



AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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Editor's Message

Randy W. Whited

This is a special issue commemorating the (first) fifty years of the Austin Genealogical Society. As we go about our work researching history, it appears it happens around us as well. I hope you enjoy the reminiscences of our members, past and present, as we move forward in our next fifty years.

Remember, as always, that this is -your- publication. All members are encouraged to submit original articles, research or even family group sheets. The goal is to give back our work and we aim to help in that task.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Whited". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' and 'W'.

AGS 2011 Calendar of Events

25 January, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“What’s New at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission,”
presented by Jelain Chubb

29 January

Laptop Saturday, Austin History Center
“Breaking Brick Walls”

19 and 26 February

AGS Beginner Classes

22 February, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“Find Your Family (and a whole lot more) in Historical Landowner Maps,”
presented by Greg Boyd

22 March, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“Children: A Select Survey of the Records - 19th and Early 20th Centuries,”
presented by Sue Kaufman

TBD April

Bus trip to Clayton Library, Houston

26 April, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“Austin’s Robertson Hill, Community Evolution,”
presented by Stephanie Jarvis

7 May

Mini-Seminar Series, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
presented by Paula Stuart-Warren

24 May, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“The Home Front During the Civil War,”
presented by Teri Flack

14 June

Laptop Saturday, Austin History Center
“Breaking Brick Walls”

28 June, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
TBA

26 July, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
Special Event- "Night at the Movies"

6 August

Laptop Saturday, Hampton Branch Library
"Using PERSI"

23 August, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
"Member to Member,"
AGS Panel Discussion

17 and 24 September

AGS Beginner Classes

27 September, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
"NARA Records at Fort Worth + More,"
presented by Aaron Holt

2-8 October

Research trip to Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

25 October, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
"From Behind Bars: Using Prison Records in Your Research"

12 November

Mini-Seminar Series, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
presented by George G. Morgan

25 November, 7pm

AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
"Thankful for Ancestors and Traditions"

Austin Genealogical Society Celebrates 50 Years: 1960-2010

To commemorate the AGS 50th Anniversary in 2010, a competition was held in 2009 to select a logo and slogan to be used. Several entries were submitted, the members voted, and winners—Cynthia Rodriguez and Janis Trayler—were announced at the December 2009 monthly meeting.

The Slogan: "50 Years and Growing." Janis considered not only how much the Society had grown since its inception, but how much it had grown since she joined in 2003. Growth has occurred in several dimensions. Our programs have expanded in quality, content, and presentation, and the number of members who have taken on teaching responsibilities in AGS and in the larger genealogical community has increased. Bus trips within Texas, out-of-state research trips, and mini-seminars have added another growth dimension. Our goal is to continue expanding our horizons and to provide a viable resource for the genealogical community.

The Logo: Janis and Cynthia wanted the new logo to reflect the growth and changes of AGS since 1960. They took the old logo and made the tree taller and broader to indicate maturity and a strong foundation. They envisioned it glowing and golden to celebrate the 50th anniversary. Roots were added to represent the many pathways we travel as researchers in order to nurture our family trees, and the outside circle was added to represent the continuation of our AGS service. The circle around the tree includes the motto, "Research, Education, Preservation," which is a shortened version of the AGS vision

statement that was adopted in 2009: "Advancing genealogy through wide-ranging research and education and supporting the preservation of the heritage of Austin, Travis County, and Texas."

The Event: Plans for the AGS 50th Anniversary Celebration started in the Spring of 2009 and culminated with the special occasion which was held on September 28, 2010. A \$1,000 award to AGS by the Federation of Genealogical Societies in honor of volunteer work done by Kay Boyd was used to purchase special tote bags for the members and to support the celebration evening. Kay Boyd and Barbara Innis co-chaired the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee which included Andrea Burkhart, Lorrie Henderson, James Hollas, Roberta Jenkins, Charles Locklin, Carroll Patterson, and Edna Youngblood.

Approximately 140 attended the event, including these former Past Presidents: Andrea Burkhart, Lee Kinard and his 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, and Pat Oxley. All of the past presidents were asked to share remembrances of activities and projects from their terms in office. These memories follow in a separate article.

Other honored guests included: Emma Gene Gentry, the last living charter member, her daughter Barbara Gentry Sunday, son David Gentry and wife Linda, and son Rick Gentry and wife Sharon; Nancy Price Bowman and

William H. (Bill) Price, children of Lucie Price, an early and very active AGS member.

Dr. David B. Gracy II, who was the featured speaker for the evening, attended with his wife Laura and with his sister Lucile Gracy Harmon, a member of AGS. Dr. Gracy's presentation was titled "To Complete the Story: Alice Duggan Gracy, the Austin Genealogical Society, and Genealogy." He told of his mother's early work with AGS as well as updated the group on his ongoing family history research. Dr. Gracy was presented a Life Membership certificate to honor the work of his mother in organizing and working for AGS.

Displays were placed around the hall for the enjoyment of the attendees. The titles of these

were "AGS Through the Years" by Mary Todd, "Research: Yesterday and Today" by Bobbie and Harold Hudnall, "Decades of Life in Austin" by Carroll Patterson and Glenda Black and "Who We Are, What We Do" by Kay Boyd.

Door prizes were distributed to those who received a lucky ticket when they registered for the evening. The prizes included three nights at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, a full annual subscription to Ancestry.com as well as two memberships to AGS and other genealogically related items.

Now having honored our past fifty years, AGS looks forward to the next!



Dr. David B. Gracy II addresses the AGS membership on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary celebration.

AGS Longtime Members

MEMBER for 50 years (since 1960)

Emma Gene Gentry

MEMBERS 25 or more years (by 1985)

M C Forister

Margaret & Milton Francis

Clarence Guelker

Putnam Monroe

Katherine Reid

Mary Kay Snell

H. Martin Soward III

Mary Starkey

Charles A. Walker

Wilena D. Kennerly Young

MEMBERS 20 - 24 years (by 1990)

Marcia Arn

Caroline Bass

Ben & Patricia Boswell

Maria Costley

Carolyn Fonken

Lois Henegar

Elizabeth Hicks

Roy Tom Hopkins

Roberta Jenkins

Anne T. Kohler

Loretta & Edgar Leonhardt

Pat Marshall

Julia Mellenbruch

Robert Tieman

Sharon Tieman

Elizabeth Wendland

Lucinda Wilcoxon

MEMBERS 15 - 19 years (by 1995)

Beryl & Leanna Bergschneider

Jim Cooper

Jim & Virginia Gerick

Frank Giesen

Kay Kerbow Gregory

Norma Hart

Lorrie Foster Henderson

James Hollas

Jane Horn

Brent Lockwood

Howard & Gladys Long

Peter Flagg Maxson

John C. Miller

William Nash, Jr.

