



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

## *Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter* *September 2009*

Vol. 15

[www.AustinTxGenSoc.org](http://www.AustinTxGenSoc.org)

#9

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### **Monthly AGS Meeting** **Tuesday, September 22, 2009**

*Program: "Tales and Imagery from the Tombstones"*  
*Presented by: Janene JEFFREY*

Highland Park Baptist Church  
5206 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

6:30 – 7:00 P.M. – **BOOK SALE**  
7:00 – 8:30 P.M. – Program

*Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!*



Janene C. JEFFERY has been a nursing educator with an End of Life focus for nearly 40 years. She holds a certification as a thanatologist from the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Currently she teaches nursing at ACC along with an End of Life Issues class that she designed and has taught continuously since 1989.

Her interest in death and dying, grief and loss originated from working with oncology patients and with student nurses struggling to make sense of dying people in the midst of a health-promoting arena. Her personal interests include visiting cemeteries, particularly smaller rural cemeteries as well as older ones anywhere. She has collected many photos of unique, elaborate, emblematic, and humorous grave markers and enjoys sharing some of these with her students and others. The program she will share with members addresses the symbolization of certain artistic elements found on grave markers.

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### **AGS Business**

The Board of Directors met in regular session prior to the August monthly meeting. Treasurer Teri FLACK submitted a proposed 2009 budget amendment to include the cost of scanning the AGS

Quarterlies. A motion to amend the budget by reallocating other unused funds toward the Quarterly scanning project was made, seconded, and unanimously passed. A complete set of the Quarterlies (1968 through 2008) has been taken to the person doing the work and a complete hard-copy master set of the Quarterlies has been retained for our files.

Sara GREDLER, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that while there are seven individuals interested in serving, there are only six positions available. Each interested individual is being asked for a biographical sketch and purpose statement to be reviewed by the Committee. The proposed slate of directors will be determined after a review of the information submitted. The Committee's slate of nominees for the six positions will be submitted to the membership at the September monthly meeting and the election will take place at the October meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the time of the election.



Our webmaster for the past twelve years, Yvonne BEEVER, has resigned to move on to other projects. We extend our sincere appreciation to Yvonne for her many years of work on our behalf and wish her much success and enjoyment in her new endeavors. Our thanks go to AGS Board member Dona KURTZ who will pick up the reins as our new webmaster.

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### Membership

(by Barbara INNIS)

Our August meeting was REALLY HOT, and I'm not just talking about the weather! We had our second highest attendance of the year--94! Everything was aflame: great refreshments, membership interaction, and a delightful, informative program called "Military Records Medley" presented by Earle F. MCBRIDE and Jeffrey William HUNT.

A very warm welcome to our new members and visitors!

#### **NEW MEMBERS (SINCE JULY)**

Gloria ALEMAN - Austin  
Mary Jane ERMIS - Austin  
Michele and Henry MEADOWS - Austin  
Penny NICOLL - Austin  
Cathy POWELL - Austin

#### **VISITORS at the August meeting**

Ursula GAINES - Austin  
Joan SUMMERSETT - Georgetown

#### **RETURNING/RENEWAL MEMBER**

Jennifer SCHWENKER

<p><b>NEW SENIOR LIFE MEMBER</b> Jean Hudson MASCO - Austin</p>
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### ***Additions and changes to your 2009 Membership Directory***

Gloria ALEMAN  
2544 Stoutwood Circle  
Austin, TX 78745  
512-442-3919  
[gloria.aleman@yahoo.com](mailto:gloria.aleman@yahoo.com)

Mary Jane ERMIS  
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Austin, TX 78745  
512-282-1902  
[maryjaneermis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryjaneermis@sbcglobal.net)

Harold HUDNALL - [hhudnall@txwinet.com](mailto:hhudnall@txwinet.com)  
Bobbie HUDNALL - [bobbie@txwinet.com](mailto:bobbie@txwinet.com)

Ruth KOEHLER - [rhk@austin.rr.com](mailto:rhk@austin.rr.com)  
Bill KOEHLER - delete email address at  
[lazywmk@hotmail.com](mailto:lazywmk@hotmail.com)

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Austin, TX 78734  
512-608-9398 (H)  
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[hemeadows@aol.com](mailto:hemeadows@aol.com) (Henry)

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[junder4@aol.com](mailto:junder4@aol.com)

George TRAVER  
5200 Valley Oak Dr.  
Austin, TX 78731  
512-452-6839  
[gjtraver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gjtraver@sbcglobal.net)

Kathleen Moran TULLY - new address:  
3500 Bachelor Gulch  
Leander, TX 78641  
No changes to other contact information.



