



Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

September 2006

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org

Vol. 12

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**Society Meeting
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Tuesday, September 26, 2006**

**6:30 P.M. - Doors Open
7:15 P. M. Meeting & Program Begin**

**Meet & Greet New Friends
Our Help Desk is Open to Assist you with Research Questions
Shop Our Used Books, Pick up Freebies & Flyers about
Upcoming Events**

PROGRAM

Please join us on Tuesday, September 26th meeting of the Austin Genealogical Society, where the program will be "Members to Members." This popular program allows us to break into smaller groups and learn more about specific geographic areas or topics from knowledgeable AGS members. Table groups this year will include Revolutionary War Ancestors, Research in Texas, Virginia Records and others. More information will be e-mailed before the meeting. Prepare for the meeting by getting out your own research to bring to the meeting. If you have resource material you can loan us for the meeting, please let me know at tommyingram@grandecom.net.

As usual the Help Desk will be open before the meeting for those with specific research questions.

DNA Seminar

AGS is sponsoring a DNA Seminar, Saturday, November 11, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The speaker will be Max Blankfeld, one of the early leaders in using DNA in genealogy. He is the officer and founder of Family Tree DNA, one of the first testers of DNA for family history.

He plans on making it a basic seminar so people who are new to the idea will be able to understand and see how it can benefit them.

The seminar will be from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive. The cost will be \$10 for members and \$20 for non members. This covers the seminar, coffee and donuts and a lunch from Jayson's Deli.

Tickets will be available at the October 24th meeting.

BULLETIN BOARD

The Genealogy Collection of the Texas State Library will be closed on Saturdays beginning October 1, 2006. They will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. There will be other changes as construction proceeds. We will keep you updated. There is an artist rendition of the future plans for the library at: www.tsl.state.tx.us/friends.

Research Bus Trip to Dallas

AGS is planning a bus trip to the Dallas Public Library on Monday, October 16, 2006. The fee for AGS members is \$49.00. We will leave Austin at 7 a.m., spend the entire day researching at the library, return about 8:00 p. m. that evening. Among the holdings of the Dallas Library are Texas death certificate on microfilm, copies are 25 cents each.

Breakfast and boxed supper are included in the price. MUST reserve your space by October 2nd. See www.austintxgensoc.org for a registration form. Or contact Kay Boyd at 836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com.

AGS Nominating Committee

The following member were chosen to serve on AGS Nominating Committee: Edna Youngblood, Chair, John Marostica; Tommie Ingram; Cindy Foreman; Robert Tieman. At the September meeting, the committee will present a slate of six members they recommend to serve a two year term on the AGS Board of Directors beginning January 2007.

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Nominations may also be made from the floor. The names of the nominees will be published in the AGS October Newsletter and voting will take place at the October 24, 2006 meeting.

Travis County Pioneer Certificates Awarded

Billy Harrell, Nancy Jo Mokry; Glenda M. Black; Gladys Striegler Wiseman; Lillian Striegler Cable; Maurice Striegler have all received Pioneer Families of Travis County certificates. Seven more applications have been received and are being reviewed. Apply for your certificate now. Pick up an application at the Texas State Library, download it from the AGS web site or ask for one to be mailed to you. Simply fill out the application, send in the documentation proving your ancestor was in the county by December 31, 1880 along with \$20.00 and receive your certificate. These will make nice Christmas presents for family members.

Kay Boyd

UPCOMING EVENTS

Genealogy Classes

"A Genealogy Sampler", Lifetime Learning, Wednesday mornings, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon beginning September 13, 2006 for 8 weeks. For adults 50 years of age and over. \$15 per person. Call the Lifetime Learning office at 486-1139 for more information.

Fall 2006 Beginner's Genealogy classes: A three-session course, Saturday mornings, 9 a. m. - 12 Noon, September 16th, 23rd and 30th at the Texas State Library & Archives, room 202. \$15 per adult pays for materials and all three sessions. Teens 12-18 admitted free with parent's registration. For more information, contact Kay Boyd at mkdb@aol.com or (512) 836-7484.