Connie Wallace Perdue

Shirley Rogers

Jim Stockton &

Judith West

MEMBERS 10 - 14 years (by 2000)

Roger Bartlett

Grace Jones Bauman

Kay Dunlap Boyd

Jim & Shirley Brinkman

Kathryn Cox

Inez Eppright

Barbara Frock

Anne D. Gilbert

Vernon C. Harris, Jr.

Dale & Pete Langston

Charles & Beverly Locklin

David MacCabe

John & Jean Marostica

Wynnell Noelke

Pat Oxley

Richard S. Robertson

Jean Shroyer

Nancy Huber Wilson

Tim Wilson

Edna Youngblood

AGS Lifetime Members

1997 Lorrie Foster Henderson *
1997 Phoebe Simpson
1997 Barbara and Jerry Goudreau, Honorary,
for service
1998 Helen Rugeley, Honorary for service
1998 John C. Miller *
1998 Mary Kay Snell, Honorary, for service *
1998 Wilena Kennerly Young, Honorary, for
service *
2000 Peter Flagg Maxson *
2001 Jean Halden Walker
2001 Pat Marshall *
2002 Betty Huff Bryant *
2002 Charles A. Walker (Honorary, for wife's
service)

2002 Marguerite Walling Butler
2004 Judith Johnson Hendricks*
2006 Martha Valliant McClain*
2007 Charles E. Clinger *
2007 Lyndia Slayton *
2007 Helen Carroll Patterson*
2008 Emma Gene Gentry, Honorary, Charter
Member*
2009 Mary C. Bohls*
2009 Mary Hudson Masco*
2009 Shirley Patrick*
2009 Karen S. Williams*
2010 David B Gracy II*
*Living



Some Lifetime members: (l-r) John Miller, Mary Bohls, Charles Clinger, Carroll Patterson, Lorrie Henderson

A Brief History of the Austin Genealogical Society, 1960-2010

Kate Allen, Kay Boyd and Barbara Innis

Introduction

The charter stipulated Austin Genealogy Society to be a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, exchanging, and publishing genealogical material for the benefit of historians and genealogists. The Society began in 1960 and celebrated its first 25 years in 1985. In 2010, its 50th year as a Society, members celebrated and honored those who built the organization before us. As a commemoration of those conscientious members before us and looking forward to the next 50 years when the youngsters of today and even those not-yet-born review our work, this short history of Austin Genealogical Society is presented.

The Beginnings of AGS

On April 13, 1960, the Austin Genealogy (later changed to Genealogical) Society was formed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Barron with 8 other interested people: Mrs. David C. Gracy, Mrs. J. F. Kramer, Mr. and Mrs. Garland Barcus, Mr. and Mrs. Dorman Winfrey, and General and Mrs. Dean F. Winn. By the next week, 18 people came together; the third week, 35 people showed their interest by attending the informal meetings. By December 31st of 1960, the Society had acquired 125 charter members and had set the annual dues at \$1.00. In April 1961, 196 charter members were acknowledged.

The first AGS publication, with no name, typewritten and post-office delivered came in November of 1960. Later, of course, the

unnamed publication became the Quarterly of Austin Genealogical Society.

Public meetings were held at the Austin Public Library starting on June 23, 1960, with regular meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month. AGS began with 20 members on the Board of Directors. In 2004, under the leadership of Charles Locklin and with an amendment to the By-Laws, the number was reduced to 12 Board members to make a more workable group.

A charter from the State of Texas, dated 23 October 1961, made Austin Genealogical Society a non-profit educational organization. The By-Laws were amended February 1962, November 1967, and June 1984, 2001, 2004, and 2007 to reflect changes in officers and procedures.

From Article VI of the Charter, the names of those serving as the initial directors or trustees of the Society were as follows:

Barron, Mrs. William T.
Bickler, Mr. Ralph A.
Breeding, Mr. Seth D.
Carstarphen, Mr. Lewis H.
Colglazier, Miss Elva B.
Folmar, Mr. Robert H.
Gentry, Mrs. H. R.
Gracy, Mrs. David C.
Gracy, Mr. John A.
Harwood, Mr. Winston
Kramer, Mrs. J. F.
Lee, Mr. Robert E.
McAdams, Mrs. Kelly
Morris, Mrs. Roy H.

Pettway, Mrs. Richard W.
 Springfield, Mrs. J. T.
 Shudde, Mrs. Louis
 Tate, Mrs. Claude B.
 Weiler, Mrs. H. J.
 Walker, Mrs. Charles A.

Mr. Robert E. Lee, President
 Mrs. John A. Gracy, Vice President
 Mrs. David C. Gracy, Secretary-Treasurer
 Mrs. J. T. Springfield, Parliamentarian

The first set of AGS officers were:

The first committee chairs: Mrs. H. R. Gentry,
 Mr. Robert H. Folmar, Mrs. Roy H. Morris, Mrs.
 Charles A. Walker.



Past Board members and committee chairs

Far Back row, Robert Sage, Clarence Guelker

Back row Charles Locklin, Beverly Locklin, Charles Clinger, Barbara Innis, John Miller, Ben Boswell, Sharon Tieman, Bill Nash, Lynn LeCropane, Putnam Monroe, Leeanna Bergschneider, Pat Oxley, Andrea Burkhart, James Hollas, Glenda Knipstein, Lee Kinard, Harold Hudnall, John Marostica, Bob Tieman

Front row, Emma Gene Gentry, Julia Mellenbruch, Marcia Arn, Lorrie Henderson, Edna Youngblood, Roberta Jenkins, Wynette Noelke, Bobbie Hudnall

Meeting Places

The first public meeting place of Austin Genealogical Society, in June 1960, was the lower-level auditorium of Austin Public Library at 9th and Guadalupe Street. Meetings have always been open to the public and free of charge. Later locations were as follows:

July 1963- Howson Branch Library
 November 1963- Travis County Courthouse
 December 1964- Howson Branch Library
 April 1979- Central Library
 June 1983- Austin History Center
 February 1984- First Baptist Church
 1993- Covenant Presbyterian Church
 1997 to present- Highland Park Baptist Church

Dues

Dues were raised over the years from \$1 annually in 1960 to \$20 annually in 2010:

1960- \$1.00

1961- \$3.00

1970- \$4.00 single/\$6.00 family

1972- \$5.00 single/\$7.50 family

1974- \$6.00 single/\$9.00 family

1983- \$9.00 single/\$10.00 family

1986- \$12.00 single/\$14.00 family

1992- \$15.00 single/\$17.00 family

1997- \$16.00 single/\$18.00 family

1998 - \$20.00single/\$30.00 family

COMMITTEES

CEMETERY

In 1999, AGS began a project of inventorying all of the cemeteries in Travis County. Since then all of the large city-owned cemeteries, many others in the city, and small ones in the county have been completed and posted on our website and it has been one of our most visited sites. At its beginning and until 2004, Jean Shroyer chaired the group, aided by Clarice Neal, John Miller, Suzanne and Bruce Robertson and Marilyn Henley. Kay Boyd and Mary Todd continue this project at this time (2010).

EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

The Education and Program Committees merged in 2004 to provide the best speakers and educational training for the members

Classes

In 2003 after a hiatus of several years, the Education Committee reestablished beginners' classes as a means of drawing new members to the society, and we continue to offer two sets of classes per year. These have been one of our most popular events with 25-

50 people annually enrolling in one of the two sessions. Registration in 2010 was the largest ever. Those involved in putting this educational process in action and who developed the classes were Harold Hudnall, Cindy Foreman and Anna Price.

As of 2010, AGS continues to lend support to Lifetime Learning classes

Laptop Sessions

In 2008, the Laptop Sessions on Saturdays became a part of this programming offering smaller groups hands-on classes of educational interest.

Mini-seminars/Workshops

In 2009, the board voted to stop presenting an annual, full-day seminar and began offering a series of mini-seminars which feature speakers at low or no cost to attendees. These mini-seminar/workshops are open to all AGS-member and non-member researchers. In addition to nationally known featured speakers, a great many local experts and officials have shared their expertise on these occasions.

Monthly Meeting Programs

Over 50 years, resourceful program chairs have arranged a great variety of programs for monthly meetings. They have ranged widely in nature, emphasizing instruction by experts on such subjects as preservation of documents and photographs; finding genealogical material; researching in libraries, courthouses, cemeteries, writing a family history; interviewing family members; pursuing research in foreign countries; using computers as aids to genealogists. Local talent has not been overlooked as many AGS members have shared their interesting and helpful experiences.

MAILING

Those who have performed the tedious, time-consuming, back-breaking, unavoidable task of mailing the quarterlies and newsletters deserve a thousand thanks. Among some of the earlier volunteers were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cook, Miss Helen Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Earl Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Goudreau, Mr. Tommy Miles, and Col. Putnam Monroe.

In May 1983, the quarterlies were printed and mailed by a commercial firm, but in an effort to save money, AGS resumed the task of handling this mailing in 2002.

For the past several years, John and Jean Marostica have performed this task as the unsung heroes

MEMBERSHIP and HOSPITALITY

Membership record keeping began on 3x5 index cards and in ring binders. It is now maintained by computers. Edna Youngblood, a hospitality committee member, recalled how many folks it took to take care of these duties, especially before e-mail!

When Juanita Dodgen was in charge of membership-hospitality, she asked Edna to help her at the registration table at the monthly meetings, and somehow Edna kept that responsibility for four or five years. At one time, there were only two members who handled the receiving table, organized refreshments, and helped Gaylon Powell to sell items. Working at the registration table offered a chance to welcome visitors and new members as well as get to know the long time members. After Juanita resigned, Bob Tallman helped Edna. Later a larger group of members came forward to assist.

Over the years our membership has increased but the 50th Anniversary in 2010 was a banner year for taking in new members. In

January, 288 were on our rolls and by November that number had increased to 365.

PIONEER CERTIFICATE

In 2004, The Austin Genealogical Society started the project of issuing Pioneer Families of Travis County Certificates to individuals who can prove that their ancestors were living in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880. As an excellent way to preserve our past and to honor our earlier settlers to Travis County, this information provides a valuable resource to others studying the history and genealogy of Travis County. Between 2004 and 2010, 53 certificates were processed for 38 pioneer persons or couples who meet the standard for Pioneer designation residing here from 1832 to 1880.

RECORDS

The early AGS members did a lot of work transcribing county records, including early birth, church, census, and school documents. These transcriptions have been made available to researchers on the AGS website. Also added to the website were records on naturalization, marriages, Austin census and voter registration, as well as the Oakwood database of sexton's records which was done in cooperation with the Austin History Center.

RESEARCH TRIPS

The first recorded AGS chartered bus trip to Clayton Library in Houston was organized in September 1981 by Barbara Goudreau and the first overnight bus trip to the Dallas Public Library for Genealogical Research took place July 13-17, 1983. Besides trips to genealogy libraries in Houston and Dallas, AGS now sponsors frequent research trips to Salt Lake City and Allen County Library with other library excursions being planned.

Contributions by AGS

The Matching-Purchase Acquisition Program was initiated by DeWitt C. Nagues in July 1963. Many rolls of microfilm, equipment and books have been presented to Texas State Library, including books such as family histories and others of limited interest which are excluded from their budget by Library Board policy.

Celebrating the birthday of Stephen F. Austin turned out to be one of the Society's most notable contributions to the interested public. On 3 November 1977 at the Texas State Library, Dr. David B. Gracy II, State Archivist, arranged a celebration of this event, and AGS chose the occasion to present its Bicentennial Gift 13 (the number of colonies that declared independence from England)—13 books whose contents pertain to the history and genealogy of 12 present-day states. This Gift and Memorial were given in memory of the late Seth D. Breeding, one of the Society's most dedicated members. Mrs. H. R. Gentry, Chair, Mrs. David C. Gracy, Mrs. Ralph A. Bickler made up our Bicentennial Gift Committee.

Then in 1984, in memory of another devoted member, Lucie Clift Price, the Society presented to the Genealogy Collection of the State Library a complete set (245 volumes) of the Alabama Records compiled by Jones and Gandrud.

As AGS' Sesquicentennial Project in 1984, our members, led by Tommy Miles, initiated several projects to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the independence of Texas. Mrs. David C. Gracy headed the project to inventory the gravestones in the State Cemetery and to publish the dates. Mrs. Iris Zimmerman and committee abstracted the Texas Pension Records in the State Archives, and Dr. Johnnie Reeves headed up a project to

abstract data from the Audited Military Debts of the Republic of Texas.

AGS has continued to support genealogical projects over the years, and in 2010, the board voted to make a donation to the FGS fundraising effort for the preservation of the War of 1812 records.

AGS Quarterly

New cover designs were often in the making. The June 1967 issue of the Quarterly sported a fancy new cover: a star, locating Austin on the map of Texas and displayed on a shield. The name of the Society was on a ribbon below the shield, and the cover stock varied in color from number to number. In 1972 we settled on goldenrod color. That design was used from Volume VIII, 2 through X, 4. Issue numbers XI, 2 through XII, 4 displayed the ribbon above historical photographs; the ribbon alone was used through Vol. XV, 4. Starting with Vol. XIII, No. 2 (June 1972) the Table of Contents was printed on the cover for the convenience of the time-pressed browser. In 1967; the first barren tree appeared on the April 1975 cover; and with the January 1997 issue, the new fully leaved tree was created by editor Bill Koehler.

