



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

May 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](#)
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Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 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: I Bet You Didn't Know That!
Presented by: Jane Schwendinger

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!



AGS 2nd Vice President Jane SCHWENDINGER and AGS President Sharon FOLEY will moderate this month's presentation entitled "I Bet You Didn't Know That!" but



your input is needed for this program!

You should have received an email blast requesting you to submit your favorite genealogy secret that facilitates your pursuit of ancestors to Jane at programs@austintxgensoc.org. Send a brief description of your favorite or "secret" book, website, app, device, source, or other resource that has been beneficial in your research and that you think others may not have discovered.

On May 22nd, we will disclose everyone's secrets and you will learn what few others know that you may be able to incorporate into your genealogical efforts. Join us at the regular time and place to enjoy a fun and informative monthly meeting! (See more on page 3.)

AGS Business: From the Minutes of the Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, April 24th, prior to the regular Society meeting. In Sharon FOLEY's absence, Janis TRAYLER presided over the meeting. The following items were discussed and action taken.

Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer's report for March was accepted as submitted.

AGS Website

Webmaster Dona KURTZ advised that the website update is progressing, although slower than anticipated and it is more likely to be mid- to late-May when the new website is ready. (See more on page [six](#).)

AGS Mini-Seminar

The Board agreed upon a \$500 speaker's fee for Lloyd BOCKSTRUCK, presenter at the spring mini-seminar.

AGS Member Survey

Jennifer WHITLEY reported that preparations for the AGS member survey are virtually complete and it will be submitted to the Board for review. (Note: Refer to the article on page [six](#) for more information about the survey.)

Publicity & Publicity Events

AGS Publicity Chair Jennifer WHITLEY reports continued success getting information about our meetings and activities publicized in the online calendars of KXAN and YNN, along with being published in Austin 360 (American Statesman) and included on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Financial Review Committee

Jim COOPER was asked by presiding officer Janis TRAYLER to chair the Financial Review Committee and enroll one or two general members to assist with the review. Jim agreed and will report back to the Board at the May meeting. (NOTE: See additional information on page [three](#).)

A general discussion was held around future projects for the year. On the list of possibilities are a 1940 Census Indexing party and one or more Brickwall Saturdays. Randy WHITED will look into these and other options.

February's speaker, Sylvia NIMMO, requested that her honorarium go towards the purchase of research materials. The board agreed that the funds would go to the Carver Genealogy Center which is scheduled to open in the early Fall.



ATTENDANCE REPORT for the AGS meeting on April 24, 2012: About 70 people attended the meeting. The following visitors were present:

Glenda MARTIN	Colleen EDWARDS
Connie ROBERTS	Robbie EDWARDS
Rebecca ROBINSON-FRANCIS	

We hope each of you will visit us again soon.



AGS welcomes the following new members since the last report:

Kathryn CASE	Austin 78703
Oneva "Mimi" CLIFTON	Johnson City 78636
Billie Altum COOPER	Johnson City 78636
Pat GUELKER	Austin 78731
Lori HENRY	Austin 78757
Helen HICKS	Medina 78005
Janice JENKINS	Austin 78745
Dorothy WILLIAMS	Austin 78758
Lezlie MARKEY	Austin 78749

... and

New LIFE MEMBER:

James HADLEY - Austin 78714

We are so glad to have all of you join us and hope to have many opportunities to get to know you!

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

HOSPITALITY REPORT. Our thanks go out to Betty Jean STEINKE who served as greeter at the April meeting. Our thanks also extend to Sheila SARGENT who was in charge at the refreshment table and to Leslie INMAN, Lucy DUNCAN, and Carol PATTERSON who brought refreshments.

Scheduled as greeters for May are Carroll PATTERSON and Glenda BLACK. Refreshments will be provided by Carolyn GRESHAM, Mary Jane ERMIS, Loyce McCULLOUGH, Jacquie WILSON, and Sue Ann BUNNER. Be sure to thank them if you get the chance!

