



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter
September 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. 9

You are cordially invited to attend the
50th Anniversary Celebration
Of the Austin Genealogical Society

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive, Austin, Texas

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!



Presented by:
The Austin Genealogical Society
50th Anniversary Committee

With Featured Speaker
Dr. DAVID B. GRACY II
son of charter member and the first AGS president
Alice Duggan GRACY

The first 100 people to arrive will receive a welcome gift. We will have special refreshments and historical displays, and you will have time to visit with friends from the past and present. Photos for the Anniversary issue of the Quarterly will be taken, and a number of prizes will be awarded.

This is an evening you will not want to miss! If you want to attend but need a ride, please contact Kay BOYD (836-7484 or mkdb1405@aol.com).

50th Anniversary Featured Speaker:

Dr. David B. Gracy, II



Dr. David B. GRACY II is the Governor Bill Daniel Professor in Archival Enterprise in the School of Information of the University of Texas at Austin and the son of Alice DUGGAN GRACY, a founder of the Austin Genealogical Society.

David is a Fellow and life member of both the Texas State Historical Association and the Society of American Archivists. He holds a doctorate in History from Texas Tech University, where the subject of his dissertation and of the book that is his current focus was and is Austin cattleman and banker George Washington LITTLEFIELD. This study is a labor of special love for two reasons: David is a great, great nephew of Littlefield, and the substantial genealogical foundation of the story represents the dedicated work pursued over decades by his mother. Gracy served as State Archivist of Texas, 1977-1986. For service to the genealogical community during these years, he was recognized in 1981 by being named a Fellow of the Texas State Genealogical Society. Also during these years, he served as president of the Society of American Archivists.

Dr. GRACY has written extensively in both archival enterprise and history, his history monographs including:

Littlefield Lands: Colonization on the Texas Plains, 1912-1920 (University of Texas Press, 1968), which for genealogists lists all of the buyers;

Moses Austin: His Life (Trinity University Press, 1986), which traced Austin's genealogy back four generations to his great, great grandfather who brought the line to America;

The State Library and Archives of Texas: A History, 1835-1962 published by the University of Texas Press earlier this year.

Gracy has lectured and taught short courses on archival enterprise at universities in the Philippines, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Hong Kong, and at the Dutch Archives School.

In 2005, he received the Katherine Drake Hart History Preservation Award from the Austin History Center Association.

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AGS Business

The AGS Board of Directors met in regular session prior to the general meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 2010. Committee and treasurer reports were submitted and approved. The following topics were discussed and actions taken:

Treasurer: motion to amend the budget to transfer \$150 from the Social Fund to the 50th Anniversary Fund.

TSGS Contests: Issues of The Quarterly and the Newsletter will be submitted into the writing awards competition. There is a new category of competition for society

websites and the AGS website will be entered into that competition. Winners will be announced at the TSGS annual conference in Waco in November.

Nominating Committee – A slate of nominees for the 2011 class of the Board of Directors has been proposed by the Nominating Committee. The slate will be announced at the September meeting. Elections will be held at the October meeting. Nominations from the floor will be welcomed at that time.

Membership

There were approximately 85 members and six visitors attending the meeting on August 24th. Please try to remember to sign in at the registration table when you arrive at meetings.



Since the AGS Membership Directory was published last March, we have added **51** new members! Keep telling your friends and neighbors about our organization as we begin our journey into our next 50 years!

We **Welcome** the following **New Members** since the last report:

Scott & Martha BARKER CARPENTER of Austin
Terry JOY of Austin
Harold (Hal) D. PEASE of Leander
Ronnie REAMS OF Elgin
Sarah SITTON of Austin
Lisa ROWLEE-SMITH of Beaverton, Oregon

Sandra E. WARD of Austin
Karen Grace KIRKLEY WILBURN of Austin

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

Hospitality

Our thanks go to Maurine ATWOOD, Missy HARRIS, Jan MOODY, and Nancy STEVENS for bringing refreshments to the August meeting and to Arlene ZIRKEL and JoAnn TRAVER for serving as greeters.

The Board of Directors will serve as greeters at the September 50th Anniversary Celebration meeting on Tuesday, September 28th. Refreshments for this special occasion will be provided by the Society.

AGS—50 Years & Growing!

The time has finally come! The 50th Year Anniversary party is only a few days away! We hope you will plan to join many past and present members and other guests of the Austin Genealogical Society on Tuesday, September 28th. Details are outlined on page one.

