



The *Austin Genealogical Society* Newsletter

May 2011

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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Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Program: "The Home Front During the Civil War"

Presented by: Teri FLACK

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!

"The Home Front During the Civil War" This spring marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. When genealogists think of this war, we usually think of the military and the battles. We focus on military records, like pension files, to understand our ancestors who served during the war. But, most of the population, North and South, did not fight battles. They didn't join the military. Maybe they stayed home and kept the home fires burning. Or, maybe they left their homes and moved to another state to escape the war. Or, maybe they refused to serve because they opposed the war, putting them in a different kind of jeopardy. Or, maybe they provided defense of the frontier.

Using the voices of many people, Teri's presentation will describe the home front and how the war affected those left behind. Teri will show you how to find clues that will help you locate and illuminate your home front ancestors.



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A 6th generation Texan, Teri E. FLACK has been researching her family history for over 25 years. She's a board member of the Austin Genealogical Society, serving as Treasurer. She also serves the Texas State Genealogical Society as chair of the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) and is the Texas state liaison to the national RPAC. She is a former board member of TSGS and served on the Board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Teri presented two sessions at the 2009 FGS national conference; she was the opening keynote speaker at the TSGS annual conference in 2010.

Teri completed the Advanced Methodology Course at the National Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University and the National Institute for Genealogical Research at the National Archives in Washington, DC. She's a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Teri retired in May, 2009 after working for the state of Texas for over 26 years – most recently as Special Advisor to the Commissioner of Higher Education and Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education. Previously, she was Director of Governmental Relations and Public Information for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Chief Investigator for the Texas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. Teri holds a B. S. in Education with History major, an MBA, and a graduate Paralegal Certificate from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University-San Marcos). Teri returned to Texas State University in fall 2010 to pursue a Master's in History with a concentration in Public History.

AGS Business

The Board of Directors met in regular session at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, prior to the general meeting. The following items were discussed and actions taken:

The results of the poll taken regarding electronic publication of the Quarterlies and the Membership Directory showed votes as follows — Quarterly: 171 for electronic, 36 for paper; Member Directory: 171 for electronic, 42 for paper. Approximately 57 members did not respond. All Quarterlies, except the last two for 2010, and all Newsletters are posted on the AGS website in the Members Only section. Indexes for the Quarterlies are also posted on the website under the "Quarterlies" tab.

The Board agreed to proceed with an application to TSGS for an Archival Grant for the cost of digitizing the AGS Quarterlies last year.

Board Member Mary TODD reported that she and Karin BRANAMAN will be completing their review of the AGS financial records for 2010 and will submit their

report at the AGS Board Meeting in May.

Program Chair Jane SCHWENDINGER reported that our meeting in June will be presented by James HARKINS, Public Service Director of the Texas General Land Office and will be held at the TGLO building at 1700 Congress. (See more about this on page 5.)

Membership Chair Maud CAIN reported there are now a total of 319 members including 20 new members and nine returning members from previous years.

Maud also advised that as a new member of the Burnet Genealogical Society, she has learned they are currently raising funds to purchase a digital microfilm reader/printer. A discussion regarding whether AGS could contribute to this effort followed. The matter was tabled until more information could be obtained and presented.

Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED reported that the Q will be out in a couple of weeks and will contain 44-

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48 pages.

A motion was passed to again hold a writing contest for Quarterly submission in 2011. The criteria for the contest will remain the same as last year. (See more information on page 4.)

The Board unanimously congratulated Randy on his recent appointment to the Board of Directors of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. As part of that organization, Randy will be part of their Publications and Outreach Committees.

President Sharon FOLEY announced that in response to the request for help published in last month's

Newsletter, we now have a very qualified volunteer assisting us with publicity for AGS meetings, special events, and activities through various social media and other online outlets. Jennifer WHITLEY responded immediately to the request for help and has already been actively engaged in a number of activities. The Board extends a huge THANK YOU to Jen. We appreciate your taking on this challenge and look forward to working with you.

Missy HARRIS reminded us that the Texas Declaration of Independence would be on display at the Texas State Library through April 29th and asked that this information be announced at the general meeting.

Membership

Membership Chair Maud CAIN reported there were 56 members and 2 visitors at the April meeting

The visitors were: Carol LINDEMAN from Takema Park, MO and Laura GRACY from Austin

Since last month's report, we have added the following new members to the AGS role:

Lauren M. CAPLE of Austin, 78758

Nancy MOON of Austin, 78758

Gregory & Jennifer NOEL of Austin, 78746

Lucy DUNCAN of Austin, 78747

Gale THOMPSON of Lakeway, 78734

Carol EVERETTE of Leander, 78644

Anita POWELL of Austin, 78759

We welcome all of you to AGS and hope to meet you soon!