AGS Mini-Seminar

AGS will host a Saturday mini-seminar October 7, 2006 from 9 a. m. - 12 Noon at Highland Park Baptist Church. The topic will be "Diggin' the Dirt- the Down and Dirty about Land Records." This is an intermediate level class designed for knowledgeable genealogists. There is no charge for this class. For more information, contact Kay Boyd at (512) 836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com.

Open House At Oakwood Cemetery

On Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 10 a.m.-12 Noon, Save Austin Cemeteries will hold an open house to register family members of those who have family buried in the cemetery. The registration will provide us with a contact person for the plot in case of tree damage or other disturbances. You are encouraged to bring family pictures and copies of family papers of those interred in this historic cemetery. The pictures will be scanned and added to the files of others who rest in Oakwood Cemetery.

If you think you might have family buried here, but have never been able to locate the graves, SAC will try to help you with the location. Bob Tieman's new book on the inventory of the tombstones in the cemetery will help us with these identifications.

Brick Wall Saturday

Join us Saturday, October 21, 2006 for "Brick Wall Saturday" at the Texas State Archives Building. We meet from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in room 220 where we do our best to suggest some new directions for folk's research problems. Whether you need help (and who among us doesn't?) or would like to help someone else in a roundtable environment, you are welcome to join the group. Light refreshments are provided.

The program for the AGS October 24, 2006 meeting will be a "History of Funerals" with Billy Peel. You will learn a lot about a subject we take for granted.

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"Dear Genie" - Huguenots for Newbies

Dear Genie, what do I really need to know about Huguenots? For a U. S. researcher, it is important to know that the Huguenots, French Protestants who fled France after the Reformation, settled in many other countries, including the American Colonies.

An abbreviated history of the Huguenot religious movement, although beginning much earlier, had given a limited religious freedom to French Protestants. The flight from France was an unprecedented Diaspora of between 400,000 to 600,000 French citizens, in a time period when the total population of France was between 16-19 million.

Huguenots often moved to America only after they had staged a partial recovery in England, Ireland or Germany, perhaps masking their true French origins. Many Huguenots who fled to German states subsequently moved to Pennsylvania, blending in with their German neighbors to further obscure their French backgrounds.

A genealogist who has identified an American Huguenot ancestor will not usually be able to trace him or her immediately to a home in France. Often they must study more than one American Colony, and multiple locations within Europe before being able to research in France.

After the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, American Huguenot settlement increased. Huguenots settled at Oyster Point, now Charleston, South Carolina in April 1680. Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox" who so successfully harried the English forces in South Carolina in the Revolutionary War was the grandson of two French Huguenot couples, Benjamin & Judith (nee Baluet) Marion and Anthony and Esther (nee Baluet) Cordes.

In Massachusetts, Huguenots settled in Oxford in 1686 and Salem in 1670. Few know that Paul Revere, the patriot famous for his midnight ride across Massachusetts, was the son of a Huguenot silversmith, Apollos Riviere and his English wife Deborah Hitchbourn.

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A notable Southern settlement of less than 500 Huguenots occurred in 1700, at Manakin Towne, 20 miles above present day Richmond, Virginia on the site of an abandoned Monacan Indian settlement.

Huguenot families blended into the American quilt so successfully that, for many, their heritage has been obscured. After research, some of our "English and German" ancestors may prove to have been French instead.

For a more in-depth article with additional resources, see our web site at <www.AustinTXGenSoc.org>.

Holdings at the Texas State Library include:

Dickerson, Milford S. M.D., "Huguenot Linage Research- A Biography Based on Migration Routes", Austin, TX 1996
Finnell, Arthur Louis, Registrar General, compiler, "Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors of the National Huguenot Society", 4th Edition, 1995
Gilman, C. Malcolm B. M.D., "The Huguenot Migration in Europe and America", Bridgeport Pennsylvania: 1962
Brock, R. A. editor and compiler for the Virginia Historical Society, "Huguenot Migration to Virginia", 1886 Reprint Baltimore, Maryland: 1962

A suggested reading list can be found in the periodical "The Cross of Languedoc" The National Huguenot Society, February 1997, p.7.

