



The *Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter*

October 2010

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

Vol. 16

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

No. 10

50 YEARS & GROWING

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Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Program: School Records

Presented by: Karen MATHESON

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!

School Records is a new topic for AGS programs and, given that all of us have ancestors who attended school, this should be a very helpful presentation. For many, if not most of us, it should open up a new avenue of research.



Presenter Karen MATHESON began researching her family history many years ago, “at her mother’s knee.” She used to help her mother copy Family Group Records and Pedigree Charts to give to other family members. Karen remembers visiting relatives in the South and watching her mother copy information from family bibles, then going out to cemeteries to visit the graves of deceased ancestors. From these

humble beginnings, Karen’s interest was again sparked as an adult. Karen has now been actively and continuously researching for the past 18 years.

Prior to moving to Texas, Karen worked as a professional genealogist for Lineages, Inc. Since that time, she continues to take on private clients. Karen has volunteered many hours at the Round Rock Family History Center, where she served as the Director for five years. Karen has been a presenter at several WCGS and AGS local meetings as well as at Lifetime Learning sessions. She

has taught classes at the Round Rock Family History Center, AGS, and recently organized and carried out their first annual family history fair, "Harvest Your Family's History." Karen has also been a presenter at the East Texas Genealogical Society, and she led a roundtable discussion for the Texas State Genealogical Society at their past conference.

Karen also serves as a board member of the Williamson County Genealogical Society and is a member of the Education Committee for the Austin Genealogical Society.

Karen enjoys teaching, presenting, helping others extend their pedigrees, and catching that occasional human glimpse of her ancestors through family history.



Special Note: The display boards exhibited at the 50th Year Anniversary Celebration will be displayed again at the October and November meetings for those who have not seen the interesting information and fun photographs on them.

AGS Business

The AGS Board of Directors DID NOT meet prior to the 50th Year Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, September 28, 2010. However, the following AGS activities were conducted in September.

TSGS Contests: Issues of The Quarterly and the Newsletter have been submitted to the Texas State Genealogical Society for the writing awards competition. The AGS Website has also been entered into the new category for best genealogical society website. Winners will be announced at the TSGS annual conference in Waco in November.

Proposed Slate of Nominees for the Board of Directors:

A slate of nominees for the 2011 class of the Board of Directors was announced at the Anniversary meeting by Sara GREDLER, Chair of the Nominating Committee. The nominees on the slate are:

Karin BRANAMAN	Missy HARRIS
Sharon FOLEY	Janis TRAYLER
Alan FERGUSON	Deb VAN CLEAF

The election of the new members to the Board of Directors will be held at the October meeting. Nominations from the floor will be welcomed at that time.

Membership

There were approximately 140 members and guests attending the 50th Year Anniversary Celebration meeting on September 28th. Read more about this special occasion on page 4.

Our newest Lifetime Member is Dr. David GRACY, speaker for the 50th Anniversary Celebration and son of charter member Alice GRACY. Congratulations to Dr. GRACY and we look forward to getting to know you at future AGS meetings and events!





The membership rolls of AGS continue to grow. We **Welcome** the following **New Members** since the last report:

Cindy GIRARD of Pflugerville
Lucile Gracy HARMON of Austin
Leslie D. INMAN of Austin

Linda PAYNE of Austin
Teresa Carneal SANOFSKY of Agoura Hills, CA
Shirley SMITH of Austin

We look forward to getting to know you and seeing you soon at a regular meeting or AGS function.

Hospitality

Greeters for the October 26th meeting will be Carroll PATTERSON and Glenda BLACK.

Those scheduled to bring refreshments for the October meeting are: Edna YOUNGBLOOD, Georgia JAMES, Carroll PATTERSON and Glenda BLACK.

MEMBER MEMORIES

Tell us your story and become part of the AGS history. In a paragraph, describe an outstanding moment that happened to you as a member of the Austin Genealogical Society. Did you attend a seminar or learn a technique that helped you over a brick wall? Have you found a new cousin or two who are also members? As a member of AGS, have you developed a wonderful friendship with another member?

We want to gather these short memories and build them into our history project. We are all creating history and we want to save these memories. Tell us your story. Send your Memory to Kay Boyd at mkdb1405@aol.com. Deadline for submissions is October 31st.

Bits & Pieces

Last month, there was a post on a genealogy blog (Posterous at Family Epic) in which the blogger, Malissa RUFFNER, had an opportunity to research at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. One of the states she was interested in was Texas. While looking through the stacks, she found copies of the **AGS Quarterlies**. In browsing the indexes, she found an entry of interest to her in an issue dated 1974, Vol. XV, No 3, pp 93-94. To make a long story short, it was a goldmine of information on her WALLING family and led her to find a great deal more additional information at the Texas State Archives.