### AGS 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONTEST

Our call for procrastinating CREATIVE THINKERS and anyone else who likes a good challenge brought in some wonderful entries in the ANNIVERSARY SLOGAN and ANNIVERSARY LOGO contest! Our clever AGS members are Alice BAUMANN, Yvonne BEEVER, Missy HARRIS, Lorrie HENDERSON, Shirley ROBERTS, Cynthia RODRIGUEZ, Mary SCRUDDER, and Janis TRAYLER. Samples of these entries will be featured in the future, and you'll be voting for two winning entries (Anniversary SLOGAN, Anniversary LOGO) at the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. *Many thanks to these talented people!* Kay Boyd and Barbara Innis, Committee Co-Chairs

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### *Hospitality*

(by Elizabeth JOHNSTON)

Our thanks go out to our August greeters and those who provided the delicious refreshments.

The following people are scheduled to greet members and visitors in September: Charles Clinger and Robert Sage. Bringing **refreshments in September** will be Wynnette HARRIS, Elizabeth JOHNSTON, Sheila SARGENT, and Janis TRAYLER. Thanks to these people for adding to a pleasant evening.

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### Coming Programs

The Education Committee continues its course of outstanding monthly programs. Next up are the following:

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**Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Topic: *Tales and Imagery from the Tombstones*

Presenter: Janene JEFFREY

**Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

Topic: *Cousin Camp: Linking the Youngest Members of Your Family to Each Other and Their Ancestors*

Presenter: Phoebe ALLEN

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## Educational Opportunities

*Summer appears to have come and gone, but there are still plenty of ways to take advantage of learning opportunities. Maybe something below will tickle your fancy!*

### AGS Beginner Genealogy Class Sessions

**Saturday, September 26, 2009 and**

**Saturday, October 3, 2009**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Triumph Love Lutheran Church

9508 Great Hills Trail

Austin, TX 78759

Cost is \$15 and includes the classes together with a large binder of very useful information.

For a registration form, go to [education@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:education@austintxgensoc.org) or the AGS website <http://www.austintxgensoc.org>. No computer? No problem! Call Sharon FOLEY at 401-6357 or Kay BOYD at 836-7484. These classes will kick start your stalled research with some fresh ideas or get you started on your research if you are a beginner.



The **Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI)** is again presenting a **series of eight genealogy classes** beginning this month. LLI is a continuing education program of non-credit daytime courses for adults aged 50 or older. The eight-week session will start **September 15 and run for eight consecutive Tuesdays**. The fee for the entire series is **\$25** and includes course materials.

The classes will be held at the Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail, Austin, TX, 78759, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Each session is presented by a member of the Austin Genealogical Society. To sign up, download a [registration form](#) from the Lifetime Learning Institute or call the LLI office at 206-4232.

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## Research Trips

Last call for the annual AGS Bus Trip! This year we head to the [Clayton Library for Genealogical Research](#) in Houston on **Monday, October 5, 2009**. The bus is full, but check with Kay Boyd at 512-836-7484 or [mkdb1405@aol.com](mailto:mkdb1405@aol.com) for any last minute cancellations if you want to go.

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## Bits & Pieces

**AGS BOOK SALE.** At the **September monthly meeting**, we will offer for sale a wide variety of reasonably priced books, many of them brand new and most selling for between \$2-\$3. **COME EARLY** and browse through them. This is a great time to begin your genealogical library!