AGS Business Update

Due to family and personal health issues, we regret to advise that Jim COOPER is stepping down from chairing the financial review committee and the bylaws review committees.

Jennifer WHITELY has agreed to take over the financial review committee. She and Jim SCHWENDINGER will complete that task this month and provide

their report to the Board.

The Board will address the need for a new chair for the bylaws review committee at the next regular meeting later this month.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim and his family.

Program Notes

Request from Program Chair, Jane SCHWENDINGER

“I Bet You Didn’t Know That” is the challenge for our May meeting. You will learn so much at our May 22nd meeting as we pool *your* special knowledge with that of other members about anything and everything genealogy.

By now you should have received an AGS email requesting you to submit your secrets that others may not know about — out of the ordinary websites, research facilities, blogs, books, devices, software applications, methodologies, out-of-the-way libraries, other genealogical societies, historical societies, etc. If you have a favorite corner of the Allen County Public Library or the Texas State Library in which to spread out your notes while researching, tell us about it. Or, tell us about the little known website that connected you with your fourth cousin from Vermont.

Send a brief description and enough information for others to find it to programs@austintxgensoc.org. We

will combine all submissions into a presentation and you’ll go home to research with a handout full of information and be totally energized about continuing to research in new places and ways.

Although not required, we hope you will include your name and city/state so we can acknowledge your contribution.

ATTENTION REMOTE MEMBERS!

This is an *excellent* way for you to participate in the program! We hope to hear from you ... especially about resources in *your* area that can be helpful to all members everywhere.



AGS Activities

Tuesday May 22nd — Regular AGS meeting

Program: “I Bet You Didn’t Know That ...” presented by AGS Members. Go back to page [three](#) for additional information on this program.



Tuesday, June 26th— Regular AGS meeting

Program: How to Use the New Family Search website presented by Karen MATHESON.



Friday, June 8th — AGS Bus Trip to Clayton Genealogy Library in Houston

The bus for the AGS day-trip to Clayton Library in Houston is already half-full. Do not wait too long to reserve your seat for the opportunity to do some hands-on genealogy research at one of the best genealogical research facilities in Texas.

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, a light breakfast, box supper, and drinks. What a great deal!!



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, but seating is limited to 50 people. May 21st is the reservation deadline. If you have not joined us on one of these trips before, we would love to have you join us! Even the trip to and from Houston can be a lot of fun. Click [here](#) for a registration form.

Saturday, October 20, 2012 — AGS Fall Mini-Seminar



It is not too early to mark your calendar for October 20, 2012, which is the date of our next exciting Fall Mini-Seminar with J. Mark Lowe. The Fall Mini-Seminar will be somewhat longer, with the addition of a fourth topic. Mark’s topics include:

Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan

Learn a simple technique for breaking down difficult research problems into manageable segments. Learn to get more research done while remaining focused.

Planning Around That Brick Wall

By reviewing our research, and taking a fresh planning approach, take new opportunities to solve those family problems. Use the very evidence that stops you in your tracks to spring over the walls.

My Ancestor, the Farmer: Shaping a profile for you Rural Ancestor

Farming is a proud and honorable occupation. Develop a rich profile of your farming ancestor and community using available resources.

Over the Mountain, Across the Plains... Using Electronic Records to Trace Our Ancestors

Your ancestors moved westward, now follow them as they move back east. Knowing where to look for valuable records will reward you with insights and research plans.

Other Genealogical Activities

Saturday, May 12, 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

“A Look at Mapping Software”
Presented by John MAROSTICA

Mapping software can be useful to genealogists in many different ways: Confirming state and county boundaries, defining the boundaries of a track of land, measuring the size of a parcel of land, or measuring the distance between two pieces of land, mapping software can be invaluable.



We will look at the Texas General Land Office's GIS Mapping Application, the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, AniMap and Centennia, and Deed Mapper.

We will also discuss any programs or mapping stories you bring to (or tell me about before) the meeting.

Come join us, as we learn together!