The point? Do not pass up the opportunity to look through the quarterlies or journals published by societies in the area where your ancestors lived. There are jewels to be discovered!

To see the full text of the blog, go to <http://familyepic.posterous.com/the-tip-of-the-iceberg>.

AGS—50 Years & Growing!

*From Kay BOYD and Barbara INNIS
Co-Chairs of the Anniversary Committee*

We would like to thank everyone for attending the 50th Year Anniversary Celebration last month. At 140 people, this was the largest attendance we have ever had at one of our evening events. A number of those attending were special guests:

Past Presidents:

Andrea BURKHART

Lee KINARD and wife Nancy from Burnet

Glenda KNIPSTEIN

Roberta JENKINS

John MILLER

Marilyn HENLEY and guest Gloria RUSSELL
from Houston

James HOLLAS

Charles LOCKLIN and wife Beverly

Pat OXLEY

Charter Member:

Emma Gene GENTRY—the last living charter member

Mrs. GENTRY's family: daughter Barbara Gentry SUNDAY, son David GENTRY and wife Linda, and son Rick GENTRY and wife Sharon

Nancy PRICE BOWMAN—daughter of Lucie PRICE, an early and very active AGS member

William H. (Bill) PRICE—son of Lucie PRICE

Dr. David B. GRACY, II and his wife Laura—

son of Alice DUGGAN GRACY, charter member and first President of AGS

Lucile GRACY HARMON, daughter of Alice DUGGAN GRACY

The Board of Directors and the 50th Anniversary Committee thank everyone who attended this very special occasion. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Dr. David GRACY whose presentation kept us all entertained as he shared stories about his mother, Alice D. GRACY. Mrs. Gracy was not only a charter member and the first President of the Austin Genealogical Society, she was instrumental in the initial creation of our organization.



There were a total of 18 door prizes awarded at the celebration. These included two AGS paid memberships for 2011, two subscriptions to FGS Forum Magazine (courtesy of Pat OXLEY), two 15-generation and one 9-generation family charts, three document organizers, a packet of sheet protectors, two bags of photo frames, two bags of office products, and a tombstone cleaning kit. Trish THOMPSON won a printed index to the AGS



(Continued from page 4)

Quarterlies donated by former AGS President John MILLER. A special thanks also goes to former AGS President and current FGS President Pat OXLEY for arranging for the two grand prizes: a 3-night stay at the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel won by Roberta JENKINS, and a one-year full access membership to Ancestry.com won by Shirley MEYER. James COOPER received a 2GB flash drive (courtesy of Carroll PATTERSON) for the contest to correctly identify the most locations on a 1960's era map of Austin.

The tremendous success of the AGS 50th Anniversary Celebration belongs in great measure to those who provided creative ideas and helping hands. Kay BOYD and Barbara INNIS, Co-Chairs of the event, wish to recognize and thank the following members who contributed their time and their talents in making the anniversary evening spectacular:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kate ALLEN | Richard FOSTER | Jean MAROSTICA | Sheila SARGENT |
| Glenda BLACK | Sara GREDLER | John MAROSTICA | Bob TIEMAN |
| Andrea BURKHART | Wynnette HARRIS | Karen MATHESON | Mary TODD |
| Maud CAIN | James HOLLAS | Jan MOODY | Joann TRAVER |
| Inez EPPRIGHT | Bobbie HUDNALL | Pat OXLEY | Janis TRAYLER |
| Teri FLACK | Harold HUDNALL | Carroll PATTERSON | Randy WHITED |
| Sharon FOLEY | Roberta JENKINS | Shirley ROBERTS | Edna YOUNGBLOOD |
| Cindy FOREMAN | Dona KURTZ | Cynthia RODRIGUEZ | Arlene ZIRKEL |
| Lorrie FOSTER | Charles LOCKLIN | Robert SAGE | |

The 50th Anniversary Committee:

Co-Chairs: Kay BOYD and Barbara INNIS

Committee Members:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Andrea BURKHART | Charles LOCKLIN |
| Lorrie HENDERSON | Carroll PATTERSON, and |
| James HOLLAS | Edna YOUNGBLOOD |
| Roberta JENKINS | |

SAVE THE DATE!!