*If you have books that you want to add to the sale, please contact Kay so that these books can be priced and added to the Sale Table.*

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WELCOME WILKOMMEN

**30th Annual Meeting** of the German-Texan Heritage Society

**October 9 -10, 2009**

**Wingate (Wyndham) Hotel and Conference Center**  
**Round Rock, Texas**

Contact: [Info@GermanTexans.org](mailto:Info@GermanTexans.org) or [erootrot@usa.net](mailto:erootrot@usa.net)

Website: [www.GermanTexans.org](http://www.GermanTexans.org)

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### Condolences

Condolences are extended to the family of former AGS Member **Jerry T. BARTON**, 85, who passed away August 19, 2009, in Austin, Texas. He was born December 16, 1923, in Brownwood, Texas to Jerry Bernard BARTON and Mary Elizabeth TYSON Barton. He was a past president of the Williamson County Genealogical Society and AARP Chapter #2700. He was a member of the Great Hills Baptist Church and retired in 1986 from the Texas Education Agency after 38 years as an educator and administrator. He had also served the US Army in WW II. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Barton; three daughters, Carolyn COTTE and husband Richard, Kathy BARTON and partner Mary INGLE, and Chris WILLMANN and husband Carl; three sisters, Violet CATHEY, Mary VON HOSEK, and Frances BROWNING; one brother, W. T. BARTON; and two grandchildren, Merissa DAVIS and Sarah WILLMANN. He was preceded in death by his son, Jerry Don BARTON.



**Marguerite Steele WALLING BUTLER, a Life Member** of the *Austin Genealogical Society* died on Monday, August 24, 2009. Born in Childress, Texas, on May 13, 1920, she was the only child of Catherine Cecilia BARNHART WALLING and John Travis WALLING. Marguerite graduated from Childress High School and attended Texas Women's University in Denton. She transferred to the University of Texas and graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Science in English and Literature. She married Martin BUTLER, a third generation Austinite, on August 2, 1945, at St. Mary's Church, later to become St. Mary's Cathedral. She adored her three children, her five wonderful grandchildren, and her many dear friends. Marguerite is survived by her three children, Robert Martin BUTLER and his wife, Lutie, of Austin; Elizabeth BUTLER SCOTT and her husband, Monty, of Little Rock, AR; and Catherine BUTLER HOWELL and her husband, Bill, of Ft. Worth. She is also survived by her grandchildren, William Ronald HOWELL, Jr., Robinson Butler HOWELL and his wife, Ramsey, John Patrick Stinson HOWELL, Morin Montagu SCOTT, III and Catherine Elizabeth Joy SCOTT.



Condolences are also extended to AGS Member Mary BOHLS and her family on the death of her husband, **Everett Dayton BOHLS**, age 91, who passed away of natural causes on August 12, 2009, in Austin, Texas. In addition to Mary, he is survived by son, Rex and wife Laura; daughter, Jane; son, James and wife Dawn; and five grandchildren. He was born April 4, 1918, to Herbert Carl and Allie (ALLEN) BOHLS, one of the pioneer families of Bee Cave, Texas. He graduated from Austin High School and from the University of Texas in 1941.

**Kay Boyd, nominated by the Austin Genealogical Society of Austin, Texas, was chosen by an FGS award committee to be inducted into the Ruth C. Bishop Volunteer Hall of Honor in 2009 at the Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference.**

A native Texan, Mary Kay DUNLAP BOYD was born in Dallas, Texas, and moved to Austin at the age of three. She has lived in Austin continuously since that time. Kay attended public schools in Austin and then the University of Texas. She worked at the Texas State Library for ten years after leaving the university. During this time, she married "the boy next door." She and Bill have been married 41 years. They have one daughter, one son, and one grandson who all live in the Austin area.



Kay has always been interested in her family's history. She still has the original notes she typed as a teenager on her Dad's old portable manual typewriter (which she also still has), as well as newspaper clippings that she collected even when she didn't know exactly how she was kin to the people in the clippings. Kay recalls her father saying his heritage was "Irish Stew." Her mother was Swedish, so she has two very different types of research in her family. Kay's great grandparents began settling in Texas in 1855. Her Swedish great grandparents came to Travis County in 1870, so much of her research is based in Texas. For this reason, she is passionate about Central Texas and Travis County history as well as her family's history. Because she has a number of brick walls in her own family research, she recognizes the value of being a resource for other people by helping them either start or continue their research.

Kay has been an active member of AGS since 1997. After retiring from the office products industry in 2001, Kay became more active by joining the Board of Directors. She has served as Corresponding Secretary and for the past three years has served as First Vice President.