In 2009, a competition was held to select a logo and motto to be used with the 2010 50th celebration of AGS. The winners were Cynthia Rodriguez and Janis Trayler, who combined their ideas for this project.

Editors by year:

1960- Jean Walker
1964- DeWitt C. Nagues
1966- Viola Long
December 1967- Mrs. Roy Morris
March 1968- Viola Long
September 1968- Annie Giles
1970- Donna McBride
1972- Helen Rugeley

1992- Bill Koehler
2002- Alana Moehring Mallard
2008- Randy Whited

From Vol. XVI, No. 1, March 1975 of the AGS Quarterly:

"THE NEW TREE

Our new cover design is peculiarly appropriate for the quarterly of Austin Genealogical Society because, aside from the obvious suggestion of a "family tree", it is based on the well-known "Treaty Oak," the tree in a small city park on Baylor, between 5th and 6th Streets in Austin. Treaty Oak was the site of numerous treaties between the early settlers and the Indians, as well as many public assemblies and celebrations.

The drawing, made Mrs. Maydell McDerment, is of the iron work in a niche in the south foyer of the State Capitol, within which reposes a copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Besides the tree, the protective design conceived by Fortunat Weigl includes the Texas Lone Star motif and scrollwork, all handmade with the simplest of tools by the late Mr. Weigl and his sons, at a cost of approximately \$400. The value has, of course, multiplied tremendously since the day of the official unveiling, 2 March 1929, which is appropriately Texas Independence Day.

We are deeply indebted to Mrs. McDerment for realizing how fitting it would be for AGS to display this beautiful bit of art on the cover of its publication, and for making a drawing of it to be so used."

Although the record of awards is not complete, the Quarterly placed in the Texas State Genealogical Society writing competition in 2003, 2009, and 2010.

NEWSLETTER

Several letters regarding the organization of the Society (written by Mr. John A. Gracy) should be regarded as the ancestors of our Newsletter. The newsletter began in 1964. For some years it was written by the Quarterly editor, Jean Halden Walker.

Subsequent editors have been Donna McBride, Louise Kirk, Pauline Cooney, Mrs. Lelon Winsborough, A. H. Leistico, Pat Anderson, and Wilena Young.

Wilena Young accepted the position in April, 1977 and constantly improved the newsletter, announcing meetings, workshops, special events, etc. and listing the new books (with call numbers) received by the Genealogy Collection at Texas State Library. Beginning in January 1981, Wilena made it even more attractive with a distinctive heading and appropriate bits of clip art on colored paper stock.

In 2006, the newsletter started electronic distribution to the majority of the membership. After thirty years, Wilena edited her final issue of the newsletter in November 2007. AGS celebrated her extraordinary service with a reception where she received many thank you cards, and a special gift.

Janis Trayler began her term as editor with the January 2008 edition.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Often referred to as "the handbook," this annual publication provides all members' names and contact information as well as information regarding officers, directors, committee chairs, AGS activities and publications, By-Laws of AGS, other society and institutional memberships, and past presidents. The first Directory was compiled by Tommy Miles in 1984.

Past Board Presidents

2009-10 Cindy Foreman
2008 Tommy Ingram
2005-07 Pat Oxley
2004 Charles Locklin
2002-03 James Hollas
2000-01 Marilyn Henley
1998-99 John C. Miller
1996-97 Roberta Jenkins
1994-95 Ms. Tamara Baldwin
1992-93 Mrs. Glenda Knipstein
1989-91 Mr. Lee Kinard
1988 Mrs. Billy J. Kaiser
1986-87 Mrs. Andrea Nagel
1984-85 Mr. Sam Montgomery
1983 Mrs. John M. Pickney, Jr.

1981-82 Mr. Gerard P. Goudreau
1979-80 Mr. Clarence F. Niebuhr
1977-78 Mrs. Joe B. Golden
1976 Mr. & Mrs. Billy J. Kaiser
1975 Mr. Billy J. Kaiser
1974 Mrs. Virgil L. Snell
1972-73 Mrs. John M. Pickney, Jr.
1970-71 Miss Louise Kirk
1968-69 Miss Annie T. Giles
1967 Mr. DeWitt C. Nagues
1966 Mr. O.V. Koen
1963-65 Col. Ralph E. Pearson
1962 Mr. & Mrs. Garland Barcus
1960-61 Mr. Robert E. Lee
1960 Mrs. David C. Gracy, pro-tempore



2010 AGS Board of Directors

Front row: Sharon Foley, Maud Cain, Janis Trayler, Dona Kurtz

Back row: Randy Whited, Inez Eppright, Mary Todd, Teri Flack, Cindy Foreman, Kay Boyd, Kate Allen, Sara Gredler

Donna McBride

Earl McBride

Like many of us, Donna found genealogy to be one of the most exciting endeavors that she engaged in. Donna was most active in the 1980s and 1990s after our daughters were independent. I was busy with geology, while she did genealogy. Our daughter, Suzanne, in her pre-teens, thought that we did the same tasks, but the difference in spelling referred to male versus female participants.

Donna was frustrated with the AGS when she was active in it. It was a fledgling organization with too few members, too few active participants, and too small a budget to bring in outside speakers.

All her files were on paper and she wrote all her notes on a typewriter. She had no primary data in her computer, because the technology came available when she was so far into her work that it would have been too onerous to re-enter all the data. In addition, she hated computers. She did put the final text of her Hixson (2001) clan into Microsoft Word in order to make a master copy-- and from which I made a pdf file. She laboriously put footnotes at the bottom of each page of text on the typewriter. Of course, the final result was elegant.

Donna did not use the internet to acquire any of the data for her published Hixson volume. She did use internet sources when she started working on other family lines after 2001--these did not get completed because two strokes slowed her down and made typing a chore. To her, visits to century-old courthouses for vital data and land records

were the elixir of genealogy. She loved poking around in the dusty basements of courthouses-- most of which were in northern Illinois. She went to libraries to scroll through newspapers to get obits and she wrote letters to cousins for photos, stories, and dates. She shunned using the phone because she thought it was an invasion of privacy. (Hasn't bothered me though.)

Donna started acquiring family documents and vital dates in the 1960s, so she had stuff that was not available from other sources by the time that she started writing. Fortunately for me, she also acquired stuff on my family at a time when I had no time for or interest in the subject. She acquired a goldmine of family photos of folks on my mother's side of the family-- and a scrapbook of more than 500 obits of friends and relatives that my ggrandmother compiled. And Donna indexed the entire file!