**For the annual AGS Research Trip
to the Allen County Public Library
Fort Wayne, Indiana
October 2-8, 2011**

6 nights at the Hilton Hotel
Transportation (and tip to driver) to/from airport
Dinner and talk with Curt Witcher Sunday evening
Friday night pizza party after library closes
Hospitality Room stocked with snacks & beverages
\$380 (Double Occupancy) \$690 (Single Occupancy)

Click [here](#) for more information on the AGS website!

AGS Calendar of Activities

Tuesday, October 26 — The **Regular Meeting** will include **election** of the 2011 class of the Board of Directors

Program: "School Records" presented by Karen MATHESON.



Tuesday, November 30—Regular Meeting

NOTE: This meeting will be after Thanksgiving—on the **5th Tuesday** and will be the last meeting of 2010.

Program: "To Post or Not to Post: The Good, Bad, and Ugly" presented by Cindy FOREMAN and Sara GREDLER.

AGS Educational Opportunities

Saturday, November 20, 2010

Laptop Saturday

Spicewood Springs Branch Library
8637 Spicewood Springs Road, Austin
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



NOTE THE NEW DATE!

John MAROSTICA will present "Blogs and Social Networking." Laptop Saturdays are free workshops where an AGS member will share about a technology topic. These workshops are informal and discussion and participation from attendees is encouraged. Bring your laptop if you have one, or if not, you can look on with others.

Other Educational Opportunities

2nd Saturdays—Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group—contact John MAROSTICA for more information or check their website at www.austingensig.com.



San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society
51st ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR

October 16, 2010, 8:30 – 4:00

Doubletree Downtown in Market Square
(formerly the Radisson)

Featured Speaker: Dr. John Philip COLLETTA

For more information, check their website at www.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2/Pages/News.htm

Beginning Genealogy Workshop

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Registration - 8:30 a.m.

Workshop - 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Ye Kendall Inn, 128 W. Blanco Road, Boerne, TX

Registration Fee: \$40

This workshop is presented by the **Texas Hill Country Trail** and sponsored by the **Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau**. For more information or a registration form, email Ann BRANSON at hctrail@fbgtx.org or call 830-739-1362. To see a full brochure, click [here](#) to visit the Texas Hill Country Trail website.





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The **Williamson County Genealogical Society**, the **Round Rock Public Library**, and **Friends of RRPL** present **GENEALOGY AFTER HOURS**

Friday, October 22nd, 6:00—10:00 p.m.

Round Rock Public Library

216 E. Main Street, Round Rock, TX

Free

One of the most popular events for WCGS! Join them at the Round Rock Public Library after closing hours, when the genealogists take over the library! There will be speakers, classes, free access to internet databases, snacks, and lots of help answering your genealogy questions.



Texas State Genealogical Society

2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bridging Generations: 50 Years of the Texas State Genealogical Society

November 5-6, 2010

Waco, TX

At the **Hilton Waco**, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco, Texas, just across the street from the Waco Suspension Bridge over the Brazos River.

Friday's featured speaker is our own **Teri FLACK** whose topics are "*Finding Your Ancestors in the Republic of Texas*" and "*Keeping the Home Fires Burning: The Texas Homefront During the Civil War.*"

Saturday's featured speaker is **Barbara Vines LITTLE** who will speak on two methodology topics: "*Using Census*" and "*Teasing the Silent Woman*" and two Virginia Research topics: "*Born in Virginia*" and "*Digging Deeper in Virginia.*"

Registration is now open. Click [here](#) for access to the conference schedule and the registration form.



SAVE TEXAS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM sponsored by Commissioner Jerry PATTERSON and the Texas General Land Office

Saturday, November 6, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Texas General Land office in the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Ave., **Austin**

Topic "Discovering Spanish and Mexican Texas."

Registration fee: \$25 per person.

Call 1-800-998-4456 or email archives@glo.state.tx.us to register. Click [here](#) for the online registration form.

Guest speakers include Texas State Historian Dr. Light CUMMINS, former Texas State Historian Dr. Frank de la TEJA, and Dr. Felix D. ALMARAZ. Click [here](#) to read more about the Save Texas History Symposium.

For more information about what you can do to help save Texas history, go to <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/OC/savetxhist/index.html>.



Tejano Genealogy Workshop

Saturday, November 13, Austin History Center

810 Guadalupe Street, Austin, TX

Registration: **12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.**

Workshop: **1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Click [here](#) for more information or cut and paste: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/downloads/gen_reg.pdf



Harvest Your Family History!