Her special interest has been in different cemetery projects and she has worked as a liaison between AGS and the Save Austin's Cemeteries organization where she also serves as a member of their Board of Directors. Kay is the chair of the AGS Cemetery Recording Committee and coordinates volunteers as well as organizes frequent meetings of this committee to record cemeteries in the Austin area. A result of this work is that many Travis County cemeteries are now posted on the AGS website for genealogists looking for a Travis County connection. She also routinely responds to queries regarding cemeteries, graves, obituaries and other research in Travis County.

As part of her cemetery work, Kay supports the AGS webmaster in maintaining the accuracy of the different cemetery projects posted to the AGS website to ensure anyone searching for an ancestor in Travis County has the best possible chance of finding their ancestor.

She started the history collection in the Manor Library for Eastern Travis County which includes an ongoing obituary book of residents who were born in that area of Travis County as well as transcribing different cemeteries in that area.

Kay is also a volunteer at the Austin History Center where she has spent many hours transcribing Travis County Births 1870-1878, a list of residents at the Confederate Home in

Austin in 1903, and the Naturalization Records for Travis County. In addition, she has helped transcribe five books of Sexton's Ledgers at the Austin History Center dated 1866-1940. The names and details of people buried in the Austin City Cemetery from 1866-1916 are and have been the only death information from that period and all are posted on the AGS website.

She has also updated many of the early records compiled by the charter members of AGS such as birth records and church records. Her efforts have made these records also available on the AGS website.

Since 2005, Kay has served as the chair of the Pioneer Certificates Committee. As such, she logs in each application submitted and verifies the information for accuracy and completeness.

Kay's other AGS activities span from proofreading all publications produced by different members of the society, including the Society Quarterlies and Newsletters, to coordinating research bus trips to different areas of Texas. She has streamlined the storage of surplus copies of handouts and quarterlies collected since 1960. She willingly takes on research projects from queries submitted through the AGS website.

She enjoys coordinating the educational classes AGS has been sponsoring since 2003 and delights in bringing new members into the Society through her active participation in the membership and hospitality committees.

Next year, the Austin Genealogical Society will be 50 years old and, naturally, Kay has volunteered to co-chair our anniversary celebration.

A conservative estimate of the time Kay has volunteered since 1997 is at least 19,000 hours. When asked about why she is so involved in the activities of the Society, she simply says it is because she "thinks they are important in bringing in and maintaining a strong membership." But a recent comment by Kay reveals her true reason. While serving as a volunteer at the Luling (TX) Library a few years ago, she realized she "just loved helping others who came in looking for their family information." Some things don't change.

Virtually everything Kay has been involved in since 1997 has helped AGS increase its membership, increase the quality of our programs, increase our service to the community, and advance the educational and other learning opportunities offered to the Austin/Travis County genealogical community.

Although Kay does not like attention directed her way and is more comfortable working "in the wings," she is known in AGS as the "go to" person.

The Austin Genealogical Society proudly recognizes Kay for her spirit of service, wealth of knowledge, willing hands, ready smile, big heart, love of genealogy, and her tremendous dedication to the Austin Genealogical Society.



***As the nominating society, AGS received a cash award of \$1,000  
to be used as the Society deems appropriate.***

**2009 Board of Directors**

<b>Term ending 2009:</b>	<b>Term Ending 2010:</b>
Teri FLACK	Kay BOYD
Barbara INNIS	Inez EPPRIGHT
Dona KURTZ	Sharon FOLEY
Elizabeth JOHNSTON	Cindy FOREMAN
Robert SAGE	Sara GREDLER
Randy WHITED	Janis TRAYLER

**2009 Officers**

President	Cindy FOREMAN
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Kay BOYD
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays  
Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00  
Highland Park Baptist Church  
5208 Balcones Drive  
Austin, Texas

Visitors Always Welcome!

**Inside**

Coming Programs  
Educational Opportunities  
Bits & Pieces  
Research Trips  
Condolences

**AGS Member wins FGS  
Volunteer of the Year Award**

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

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Published monthly except December  
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Deadline for submitting material for publication is the  
1<sup>st</sup> of the month unless otherwise stated.