PHOTOS AND INFORMATION ARE STILL WELCOME FOR THE AUSTIN DISPLAY

It's not too late to submit any photos, newspaper clippings, interesting items from in and around Austin in the time period of 1960-2010. Please contact Carroll PATTERSON (carrollpatterson@austin.rr.com) or Glenda BLACK (gblack@austin.rr.com) if you have something you can share with us.

TOTE BAGS: If you are an AGS member and have not had the opportunity to attend an AGS meeting or event this year, please be sure to ask for a 50th Anniversary Tote Bag at the September meeting!

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?

Your memory--our memories--will become part of the Anniversary issue of the Quarterly. In this our 50th year as an organization, we all are creating history and we want to save these memories. Tell us your story. Send your Memory to Kay Boyd at mkdb1405@aol.com.

Historically Speaking

During 2010, we will feature excerpts and information from the recorded history of the Austin Genealogical Society since its inception in 1960.

Quarterly, Vol. IV, No. 3, Sep 1963

"Our Speaker 24 Sep 1963 was David Bergen GRACY II, son of Mrs. David C. GRACY. David and his bride showed beautiful color slides of Arundel Castle (the Fitzalans') and Odell Castle, Heron Hall (of the Terrell family, Essex) and Urquart Castle in Scotland (home of the Grants). He said all records in England's public records office were reproduced; copies are in Salt Lake City. His camera was useful, but his tape recorder served to read off memorials or use in interviews or on guided tours. "Speak slowly and distinctly, spell out words, and put in punctuation for an exact record of original inscriptions," he said. Mrs. GRACY II ran the projector all evening. Over 90 members and visitors are indebted to David and his wife, his sponsors, and Mrs. Ralph A. BICKLER for her fine publicity which informed many of the visitors of the program. Several new members joined during the evening."

The 50th Anniversary Committee: Co-Chairs: Kay BOYD and Barbara INNIS

Committee Members: Andrea BURKHART, Lorrie HENDERSON, James HOLLAS, Roberta JENKINS, Charles LOCKLIN, Carroll PATTERSON, and Edna YOUNGBLOOD



AGS Calendar of Activities

Tuesday, September 28— Starting at 6:30 p.m.

MATHESON.

AGS 50th Anniversary Celebration!



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

Program: “School Records” presented by Karen

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 GRELLER.

AGS Educational Opportunities

Saturday, September 18th & 25th —

Beginning Genealogy Classes

Times: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Community Classroom

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church

9508 Great Hills Trail , Austin, TX 78759

It is that time of year again! AGS is offering **Beginning Genealogy Classes!**

AGS offers Beginning Genealogy classes twice a year, in the spring and fall. If you are a newbie, you will find the course helpful in getting started; if you are an experienced researcher, but are stalled and need a kick-start, join us for a refresher course. Each course consists of two class meetings on consecutive Saturday mornings. The total fee for the entire course is \$15.00.

- This session’s topics include:
- From the Known to the Unknown
 - Researching Other Records
 - Forms and Charts
 - Central Texas Resources

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH! Contact Kay BOYD for additional information (mkdb1405@aol.com) or visit the AGS website (www.AustinTxGenSoc.org) for the registration [form](#).



Saturday, November 6, 2010

Laptop Saturday

"Blogs and Social Networking" by James Hollas and John Marostica

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Spicewood Springs Branch Library
8637 Spicewood Springs Road, Austin

Time to be announced

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.



Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin

Course cost: \$20 Online registration at <http://www.lliaustin.org/registration>

Tuesday mornings beginning September 14:

Class #14. A GENEALOGY SAMPLER
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon at **Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail**

Classes are presented by instructors from the Austin Genealogical Society. A variety of topics makes this a course for beginners as well as seasoned researchers. *There is an additional \$3 charge for copies.*

Wednesday mornings beginning September 15:

Class #38: WRITING MEMOIRS
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon at **Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Dr.**

Instructor: Howard WILSON

One of the most exciting centuries in history has ended—the birth and development of radio and television, the airplane and moon landing, and computers and internet, etc. Here's an opportunity to dip into your memories for stories you can tell in your own words; then read them to the class. Enjoy the stories of others and let them enjoy yours. No formal instruction.