Hospitality

Our appreciation goes out to Sharon TIEMAN, Maurine ATWOOD, Mary Jane ERMIS and Connie PERDUE for providing the munchies at last month's meeting and also to Shirley MEYER and Loyce McCULLOUGH for serving as greeters .

Greeters scheduled for the May meeting are Nancy STEVENS and Bryan SNYDER . Those scheduled to bring refreshments for us are Cynthia RODRIGUEZ, James HOLLAS, Nancy STEVENS and Eva HUDDESTON.

Special thanks to Sheila SARGENT and her helpers, Mary Jane ERMIS and Sharon TIEMAN for keeping the refreshment table full.

The AGS Membership Directory has been completed and is now available in the Members Only section of the AGS website. The Directory will be updated monthly with additions of new or renewing members, together with any address, phone number, or other changes for current members. Directory editor Jean MAROSTICA requests that you check your listing and advise her of any corrections or additions that are needed. Contact Jean at jmarostica@sbcglobal.net.

AGS Calendar of Activities

Tuesday, May 24, 2011— AGS regular monthly meeting. “**The Home Front During the Civil War.**”

Saturday, June 18, 2011 — **Breaking Brick Walls** session at the Austin History Center

Tuesday, June 28, 2011 — AGS regular meeting at a **different location!** James HARKINS, Director of Public Services at the TGLO Presents: “Genealogical and Historical Resources at the Texas General Land Office” See more about this on page 5.

Other Educational Opportunities

Saturday, May 14th

**Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group
(AustinGenSIG)**

**Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library
7051 Village Center Dr. (off Far West Blvd.)
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Free

James HOLLAS presents “Google for Genealogists” and Jane SCHWENDINGER presents “Mocavo: The New Search Site Just for Genealogists.”

Check the AustinGenSIG [website](#) for program information or contact John MAROSTICA (John@marostica.org) for more information.

AGS Quarterly News

Writing contest continued for 2011

Last year, the AGS Quarterly writing contest was such a success, we are doing it again this year. The contest is open to all AGS members and Quarterly editor Randy WHITED is ready to receive your submissions in the following categories

- ◆ Original research (well researched, proper source citations, analysis of data)
- ◆ Entertaining stories (a pleasure to read, draws the reader’s attention)
- ◆ Compilations (transcriptions, extractions, etc.)

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, original research, etc., etc. If you have a story or information you’ve been working on or planning, now is the time to get it into shape for publication!

SPECIAL NOTICE

The **June** meeting will feature James HARKINS, Director of Public Services at the Texas General Land Office, presenting “Genealogical and Historical Resources at the Texas General Land Office”

Special location for this meeting!

Texas General Land Office at 1700 Congress Avenue
A guided tour of the GLO facility will be offered beginning at 5:30

Every state has a department that deals with historic and current land boundary records. In Texas, this is the Texas General Land Office, but in virtually every state, there are land records that have great genealogical and historical value to family researchers. At this meeting, you will learn what these records are and what they can mean to your successful research. For a glimpse into the information available at this particular repository, take a look at their website: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/index.html>

AGS members will travel to the largest public genealogy library in the world!

AGS Research trip organizer Pat OXLEY reminds us that the AGS-sponsored research trip to the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is scheduled for October 3-8. There are still some rooms available in the hotel block we have reserved. For specific details on the trip, click [here](#) to access the flier from the AGS website. This library takes up an entire city block in downtown Fort Wayne. The Genealogy Center takes up virtually half of the floor space on the 2nd floor!

If you have not researched at this library before, you are missing a really good value for your research dollar. The ACPL Genealogy Center has a wealth of publications that cannot be found at other locations. These records include “an extensive collection of 350,000 printed volumes, more than 513,000 items of microfilm and microfiche, and more than 55,000 volumes of compiled genealogies which represents research al-

ready begun on many North American and European families. These compilations range from brief type-scripts to well documented multi-volume works. Nearly 5,000 genealogies on microfiche, numerous family newsletters and access to thousands of online family trees complement these resources and can give you a head start on your own searches.” (From the ACPL-GC brochure). The website for ACPL also has a great deal of information that will help you plan your trip. Visit them at <http://www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx>.

To reserve your spot on this trip, please send your check for \$100 (made out to AGS) to Pat OXLEY, 2012 Red Oak Circle, Round Rock, TX 78681. Send questions to Pat at the above address or email her at pat@theoxleys.com. Please specify your desire for either a single or double room (and give the name of your roommate). Please also include your email and phone number. Final payment is due August 15, 2011.

Bits & Pieces

We all know about Findagrave.com, but have you used it in your research. Recently Kay BOYD was looking around on that website and found that volunteers had connected her husband's family back to his great, great grandfather born in 1776 by using photos on this site. In most instances, siblings and children were also listed. Although none of the information was new to her, some of the photos were and Kay says, “I was impressed with all of the research that others have done and posted. Of course I sent a thank you note. Keep searching.” ... and thank you, Kay, for the reminder about an under-used resource!