When I told her of the interesting speakers that I heard at monthly meetings of the AGS, she was interested in attending also. She came to only one meeting before her second stroke made evening travel too tiring.

Most of her family have been highly appreciative of her volume on her Hixson clan, so she felt it was worth the time and effort.

Members' Memories

The members of AGS were asked to tell us their story by writing about an outstanding moment that happened to them as a member of the Austin Genealogical Society. --

In April of 1977, I learned that my grandfather had tumors in both kidneys. The doctor gave him one day, one week, one month, or one year to live. I decided to get busy and do some research of his parents who came to the United States from Germany in 1883. I went to the Texas State Library for the first time and asked for help in the Genealogy Dept. The lady there explained what they had and even showed me around. I then got busy doing research while my grandfather stayed home, wanting to be left alone to wait to die. He heard later what I was doing and told me that I was wasting my time as I would not find anything there. It was hard to start, but I did find some information. The more I found, the more my grandfather changed his attitude and started looking forward to learning what I was finding. My grandfather passed away in March of 1979, just one month short of two years since I started research. Yes, I kept him alive longer than expected as he wanted to learn more about his family.

The lady at the library also told me about Austin Genealogical Society, and I joined the year of 1977. At one time, I put in my queries about my relatives in the Quarterly. About two weeks later, I received a letter from Missouri with "Dear Cousin." At that time, I didn't know ANYONE who lived outside Texas, and I was so surprised and confused how someone in Missouri had found me! I learned from Barbara Goudreau, my dear, beloved friend,

that AGS Quarterlies were sent to several different libraries in other states. By the way, Barbara's husband, Gerard, was president of AGS in 1982. The AGS has helped me a lot in finding several relatives. Whenever someone tells me that he wants to do research on his family, I tell him that he needs to join AGS.

Mary C. Forister

During my recovery period from heart surgery in 1990, I began going to the State Library to see what I could find about my family history. There I noticed a flyer on the bulletin board about Beginners Genealogy Classes held by Juanita Dodgen of the Austin Genealogy Society. I learned a great deal to start me off from her class about Family Group Sheets, documentation, and more. She also suggested that a membership in AGS would be rewarding. I joined in the second half of that year, and have to say that Juanita's advice was very true.

The first seminar I attended in 1991 featured Dr. George Schweitzer, who arrived in period costume for his talk on Migration Routes and Settlement Patterns, and in a different costume for his talk on War of 1812 Genealogy. He was hugely informative as well as entertaining.

A later seminar at The Terrace in South Austin featured a most delicious dish of King Ranch Chicken—some of the best I've ever tasted. At other seminars I was privileged to attend lectures by nationally prominent speakers such as John Colletta and William Dollarhyde,

I never went to a seminar where I thought I didn't learn something important.

If I was lucky, I got a seat next to someone like Clarice Neal, Josephine Ross, Glenda Knipstein, or Julia Mellenbruch, who could fill in all the gaps that I missed, and greatly enhanced my learning. I also enjoyed running into Jean Shroyer and Marilyn Henley at the TSL where they always seemed to be whenever I was there. They pointed me to many new discoveries.

Another feature I enjoyed were the early SIG meetings at the North Austin LDS Church on Saturday mornings for computer applications to genealogy. I learned a lot from James Hollas, Robert Casey, and a host of others who knew the ins and outs of using the computer for genealogy even before we had the World Wide Web.

I was fortunate to attend two different National Conventions, one in Houston and one in Austin. At the one in Houston I came upon a fellow that was hauling a dolly with 3 cardboard boxes with his entire genealogy with group sheets going back to Adam and Eve. That's when I began to really believe not to believe everything I read or saw.

My father was a bus driver and I always believed in leaving the driving to them. I went on bus trips with AGS to Clayton Library and the Dallas Library. Both were well worth the money spent and I enjoyed talking with the various members to and from on the trip.

All in all, I have very much enjoyed my twenty years in AGS. I've learned a lot, and have appreciated how new blood seems to pop up and invigorate the leadership every few years. I do have to say, however, that I was disappointed in the decision not to have an annual seminar this year. Perhaps it will be

brought back next year, and will even have some good King Ranch Casserole.

Jim Cooper

In 2000, one of my cousins said she had a little project for me. She shipped me several boxes of her mother's genealogical research. I knew that if I were to make any sense out of these papers, that I needed to join AGS. I took every little class and seminar offered by AGS and other local genealogical groups in order to hone my research skills. Then I took my first research trip to Salt Lake City. So many records. So little time. Right? But it is not only the research trips AGS sponsors but being encouraged by AGS to attend NSF or NGS conferences. I met a Maryland researcher at an NSF conference who I did hire to help break down a brickwall. We worked together for several months trying to solve this problem. She found some very interesting information for me. No, the problem isn't solved yet. But she is hooked on finding my ancestor. By the time we saw each other again at a NGS conference it was like two friends just getting together.

My world is so much wider now, thanks to AGS.

Carroll Patterson

I joined the A.G.S. in 1990 not quite knowing what to expect. I didn't really know any other members and, then in my 40s, I was one of the younger members. But I knew I was very interested in family history and genealogy, and that it was both comforting and productive to be around so many other people who were similarly inclined. I've learned so much from AGS talks and handouts, and have given

several talks as well. I enjoyed my service on the board and was gratified to win a prize for wearing my Grandfather DeGolyer's honorary doctoral robes in a AGS "Come as your own ancestor" contest.

But perhaps the single greatest benefit for me has been the June members' issue of the *AGS Quarterly*. I'd collected a certain amount of information on different lines since I was a teenager, but I *never* put anything in a finished form so that friends, family and hopefully AGS members might have the chance to read my scribblings. In the twenty years I've been a member, I've submitted at least fifteen four-page articles, essays or genealogies, sometimes pertaining just to my own forbears and sometimes with a wider focus. I certainly know that not everything has been of interest to *all* members, but perhaps the sometimes unorthodox subjects, themes or formats may be useful to others in their own genealogical writings, suggesting ways to go beyond the birth-marriage-death or biographical approach.

I also know that I would NOT have written the majority of these in a reasonably polished form were it not for the *Quarterly*. I've probably sent two hundred copies of AGS articles to others, and am about to complete my second family history. Both books some incorporate material originally prepared for the *Quarterly* and subsequently expanded.

I have greatly enjoyed reading others' family histories in the *Quarterly*, and strongly encourage those who have not submitted articles to do so. Don't be bashful. We all have our own family tales to tell, and you will find AGS members very appreciative.