6th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Two Special All-Day Workshops; and

Friday & Saturday, July 20 & 21, 2012

Eight speakers offering 24 sessions

Angelina College Campus 3500 South First Street (Hwy 59 South) – two miles south of Loop 187 In Lufkin, Texas, the hub of the East Texas region, located in the beautiful Piney Woods of East Texas



Wednesday, August 29—Saturday, September 1, 2012

Genealogists from around the country and around the world, those who are members of genealogical societies and those who are not, are ALL INVITED to attend the **2012 Annual Conference for the Federation of Genealogical Societies**. This year's conference, set for **August 29 – September 1, 2012**, is being held in **Birmingham, Alabama**, and is co-hosted by the Alabama Genealogical Society. The theme is **“Indians, Squatters, Settlers, and Soldiers in the ‘Old Southwest’.”**

This year's conference offers genealogists an outstanding venue and setting for a superb genealogical education and research experience.

Nearly 160 educational presentations by leading genealogical experts are available at the FGS 2012 conference in Birmingham—all designed for the beginning to expert genealogist! We are sure you will agree that the presentations being offered cover a wide array of topics and interests.

For more information and registration information, check the FGS conference website by clicking the logo or using <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference>.



Did you notice?

You can now click on the title of the article in the [Table of Contents](#) and go directly to that page!



Heard around the library's copy machine...

Genealogy without documentation is mythology.

Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.

When we were young, we did not ask questions; now that we're old, there is no one to answer them.

Help Wanted - and received!



Our thanks extend to Martha CARPENTER who answered Sharon FOLEY's "help wanted" ad for a Volunteer Coordinator in last month's newsletter. Martha is a delightful lady and will be the person we call when we need help finding people to help with short-term tasks for AGS. If you get a call from Martha, please say "yes" if it is at all possible! And THANKS, Martha, for volunteering!

AGS FamilySearch Indexers

Thanks to the AGS members who are indexing for Family Search through AGS. Here is a list of those volunteers. If you know of someone we have missed, please let us know.

Raymond CHAVEZ, Anne COOPER, Jim COOPER, Jennye DARNELL, Mary DUKE, Carolyn GRESHAM, Faye Anne HUNT, Michael JOHNSON, Dona KURTZ, Bettye SHORT, Lisa ROWLEE-SMITH, Bea SNEED, Janis TRAYLER, Jacquie WILSON, and Jen WHITLEY.

Website News

Webmaster Dona KURTZ advises that she has recently talked with our consultant on this project, Parker SHORT. He is still working on the site and hopes to have the existing content moved over to the new site very soon. We are not quite ready to announce a firm launch date yet because there are a few features that Dona asked him to look into that will help

us streamline our PayPal process and online membership management. Dona will then need to verify the features and content prior to opening the new site, but in her words, "All in all though, things are looking good."

Until then, please continue to access the current website. See the login information on page [eight](#).

AGS Member Survey

Member survey available soon!

Keep your eye on your email! You'll soon see a message from AGS asking you to participate in a member survey. Jen WHITLEY and your board of directors have designed the survey to help us understand what we value about our AGS membership and what ideas we have for our society's future programs and projects.

The survey, which will be conducted online, is completely anonymous, so please give us your honest opinions.

The results will be made available to all members in the form of a summary PDF file. Feel free to contact Jen WHITLEY at communications@austintxgensoc.org with any questions.

Condolences

Our condolences go out to AGS Member Nancy STEVENS and her family on the death of Nancy's mother, Dorothy Mae ROWAN who died April 16, 2012 in Austin at age 93. She was born November 3, 1918, in Niobrara, Nebraska, to Ethel Delilah WRIGHT and Melvin Orlando HAGERMAN. In 1940, she began working for the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. as a

legal secretary. It was there that she married James Gerard Michael ROWAN on July 19, 1947.