Web sites: 145 sites appear in the Huguenot listing on Cyndi's List <www.cyndislist.com/huguenot.htm>

Libraries devoted to Huguenot Studies include:

The Library of the National Huguenot Society in Bloomington, Minnesota
The Library of the Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia in Midlothian, VA
The Library of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina
The Library of the Huguenot Society of American in New York, New York
The Huguenot Society of London in London, England

Tommy Ingram
tommyingram@grandecom.net

Letter Lists Posted in Newspapers

Patrons researching in old newspapers often find references to a section called the "letter list." Some of these lists can be very detailed, while others are very short. Some newspapers broke the lists down by sex, as in male and female. Some newspapers had a designated place in the newspaper that is identified in the index, while others placed the list whenever and wherever space was available. Many beginning genealogists have no idea what the significance of information found in this section means.

In the days before house-to-house delivery, many newspapers published lists of residents having letters or parcels waiting at the post office. While most of the residents listed often lived in the immediate locality where the newspaper was printed, researchers may find references to individuals who lived up to 20 miles away. If the locality was located in a border region between multiple counties or states, there may be a references to people living these adjacent areas. The transportation and highway system in the United States did not resemble our present configuration in

anyway, shape or form until the advent of the Eisenhower plan for a nationwide interstate system after World War II. Post offices were located along what major thoroughfares existed at the time. Natural boundaries, such as rivers, lakes and mountains, often dictated where they were located. In today's world we think nothing of crossing a bridge to get from point A to point B. Mountains have tunnels going through them. That may not have existed in the area where your ancestors resided. Hence a trip to the post office for some of our ancestors may have been a day-long trip. They may have gone once a week, or less frequently.

These "letter lists" were important because they pin down the address to a specific location at a specific time or at least that someone expected that person to reside in that area. This practice is similar to the modern procedures adopted nationwide concerning "unclaimed property lists." These lists are often published in newspapers. The accompanying article usually says that everyone listed in the column is owed something by a given entity. "If your name appears on the list, use the contact information below and claim what is owed to you."

Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library, 2050 Central Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901-3917, E-Mail: bmulcahy@leegov.com

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AGS Welcomed the following visitors and new member to our July 25, 2006 meeting.

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|---------------------|----------------|
| Betty Clough | Saxon Fox |
| Jim & Pat Eccles | Shirley Gerber |
| Douglas Rogers | Lee Kinard |
| Suzy & Bryan Snyder | Mike O'Krent |

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Condolences

Marilyn Carroll Smiland, 82, died July 15, 2006. Marilyn was a well known professional researcher at the Genealogy Collection of the Texas State Library for many years. She was an active member of DRT and also a member of UDC. Burial was in the San Felipe Cemetery near Sealy, Texas.

Tips

If you do Texas research, are you aware that Ancestry.com has the Texas death index for 1903-2000 on line now. This gives you the county, date and certificate number. Previously this information was only available through the indexes at the Texas State Library. They also have the complete birth index for Texas. This shows parents, county, date, etc. If you don't subscribe to Ancestry, the database is available to all at the Austin Public Library (or call a friend).

Kay Boyd

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I've met several new cousins through findagrave.com. I hope some of the other AGS members are having the same good fortune.

From one of our members

The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter and the editor have attempted to make the information in this newsletter as accurate as possible, by obtaining it from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, and to identify the sources. The information contained herein is for the personal and/or educational use of AGS members only and is provided in good faith without any express or implied warranty. It is the policy of AGS to avoid publishing personal information that is considered private.

Any mention of commercial products within this newsletter is for information only, it does not imply recommendation or endorsement by AGS unless otherwise stated.

9/1/06

“Keep Searching”

Wilena D Young

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