Peter Flagg Maxson

For a number of years I have been searching to find the exact home site, life style and ancestors of my G-G- Grandparents in Germany. From census and other records I found Anne (b. 1782) and Georg (b. 1781) and family lived in an area defined as Darmstadt, Hesse. That covers a very large area. Land, census and other records in Paris, Edgar Co, IL. showed they owned considerable land beginning in 1843. But, what was their life prior to 1843?

In Sept. 2009 I received a telephone call from my cousin, Arthur Clinger, in Dallas, TX. Arthur stated he had received a letter dated 17 Sept. 2009 from Helga Scheichenost of Lautertal, Hesse, Germany. Helga was inquiring about any descendants of Georg Henrich in TX. Later Helga told me she contacted Arthur by "woman's intuition". I left it alone!! Arthur forwarded the letter to me for further handling.

I contacted Helga by E-mail on 26 Sept 2009. From that point on Helga has provided factual data from church and other records to support DOB, DOM, DOD, occupations, ancestors, pictures and so much more. Anne & Georg had 8 children. Six of them died before reaching the age of 2. Two sons survived - Georg Henrich (my g-grandfather) and Johann Leonard K/Clinger. They left Steinau, Hesse, Germany in 1830 for PA - USA. I believe they stopped in Klingerstown, PA. before settling in Paris, Edgar Co., IL. Joyce Brown of Edgar Co. Gen. Society has provided valuable factual data of my line in Paris, Edgar Co., IL. All are buried in Edgar Co. Cemetery, except son, Georg. He came to TX. in 1852, lived in Bexar, Guadalupe, Grayson, Travis and Llano Counties. He died in 1892 (grave site questionable) in Llano, TX.

In June 2010 my son, Brian E. Clinger, and daughter, Marsha Clinger Roose, were week-long guests of Helga and Helmut to research our ancestor's many sites. I now have over 2500 pictures and documents. Brian and Marsha will make a presentation at our 16 Oct. 2010 K/Clinger Reunion in Llano, Llano Co., TX.

Without the timely communication by Helga along with her friend, Bianka Klinger of Germany, I would still be searching for my German homeland. But, the search continues - as it never ends.

Charles E. Clinger

I am amazed at how giving the genealogy community is. Doing my research, I have found so much information that others have transcribed, recorded or photographed. That is the reason I feel it is so important to give back and help others. As a member of AGS, I have attended many seminars, classes and brickwall sessions. I always learn something from the speaker or other members. You only need to listen.

What I treasure most though are the friends I have made through the society. I would never have crossed paths with so many others if it were not through genealogy.

Kay Boyd

In 2005 I listed my "Parks" surname on the registration for the AGS Seminar. November 16, 2007 I received an email from AGS member Teri Mirka stating that she saw the Parks name listed with my name when she attended the Seminar, that she had a James M. Parks ancestor and asked if we had a

connection. I looked in my papers and found that we both can trace back to James M. Parks and his wife Elizabeth Jane Reavis Parks. What a nice surprise! We then shared gravestone photos and other family information.

Sheila Sargent

Juanita Dodgen introduced me to AGS in 1998. On my first trip to Clayton Library, I found my cousin, Kellene, whom I had not seen since 1932. She lives in Houston and the reunion has been wonderful.

A few years ago a new member of AGS was introduced who said she was researching the Haltom surname. Since I had Haltoms in my family, I met with her after the program. Martha Haltom Bernhardt and I share the same great great grandfather, William Haltom. It's nice to have a real cousin in the Austin Genealogy Society.

Richard Sory Robertson

AGS and I don't share a long history as I didn't move to Austin until April 2006. However, that fall I attended my first monthly meeting, found friendly faces at the registration table, and signed in as a visitor AND a new member. Having refreshments available certainly sealed my desire to be a part of this group!

I knew I wanted to get busier with family history research than I had been, and finding people at AGS whose eyes didn't roll or glaze over when I started talking about my ancestors was exciting. Randy Whited was the first person I met as he was helping those who had questions about German family history. A few years later when I became a president of an

historical cemetery, I had a very helpful conversation with Janis Trayler, who served in the same role at a cemetery in Coleman, TX.

When I was asked to serve as Membership Chair and join the Board for the 2008 and 2009 term, I followed in the footsteps of Edna Youngblood, who provided a detailed job description, encouragement, and never-ending enthusiasm. She also told me that my “right arm” would be Kay Boyd. With her wealth of knowledge re AGS, Austin, publications, members, cemeteries, and all things relating to genealogy, Kay was indeed my best resource person. What I didn’t know at the time was that Kay would become, and is to this day, a best friend.

We combined efforts on the two social events in 2008: “AGS Indoor Picnic with an Italian

Flair,” and “An AGS Holiday Celebration of Giving.” Beginning in 2009 and culminating on September 28, 2010, we Co-Chaired the “AGS 50th Anniversary Celebration,” which was attended by 140, the largest attendance we have had at an evening event.

What fun it has been to get involved with AGS and to be part of the team which plays a leadership role in our organization! In 2011 I look forward to getting better acquainted with more members, taking advantage of learning from others, and finding clues to demolish my brick walls. I also plan to continue attending monthly meetings and checking out those delicious refreshments!

Barbara Innis

President's Notes



Past Presidents: (l-r) Cindy Foreman, Roberta Jenkins, John Miller, James Hollas, Lee Kinard, Marilyn Hensley, Andrea Burkhart, Glenda Knipstein, Charles Locklin, Pat Oxley

I moved to Austin in August 1968 and joined AGS in September 1968. We met at Howson Branch Library and I remember that Emma Gene Gentry and Helen Rugeley took me to my first meeting. I loved it!

Miss Annie Giles was president then and also edited the quarterly. She was very deliberate, refined and precise in conducting meetings. I don't know anyone who called her "Annie" she was always "Miss Giles" to us.

I met many other enthusiastic AGS members throughout the next months and years. Seth Breeding, who was solid as a rock, kept us on an even keel, and was custodian for the

quarterlies until his death. DeWitt Nogues who served as president and then made announcements at every meeting about books we might want to buy. The plan was to agree on several books members wanted; then at meeting we contributed toward the cost of books we were interested in. After we raised enough funds, a particular book was ordered and, if you contributed toward the purchase, you could keep it at home for a time. When all contributors had finished with the book, it was donated to the Texas State Library. Before internet access was even dreamed about in genealogical circles, this arrangement provided a way to obtain eagerly awaited

research materials and to increase the books at the Texas State Library.

I also met Ann Graves, Louise Kirk, Mrs. Stockebrand, Betty Barber, Woodrow Sledge, Jean Walker, Louis Shudde, Lucie Price, Gray Golden, Sam and Belle Cook, Mazie Bickler, Donna McBride, Mary Pinckney, and many others whose names I don't recall after thirty years.