A Genealogy Fair hosted by the Round Rock Family History Center

Saturday, November 20, 2010

8:30 am – 2:00 pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

8140 Racine Trail, Austin 78717

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Free to the public; all individuals age 12 and older are invited to attend. Please look for a brochure at your local genealogical society meeting for class offerings and registration information. We ask that you please notify us about which of the twelve great classes you would like to attend!

A printed syllabus of the course materials is available for \$2.50. Please let us know before October 31 if you want one. Printed copies can be picked up the day of the Fair. A free digital copy of the syllabus will also be available online one week prior to the Fair. Registrants will be provided a link by which

they can access the materials.

Questions? Feel free to email us at [harvestfamilyhistory@gmail.com!](mailto:harvestfamilyhistory@gmail.com)



ROOTS, BOOTS & BRISKET

Saturday, November 6, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by the Austin Oak Hills Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Location: 5201 Convict Hill Road, Oak Hill, Texas

A day full of genealogy classes and free brisket lunch.

Free to genealogists and their families.

Events of Interest

Murder, Mayhem, and Misadventure IV

Oakwood Cemetery, 1601 Comal St., Austin

Saturday October 30, 2010 Tours will begin every 30 minutes between 10:00 - 4:00 on a first come, first served basis.

FREE to the public.

Save Austin's Cemeteries again hosts the Oakwood Cemetery walking tour for Halloween, highlighting the lives and dramatic deaths of Austin's early citizens. Thoroughly researched from historic newspaper accounts and sexton records, these chilling tales of 19th and early 20th century murders and other untimely deaths will shed new light on Austin's history and put you in a ghoulish mood!

AGS members are invited to join the **Rose Hill Cemetery Association** on **Saturday, October 23rd at 10:30 a.m.** to celebrate the **dedication of the Historic Marker for the Rose Hill Cemetery** (in case of rain, dedication will be postponed until Nov. 13th). The cemetery is located a few miles northeast of Manor and directions may be accessed at the [AGS Cemeteries page](#).

AGS WEBSITE

The AGS Website has been entered into the new "website" category competition sponsored by the Texas State Genealogical Society. Winners will be announced at the TSGS annual meeting on November 6th in Waco.

The **Members Only** section information has a great deal of information available and a number of links to other websites that may be of help to you.

The **login ID** is **agsmember** and the **password** is **gene.AGS** (case sensitive).



Odds & Ends

War of 1812 PRESERVE THE PENSIONS! project

FGS is working with the National Archives and member societies for the next few years to digitally record the records associated with the 180,000 pension files related to the War of 1812.

2010 will be the bi-centennial of the War of 1812. Often referred to as America's second war for independence, this conflict significantly shaped this country's identity both internationally and domestically.

The pension records for the War of 1812 consist of more than 7.2 million documents in these 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 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. NARA reports these important historical records already have been conserved and readied for digitization, so scanning could start as soon as funds are received. With the cost for digitizing and saving a single page from a pension file being fifty cents, sup-

porters will see progress from the earliest days of the fundraising initiative.

The goal is to have the project completed by the end of 2015. To accomplish this massive task, FGS will be working with genealogical and historical societies nationwide, particularly in states where War of 1812 activities took place, as well as with many War of 1812 societies and bicentennial commissions to raise awareness about this vital preservation and access project and to raise the funds necessary to complete the project.

The goal is to raise \$3.7 million. The digitization process will enable online access by historians and family researchers to the memories and biographies of those who fought to protect our nation's independence. As money is raised and the digitization is done, the records will be made available online. *The project has already begun records are already in the process of being digitized and indexed!*

Those interested in contributing to the Preserve the Pensions! Project or wanting additional information should contact the Federation of Genealogical Societies via their website at www.fgs.org/1812, or contact Curt WITCHER at 260-421-1226 or 1812@FGS.org.

Editor's Corner

If you missed the 50th Anniversary Celebration last month, you indeed missed a great time to get a sense of the history of AGS and meet a number of members who do not get to attend meetings very often. Without a doubt, the Anniversary Committee did an *outstanding* job in organizing and presenting this wonderful event. I'm confident that I speak for the Board and the membership when I say THANK YOU to the Committee and the Co-Chairs for all their time and efforts to organize and produce this very special event.

Did you see the article about the 2011 AGS research trip to the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, IN, next year? This is the largest public library with genealogy publications in the world. It is the repository for *all* the publications you'll find listed in PERSI (PERiodical Source Index). If you have not used PERSI in your research, you are missing out on a tremendous resource. Check them out at <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html>.

Until next time, 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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Published monthly except December
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***Promoting genealogy through research,
education, and preservation.***

50 YEARS & GROWING