German Texan Heritage Society annual conference
September 24th—26th
Fredericksburg, Texas

For additional information, contact GTHS by email at info@GermanTexans.org or go to the GTHS website: www.GermanTexans.org.



CZECH ROOTS AND FRUITFUL MEMORIES

Presented by the Texas Czech Genealogical Society
Saturday, September 25, 2010

Caldwell Civic/Visitor Center

**Registration Fee: \$20 if mailed by September 15;
\$25 after that date**

A day filled with exciting and informative speakers, entertainment, surprises, and a delicious lunch, begins with registration, coffee, juice, and kolaches at 8:00 a.m.

For more information and a registration form, visit their website at www.txczgs.org.



Save Austin's Cemetery Meeting

Saturday, October 9, 10:00-11:30,
Oakwood Chapel, 1601 Navasota, Austin

Guest Speaker: David MARTIN will discuss Austin's ties to the Mier Expedition.

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David MARTIN will be giving a presentation entitled "The Mier Expedition and Border Incursions between Mexico and the Republic of Texas 1837-1843." The presentation covers a time when Austin was under the threat of occupation by the Mexican army under General Adrian WOLL to when Captain Tom GREEN led the "Austin Boys" to San Antonio to help prevent it. More information at www.sachome.org



Victoria County Genealogic Society

GENEALOGY SEMINAR

Saturday, October 9, 2010, 8:30 – 4:00

2200 E. Red River, Victoria, Texas

The Victoria College Student Center, Room A

Featured Speaker: George G. MORGAN

Registration Fee prior to September 25: \$40, after September 25: \$50

Scheduled topics include:

- * *Bring 'Em Back to Life: Developing an Ancestor Profile*
- * *Push and Pull: The Reason for Migration*
- * *The Genealogist as CSI: Modern Genealogist Are Like Crime Scene Investigators – CSIs*
- * *Bits and Obits: Reading Between the Lines*

A box lunch is included. Seats are limited, so please register early!



The Irish Are Coming—Back!
Saturday, October 16; 10:15-3:30
Carriage House at Clayton Library
5300 Caroline, Houston, TX



Registration Fees:

\$30.00 until September 15th

\$40.00 – September 15th - until October 10th

Optional Lunch - \$10.00 with registrations received by Oct.10, 2010

Clayton Library Friends are presenting a **Scots/Irish Genealogical Seminar**. Speakers are Brian TRAINOR and Fintan MULLAN of the Ulster Historical Foundation. Topics include:

- * Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Research (newly updated);
- * Emigration from Ulster to America in the Eighteenth Century (the story of the Scots-Irish);
- * The Ulster Plantation and sources for 17th century families (Updated) Covers planter families from Scotland and England, & native Irish families
- * Wills and Testamentary Records in Ireland
- * The Great Famine in Ireland and emigration to America 1845-1856
- * Researching Derry and Londonderry Ancestors - (a practical demonstration using a new CD resource just published, drawing attention to useful tips and techniques the author has employed)
- * Trying to solve your "Brick Walls" - Practical internet tutorial and resolving research queries (this is an extended Q&A session which uses live link up to the internet to search some important sources).

NOTE: ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED TO 70 PEOPLE! For more information and a registration form, see their website at <http://www.claytonlibraryfriends.org/> or call 832-393-2600.

Limited private sessions will be available with Dr. TRAINOR and Mr. MULLAN at a cost of \$20.00 for 15 minutes. Those interested must contact Fintan MULLAN directly to schedule it. Reach him at: Fintan.mullan@uhf.org.uk. Private sessions are available only to paid registrants of the seminar.



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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

Dr. COLLETTA's topics will be:

- * *Breaking through Brick Walls - Use Your Head;*
- * *Using Newspapers for Family History Research;*
- * *Using Original & Derivative Sources: How to Evaluate Evidence; and*
- * *How to Assemble & Write a Narrative Family History.*

Early registration ends October 1st. 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 Boerne 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.



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

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.



Caldwell County Genealogical and Historical Society Mini-Seminar

Saturday, October 23rd, 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Church of Christ, 317 S. Blanco St., Lockhart, TX

The **speaker** is AGS member **Teri FLACK**. Her topics are “Finding Your Ancestors in the Republic of Texas”; “Using Maps to Explore our Ancestors' Lives”; and “Whether or Not There's a Will, There's a Way: Probate and Estate Records.”