I've always admired the organization of our Society. The number of board members who rotate as their terms of office end ensures that new people are always learning more about our Society and also ensures rich prospects for new officers. I served on the Board of Directors from 1969 through 1976, mostly as Recording Secretary.

About this time, we decided to apply for a 501c3 designation. I think LaRue Hight took the lead on this project. She worked many hours over about a year until we gained that designation. It was not easy.

Donna McBride edited the quarterly for several years. We all worked hard to find material of high quality so other societies would desire to exchange quarterlies with us. In 1971, we started indexing the quarterly. Then, in 1972, Helen Rugeley became editor and added book reviews. Helen had been a proofreader for over 25 years so one of the next projects was a comprehensive index for the quarterly.

One of my most vivid memories pictures Helen Rugeley, Donna Bishop, and me indexing the quarterly. Then, we proofed every entry sitting at my dining table and reading out loud to each other surrounded by index cards and refreshments. We worked on Mondays because Monday was my day off. This project

took many months to complete and we were fast friends at the end of that time.

We had many excellent speakers over the years. I remember two in particular. One was Glen Lich, who spoke on Germanic migration into Texas. The other was Lloyd Doggett, who was running for his first term in office. He talked about his family and brought his wife to the meeting.

Over the years a constant lament was the fact that the Texas State Library was only open Monday through Friday from 8-5. Naturally, we often discussed the need for more research hours both formally and informally. Those of us who were politically inclined said that the only way to get more hours there was to talk to our state legislators. We all agreed but were unsure about what actions to take. Then, at one particular meeting, Pauline Cooney stood up and said she would volunteer to spearhead a drive to get more hours. I remember thinking that she just didn't realize how impossible the task would be. Was I ever wrong! Pauline set to work, contacted other genealogical societies in the state, and asked their members to write their Congressmen. Specifically, we asked for a few evenings a week and a Saturday or Sunday. Members throughout the state began writing their legislators and the upshot was that \$17,000 was allocated to more hours at the State Library. However, Dorman Winfrey, State Librarian at the time, didn't agree and axed the request.

Pauline and her committee kept working and persuading and by December 1973, the Texas State Library staff was ready to initiate Saturday hours. We were all excited and eager to start researching on Saturdays. As a result of this victory, I got my first job.

My term as President, I think, was 1973-1974. However, I resigned early in 1974 because I became the Genealogy Department Saturday supervisor. At this time, I was working on my Master's Degree in Library Science but also going to the State Library to research my family whenever I could. One day at the Library, Mrs. Golden told me that a new position would begin in the genealogy department which would work on Saturdays only. So, I consulted my family and decided to apply. Saturday work would fit with my library school schedule and family schedules. When I applied for the job the next week, I learned that the job description had just been developed and it would be a full-time librarian's position working Tuesday through Saturday. I jumped at the chance. Of course, I had to resign the Society presidency due to conflict of interest. I started work in May 1974.

We had one or two workshops every year and also visited other societies to participate in their workshops. In 1968 or 1969, John Innsley Coddington was our guest. He had fine knowledge and drew many to the seminar but was a rather dry speaker. In 1972, Helen Bondurant Warren presented a two-day seminar; she published the "Puzzler" and was an excellent speaker. She had a lovely Southern accent and a no-nonsense attitude. Another speaker I especially remember was Ron Bremer about 1975. He was just beginning to publish a series of census indexes which were eagerly awaited but full of errors and omissions. Nevertheless, at that time, every library I visited had several of his tomes which were well-thumbed. He was just about the best salesman I have ever heard. Even though we knew some of his stories were merely tall tales, we were mesmerized with his presentations. Our committee even got Governor Dolph Briscoe to make him an

honorary Texan; he was very impressed. In 1976, Carolyn Croft arranged for an all-day workshop at the LDS church. Several of our AGS members developed teaching sessions. My session was titled "Finding Aids at the Texas State Library Genealogical Department." For the first time, we had a silent book auction organized by Barbara Goudreau.

I loved working with the members of the genealogical community in Austin both the Society and those who came to the TSL to do their research. In 1977, I moved to Amarillo but I will never forget the things I learned in Austin and people from whom I learned.

Mary Kay Snell,
President 1973-1974

Greeting to all members of the Austin Genealogical Society. What a great group of folks. You are like family to me. And isn't that what it is all about? Family.

I have many fond remembrances of AGS and its members. I remember Mrs. Helen Rugeley who was such an inspiration to us all with her editorship of the Quarterly and flawless attendance at our meetings. I remember Putnam Monroe with his acerbic wit and encouraging words who handed me the treasurer's job with a grin. And there are many other great folks too numerous to mention who touched my life and left a part of themselves with me.

There are many highlights for me while serving on the board of the AGS. When I started attending the meetings, we met at the Baptist church in downtown Austin and then moved to the Highland Park Baptist Church. I

remember the “dilemma” of having to locate another place to meet, because of conflicting scheduling and how we on the board struggled with locating another venue.

I think the biggest contribution I made to AGS was in continuing the development of the Membership Handbook. I used the latest technology of a personal computer and a software program called Dbasell to print the proof of the handbook so it could be easily printed and reproduced. I also introduced the idea of including the society’s bylaws, listing the local libraries, archives and repositories (i.e. resources), the society’s publications and funds and the society’s activities in the handbook. The handbook became my baby and I loved doing it.

I have done a lot of genealogy and have bookshelves full of research materials to prove it. I have done research on 10 or more surnames in my ancestry and that may not sound like much, but as you know, the numbers multiply rapidly. I used the State Archives for the most part, but I also made trips to the several Texas county seats, many cemeteries, Columbia South Carolina, various places in Alabama, etc. Once I joined the AGS and became an active board member, I spent all of my spare time on society business and did little other genealogical studying. This is not a complaint. It just shows how much I enjoyed the AGS and its activities. The best activity the AGS hosted was the annual seminar when we brought in a well known person in genealogy to give us insight into doing genealogical study. I think my favorite seminar was in the early 1990s when Dr. George Schweitzer from Knoxville, TN was invited to speak on migration patterns in the USA. Wow! What an interesting and spell binding presentation he made to us. He initially came out dressed as a French fur

trapper carrying a musket and speaking French. He told us about the how the French, Scotch-Irish and other ethnicities started in the US and moved progressively westward and how those ethnicities are still present where the pioneers settled in their particular areas of the US. I still treasure the books I bought from Dr. Schweitzer.

The friendships of fellow researchers is the best part of the society. We all have common goals and enjoy sharing information with each other. Everyone is so willing and happy to share techniques and any other information with anyone who will listen. Genealogy is an exciting and rewarding hobby and it is similar to an incurable disease; once bitten by the bug, you never get over it.