She was survived by two daughters and one son, numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. The full obituary is online at <http://wcfish.tributes.com/show/Dorothy-Mae-Rowan-93664868>

Bits & Pieces

Recently posted through the AGS mailing list (tx-ags@rootsweb.com):

FROM Kay BOYD: Are you on [Facebook](#)? There is so much help available in the [Ancestry.com](#) group. Be in contact with 5,000 people who help each other with brick wall questions, census concerns, identify photos, etc. I am impressed with all of the help others share.

FROM: Rondina P. MUNCY, Ancestral Analysis: are you on the [Transitional Genealogist Forum](#)? (Found on the Rootsweb list of forums.) The TGF list is for intermediate genealogist, but is good reading for amateurs; and

Are you aware that Elizabeth Shown MILLS has begun a site call [EvidenceExplained.com](#)? This forum covers more than citations and I recommend it for anyone serious about learning good genealogical methods.

I Found It At the Archives!

There is still time to vote for AGS Member Connie PERDUE's entry in the "I Found It At the Archives" contest. Check out her essay at <http://www2.archivists.org/initiatives/i-found-it-in-the-archives/i-found-it-in-the-archives-2012-national-competition>. That

should take you to the webpage with the all of the entries. The voting box is on the right side of the page. If needed, you can copy and paste the website address at left into your browser.

THE VOTING DEADLINE IS MAY 15TH!

Good luck, Connie!

PRESERVE THE PENSIONS

In April of 2010, the Federation of Genealogical Societies announced its intention to join in the effort to preserve the vast number of pension applications and other documents related to the War of 1812.

The War of 1812, often referred to as America's second war for independence, significantly shaped this country's identity both internationally and domestically. It was during the War of 1812 that the "Star-Spangled Banner" was written and that the White House was burned. Some of the great leaders of our country, including three presidents, took part in this conflict. Nearly 300,000 men served, including members of at least eighteen Native American tribes.

The pension records for the War of 1812 consist of more than 7.2 million documents in 180,000 files. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) receives more than three thousand requests per year for War of 1812 pensions, placing them among the most requested sets of records. Digitizing these valuable records will preserve the originals by removing them from continued heavy use. It will also make the images of the records much more widely available.

Genealogists, historians, and scholars of military history have long appreciated the value of pension files. A typical pension file may contain documents that describe a veteran's service as well as why he, his widow, or his dependents qualify for a pension. In the cases of widows' and dependents' filings, there are typically a number of documents proving the claimant is related to the veteran. The testimony of a veteran's comrades can provide unique and valuable data on what military life entailed, the rigors of everyday camp life, and details of particular skirmishes and battles. You may discover numerous details of an ancestor's life in these pension files, some of which may be many dozens of pages long.

AGS is a supporter of this on-going project and encourages our members to consider this "Save the Pensions" effort a project worthy of your support also. Those interested in contributing to the **Preserve the Pensions!** Project or wanting additional information may contact the Federation of Genealogical Societies via its website at www.fgs.org/1812, or contact Curt Witcher at 260-421-1226 or 1812@FGS.org. Go deeper by clicking the "[these files available](#)" link on that FGS page.

Editor's Corner

Please give some thought in the next few days to what goldmines of information you may have found in your research and share them with Jane SCHWENDINGER or Sharon FOLEY for the May meeting. It doesn't matter whether your best kept secret has to do with a research location, exceptional book, great website, or something your sweet Papa told you to keep in mind as you discovered the black sheep in the family; please share your wisdom and insights with us!

If you have an ancestor whose name starts with an A or a B, check out the War of 1812 pension [files](#) on [Fold3](#) (free) to see what the FGS Preserve the Pensions efforts are producing!

Until next time...

Happy Trackin',
Janis



Follow us on Facebook ...

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 information so that you do not have to enter it every time.

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 password. It will also be in this space of the Newsletter after the change.

AGS Regular Meetings **2012 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 Bet You Didn't Know That" presented by
AGS members Jane SCHWENDINGER and
Sharon FOLEY

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

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	Jacquie WILSON

2012 Officers

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

Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
(except December)
Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00
Highland Park Baptist Church
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Austin, Texas 78759

Visitors Are Always Welcome!

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