There is **no charge to attend**; however, pre-registration is required. There will be no walk-in seating. The **deadline for registration is Monday, October 11.** Coffee and donuts will be available.

Email your intention to attend to ccghs@mail.org or mail it to: Caldwell County Genealogical and Historical Society, 215 S. Pecan Avenue, Luling, Texas 78648. An acknowledgment will be sent to each person who registers.



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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>.

AGS WEBSITE NEWS

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

The cycle of planning for AGS programs in 2011 has begun. If you have ideas for programs, please contact Program Chairperson [Sharon FOLEY](#) or a member of the Board of Directors and let us know your thoughts.



Do you use a Mac? AGS member Shirley ROBERTS is investigating the possibility of creating a workshop to help users of Reunion software. If you are interested in participating, please let Shirley know by sending her an email to saroberts1@austin.rr.com.



PRESERVE THE PENSIONS! project

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) has announced a national fundraising initiative to raise \$3.7 million to digitize the War of 1812 pension files. 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.

The War of 1812, often referred to as America's second war for independence, 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 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. 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, supporters will see progress from the earliest days of the fundraising initiative.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is committed to projects that link the genealogical community and advance the cause of preserving records and making them more accessible. The Federation 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.

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.



News about The Quarterly

Editor Randy WHITED reports that the Quarterly for the third quarter is being edited and should be on target for publication.

The Quarterly for the fourth quarter will be the Anniversary issue and will be filled with stories, topics, and information related to the first 50 years of the Austin Genealogical Society.

The next "member information" issue will be the first quarter of 2011. Randy will be needing your input to help fill this issue, so put your thinking caps on again and start writing!

In Memoriam



Harold Edwin HENEGAR, also known as "Hal," of Austin, Texas, passed away peacefully in the early hours of August 27, 2010, following a great evening with family. Hal was the husband of long-time AGS member and former Board member Lois HENEGAR. He was born on July 29, 1923, in Hugo, Oklahoma, the first child of Dennis F. and Mabel GERMAN HENEGAR. He attended schools in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, and was a 1942 graduate of Plainview (Texas) High School. In September of that year, Harold enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

His love and knowledge of radio was a perfect fit for his position as air control tower operator while preparing glider pilots for the Silent Wings operations in World War II. Hal loved anything to do with radio communications and for over half a century was an amateur radio operator (HAM). Hal also used HAM radio to communicate with other genealogists long before the Internet.

In 1945, he married his school sweetheart, Lois SPRACHER in Hugo, Oklahoma. Briefly, they were stationed at a couple of air bases until his discharge in February, 1946. Hal and Lois lived in Texas, Oklahoma, California, and then returned to Texas in 1967.

After his military service, he worked professionally as an "on-the-air personality" affectionately known as "Happy Hal" in Plainview, Oklahoma City, and Carlsbad, California. His second career was as a technician in Austin for Tracor (Texas Research Associates Corporation) from which he retired in 1989.

In addition to his wife Lois, he is survived by his children: Peggy and husband David WHITE of Springfield, Missouri; Dennis and wife Jan CLENDENEN HENEGAR of Austin; and Rod and wife Karen Lee HENEGAR of Pflugerville, together with eleven grandchildren, including five spouses and fourteen great-grandchildren. Hal is also survived by his siblings: brother Marvin and wife Nancie HENEGAR of Encinitas, California; sister Evelyn and husband Earl CASTLEBERRY of Escondido, California; and Mattie and Wendell WILLIAMSON of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Memories of Hal may be shared at www.cookwaldencapitalparks.com.

Editor's Corner

I can hardly believe 2010 is winding down and it is time for us to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in a grand way . I hope you will make a special effort to attend the celebration planned for Tuesday, September 28th. The Anniversary Committee has been working since the first of this year to bring this gala together.

It is important to us all for past and present members who do not usually come to the evening meetings to have an opportunity to participate in this event. If you would like assistance with transportation, please let us know. Kay BOYD is lining up volunteers to help with this important aspect of the celebration. Her contact information is at the bottom of page one.

Fall certainly seems to be the time most organizations are having seminars, workshops, classes, and gatherings! There are some very interesting topics being presented between now and mid-November. Some are on the same day as others, but that simply gives us plenty of choices!

Thanks for taking the time to read through this month's Newsletter. I hope to see you on the 28th! Until then ...

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

50 YEARS & GROWING