Newsletter-Spring.pdf>

Or email postmaster@texasscottishfestival.com



Saturday, June 26, 2010

The Central Texas Area Museum Presents:
The Annual Summer Genealogy Workshop 2010
FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA
Salado, Texas
\$35 Registration

Seminar Topics:

Back to Basics
Go West Young Man (& Woman)
Grandmother Had No Birth Certificate
Turner, Texas Ranger
Alternatives to the U.S. Census
Armchair Traveler

Visit their website at <http://www.ctam-salado.org/Genework/genework.html> for more information and registration.



July 15, 16, & 17

14th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference
POSSIBILITIES & PROBABILITIES
Lufkin, Texas

This annual conference always has top-notch presenters and a wide variety of courses from which to choose. With way too many courses to list and some in the same time slot, the hard part is choosing just one to attend! The speaker list includes Pat GORDON, Kelvin MEYERS, Trevia Wooster BEVERLY, Emily CROOM, Charlie GARDES, Don RANEY, Barbara Brixey WILEY, and John WYLIE.

For specific information about this conference, visit the website at:

<http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy/genealogy.html#Sessions%20&%20Times>

AGS—50 Years & Growing!

Historically Speaking

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

REMEMBER WHEN?

“Several AGS members have received advertising for a book called *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, edited by Arlene EAKLE and Johni CERNY and published by Ancestry Publishing Company in Salt Lake City. This publication is on the new book shelves of the Genealogy Collection. It is a well-organized new reference tool for the genealogist, with detailed information on a variety of topics. One patron has commented that the book is an excellent resource for the intermediate researcher. Submitted by Robin RADER, Genealogy Collection.” *AGS Newsletter*, May 1984, No volume or number used.

“Reminder - Fill out your 3" x 5" ancestor research cards for the file at the library. Bring them to the next meeting and turn them over to Martha ESKEW for filing.” *AGS Newsletter*, May 1985, No volume or number used.

“*Ancestors*, a new ten-part television series, will be available to Public Broadcasting Service in the fall of

1996. *Ancestors* will be the first television series to provide beginning genealogists and family historians with sound principles to start a successful genealogy and family history search. The series went into production in the fall of 1995 and is only partially funded. The producer is seeking funding from individuals and genealogical societies and encouraging tax-deductible contributions to the production and educational fund. Suggested levels of contributions have been established from \$500 to \$25. Send contributions to *Ancestors*, c/o KBYU Television, ...Provo, UT.... Source: *TSGS Newsletter*, April 1996.” *AGS Newsletter*, May 1996, Vol. 2, No. 5.

“Family History on the Radio! *The Family History Show*, a forum for family historians, hosted by Michael MATHEWS, can now be heard on KTSA 550 Austin-San Antonio from 10:06 pm - midnight, Sundays (CST). Your calls are welcome! 1-800-765-1080 toll free. Now broadcast live on the Internet across America and World-wide.” *AGS Newsletter*, March 1998, Vol. 4, No. 3.”



STILL SEARCHING FOR PHOTOS OF AUSTIN, 1960-2010 to use for the 50th Anniversary celebration next September! Can you help? Questions or contributions can be sent to Carroll Patterson carrollpatterson@austin.rr.com or Glenda Black gblack@austin.rr.com. Please identify the photo with names and places as much as possible and equally important put *your* name on the back of the photograph so we can return it to you promptly after the celebration.



STILL SEARCHING FOR PIANISTS! Do you play the piano? We need your help for the 50th Anniversary Celebration in September! Let us know: Kay BOYD (mkdb1405@aol.com) or Barbara INNIS (bagns@sbcglobal.net).



Bits & Pieces

From Diana HOUSTON at the **Texas State Library**:
The Genealogy and Reference/Documents reading room will be closed May 17 through 21. The Archives reading room will remain open for use of archival records only. We are entering the final stages of our renovation. *We are all excited about opening a fully-functioning facility in June.* (emphasis added)



Excerpted from a Press Release by FGS, April 27, 2010: The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) has launched a national fundraiser to digitally preserve the War of 1812 Pension files. Called “**Preserve the Pensions!**,” this is an endeavor to raise \$3.7 million and enable online access by historians and family researchers to the recollections and biographies of those who fought to protect our nation’s independence.

The War of 1812, often referred to as America’s second war for independence, significantly shaped this country’s identity both internationally and domestically.

The pension records for this war consist of more than 7.2 million documents in 180,000 files. These are some of the most requested and heavily used records held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

FGS is committed to projects that link the genealogical community and advance the cause of preserving records and making them more accessible.

Those interested in learning more, contributing to the project, or wanting additional information should contact FGS via their website at www.fgs.org/1812, or contact Curt WITCHER at 260-421-1226 or 1812@FGS.org.



Speaking of FGS, their annual conference is sched-

uled for August 18th through 21st. This year’s conference is co-hosted by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society and will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee. Some of the genealogists featured on the hit NBC show “Who Do You Think You Are?” will be making presentations at this conference. This year’s theme is “Rediscovering America’s First Frontier.” To find out more about the conference and register online, please check the FGS website at www.fgs.org/2010conference/. Look for more details in next month’s newsletter.



Roots Television: If you haven’t discovered Roots Television yet, be sure to check out this website. Roots Television (which is viewed on your computer) offers free genealogy and family history videos. Topics include conferences, how-to, DNA, African roots, British research, Irish family history, Hispanic roots, libraries, archives, reunions, photo restoration, and more. There is a wealth of information available at this site and you can watch the videos at your leisure. Search for a video topic you are interested in or just browse through the list of offerings. The website is: www.rootstelevision.com.

Editors Corner: Did you see the “masked” good news? Diana Houston didn’t just say the TSL would be closed a few days in May, she said it would be open in June! That’s just next month ... finally! I’m really looking forward to that.

I hope you found some other helpful and interesting information in this issue. I’m always open to information you think would be appropriate to include here.

Till next time, keep researching and 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.***

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