Getting to Know You!

For the next few months, this column will help you get to know the members of the Board of Directors.



**RANDY
WHITED**

Randy W. WHITED has been an avid genealogist for almost thirty years. His curiosity was first piqued during a Career Day presentation in 1981. Genealogy has meshed well with his other interests in puzzles, technology, and history.

As a member of the Austin Genealogical Society since 2005, Randy has been involved with the Society by teaching beginner's classes, leading monthly and special programs, and he is currently serving a second term on its Board of Directors. Randy is in his fourth year as Editor of the AGS Quarterly, for which he has twice been honored by the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Randy is currently serving as 2nd Vice President of the Williamson County Genealogical Society and is a frequent speaker there. In addition, he was recently appointed to the FGS Board of Directors where he is serving on three committees: Publications, Technology, and Outreach.

A lifelong Texan, Randy is an alumnus of the University of Texas, having graduated with a BA in Astronomy. He resides in Pflugerville, Texas, with his wife and twin daughters.

AGS WEBSITE INFORMATION

The login and password for the Members' Only section of the [AGS website](#) have been changed. The new information is:

logon: ags2011

password: aU5t!n

Karin BRANAMAN's family search began with two family reunions - one in 2002 and another in 2006. With many family members staying together in one big house, there was a lot of talk about the past. Many of her questions could not be answered, so she started her own research. On a subsequent visit with her parents, Karin's dad, whose roots are in Iowa, Nebraska and Pennsylvania, presented her with a book of his family's genealogy that was over 1,000 pages and was printed in 1930, then updated in 1969.



**KARIN
BRANAMAN**

Aunts on her mother's side offered to help as much as they could because no one else had taken interest in the family before. But because of her mother's Native American heritage in Michigan, Karin has hit a number of brick walls on her mom's side.

Karin joined AGS in 2007. She loves attending seminars and has been to the beginners class about three times with the belief that it helps her keep up-to-date and learn new things. Karin is also a member of Boerne's Genealogy Group.

When not doing genealogy, Karin collects U.S. lighthouses and stories about them and has been scrapbooking for about nine years. She says this, too, is a never ending project and she is making scrapbooks for each of her children, a camping scrapbook, and now a scrapbook for her granddaughter, Mckenzie, who she usually takes care of Monday through Thursday while her mother is taking college courses.

Odds & Ends

Russlene WAUKECHON, from the Texas State Library and Archives, posted the following on April 12th on the TexShare mailing list:

“Librarians across Texas have been wondering what impact the budget reductions will have on the core database menu for the TexShare consortium member libraries. The Electronic Information Working Group met several times to work with the budget changes and adjust the database menu for the July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012, time period.

“By critically looking at the budget and working with the vendors, all content has been retained with the exception of 2 resources. Gale’s InfoTrac Newsstand and Health and Wellness Resource Center with Alternative Health Module were not renewed. All other content in the core has been retained. Below is what will be available as the core menu list for 2011-2012.”

(This list has been modified from the original posting to address those items more likely to be of interest to genealogists and historians.)

Ebsco:

Bibliography of Native North Americans
Internet & Personal Computing
Military & Government Collection
Newspaper Source
Texas Reference Center
TOPICsearch
World History Collection

ProQuest:

20th Century English Poetry
20th Century American Poetry
Heritage Quest
Sanborn Maps

OCLC's World Cat
TDNet

Contact databases@tsl.state.tx.us for additional information.

Opportunity to Index County Tax Rolls for Texas

The Texas State Genealogical Society is partnering with FamilySearch to index the Texas County Tax Rolls 1837-1910. There are over 4 million images in this project. To find out more information about the project go to: <https://indexing.familysearch.org/projtab/viewProject.jsf?url=USTexas-CountyTaxRolls1837-1910PartA/ProjectHelp1.html> (Watch for text wrapping or try this link: <http://tinyurl.com/3b4ksdr>)

Have you never indexed through FamilySearch before? Check out this Youtube link for additional information... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wm-BHjS1Pg0>

Editor's Corner:

Thanks for reading another AGS Newsletter. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Send them me at the newsletter email address on page eight.

Did you make it to the Mini-Seminar with Paula Stuart-Warren? If not, you missed some excellent information!

Randy WHITED reminds us that the AGS Quarterly is *always* a “Member edition” and he welcomes member contributions.

Until next month, stay cool, and

Happy Trackin’,

Janis

2011 Board of Directors

Term ending 2011:	Term Ending 2012:
Kate ALLEN	Karin BRANAMAN
Maud CAIN	Earle McBRIDE
Teri FLACK	Sharon FOLEY
Dona KURTZ	Missy HARRIS
Mary TODD	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Randy WHITED	Janis TRAYLER

2011 Officers

President	Sharon FOLEY
1 st Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2 nd Vice President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Recording Secretary	Kate ALLEN
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 Are Always Welcome!

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