Lee Kinard,
President 1989-1991

I know when I was President, we moved from First Baptist Church to Covenant Presbyterian Church. We still had the mega seminars at that time

I had two items that came to me by way of the Austin History Center. One was a letter from Sweden about the Jarls family who came to Austin. I did some research and eventually published something in a Quarterly. It turned out that the husband of Mrs. John Pinckney (a member of AGS) was related to this family. Years later, Alan Jarl got a copy of what I had written and contacted me. Of course the amazing thing is that Alan and I just live a few blocks from each other. Alan has expanded the history of the Jarl family in Sweden way beyond what he ever planned to do. (It also turned out that Alan was a cousin of members Kay Boyd and Shirley Wells.)

The other thing was a call from a young woman. She got my number from the history center. At first she was sort of vague about what she was trying to find out.....also she did not mention that she lived in Illinois!!! I finally found out she wanted some help in finding some things about her deceased father. As the story unfolded, he was married and had a family in Austin in the 1950's. On the day his 4th or 5th child was born, he supposedly left for a construction job in TN. He actually went to the Port Arthur area and married a young woman in a Catholic church ceremony. She had no idea that he had a family. He and this lady went on to have several children. Not long after the man died (which had been fairly recently), a young man showed up at this woman's house and said he was her half-brother!!! Needless to say, she was stunned and did not believe him. I went to the courthouse and found out that the man did indeed have a marriage and a family in Texas, before heading to Port Arthur and eventually to Illinois. I did feel sorry for the young lady but the records pretty much told the truth! The information was obtained long before we had access to internet records, so it did take some footwork to complete.

Glenda W. Knipstein,
President 1991-1993

I went to my first board meeting and was elected president. All the rest of the board had jobs they wanted to keep and so I got the job, not knowing what the job entailed, nor how to do it. Luckily for the AGS membership everyone on the board knew their jobs and did them extremely well. I presided at the board meetings and got all the other societies newsletters from the post office and took

them to the state library, after I had read them. I picked up quite a few tips that way. The fun part was presiding at the monthly meetings. I got to visit with the speakers and always had a good view of the attendees.

Roberta Jenkins,
President, 1996-1997

My, how time flies and memories do run together. After retirement in 1995, I enrolled in the Lifetime Learning Genealogy class taught by Juanita Dodgen. Naturally, she invited the class to the next AGS meeting. I went and was hooked. I went on the Board the next year and moved up to president in 1998.

Several thoughts about Board meetings: We were meeting at Covenant Presbyterian Church on Northland Dr. and they were going to go up on our usage fee. Several options were discussed but I was able to make arrangements at the extremely favorable rate of only \$25 with Highland Park Baptist Church (my church), our current meeting location for some 12 years; Glenda Knipstein, (pres. 1992-1993) called the Board's attention to a future financial problem, our expenses were exceeding our income! Dues were raised and the Life Membership category was begun, thus avoiding a financial crisis; the lake home of the president at that time was flooded and her husband was having serious health problems. Consequently, the Board and officers were called on to make a number of decisions; Putnam Monroe was the mailing officer for several years. He recruited me as his assistance with the plan for me to transition into his job. My election as president in 1998 nixed that plan; The Board had begun to talk about doing a census of the Travis County cemeteries with an eye on publishing the information as a way to supplement our treasury.

AGS's organizational structure at that time was cumbersome. Committees were micro-managed by the Board and the officers with meeting held an hour before the regular meeting. In the 1998-1999 time frame, trips to other genealogy libraries were begun. There were two trips to the Clayton in Houston and now there are the trips to the Mormon Library and Allen County Library. What progress and opportunities! I don't know where the Seminars had been held previously but we held them at Highland Park Baptist for several years. The Seminars were quite successful, informationally and financially but after a few years, we outgrew the church's facilities, moving to a new location for the seminars. At the 1999 Seminar, the caterer's five foot rolling cart fell off the truck on to the driver, broke his arm and the sack lunches went everywhere. It was a mad scramble behind the scenes as a number of us re-sacked the sandwiches, fruit and cookies but not everyone got what they ordered. The cemetery census idea dragged on but Jerry and Barbara Goudreau's deaths in early 1998 changed the picture. They had done a significant number of Travis County censuses and we had hoped to partner with them in their publication. That did not come to pass. In April, 1999, Board minutes reflect that AGS declared that the Cemetery Project was a GO. AGS persevered in the cemetery project over the years and we can be proud of the accomplishments. This is not my Board's legacy but AGS's over a number of years!

In April 1998, a new supervisor of the genealogy collection at the Texas State Library was appointed. Changes were made which we felt were not in the best interest of genealogy patrons. We appointed Clarice Neal as AGS's liaison and she and I met with the new director. She was pleasant but little came of that meeting. Our annual purchase

of publications for the genealogical collection was suspended for a year or two. Juanita Dodgen gave up teaching the LLI Genealogy class but put forth the idea of having several individuals teach specific phases of genealogy i.e. a sampler. That was the genesis of today's version of The Genealogy Sampler and our long, on-going association with Lifetime Learning Institute, supplemented by AGS's special classes. There were two estate gifts to AGS by Jane Baker and the Goudreau family. Their material was sold or donated to other genealogical organization. Proceeds from the sales were subsequently used to purchase TSL books. There was a gift of archival quality file folders from a state agency. These were sold to generate additional funds for genealogical material. Bill Koehler was the long-time Quarterly Editor and published a number of scholarly articles and there were many other special people who contributed to Austin Genealogical Society continuity and growth.

Yes, good memories but I'm still trying to get my Miller line back to the pond for the jump to the old country.

John C. Miller,
President 1997-1999

During my two years as President of the Austin Genealogical Society, several projects were either started or continued from previous years.

The Travis County TX Cemetery Project began in 2000. The committee, led by Jean Shroyer, identified and mapped more than 350 cemeteries and many were transcribed within two years. Many volunteers worked on this project, which received the Texas State

Genealogical Society's first Project Matching Grant Award of \$300.

We participated in genealogy fairs, continued offering six week Lifetime Learning Classes, and started regular bus trips to the Clayton Genealogical Library in Houston and the Dallas Library.

During 2000 and 2001, AGS received TSGS Writing Awards for the Newsletter, written and edited by Wilena Young, and the *Quarterly*, edited by Bill Koehler, who recently passed away.

National genealogy lecturers William Dollarhide and Henry Z. Jones brought in large crowds to the AGS Seminars. Since the previous year Myra Vanderpool Gormley lured 200 folks to the church hall and we were bursting at the seams, we moved the venue to The Red Lion Hotel. That was also the year that the sandwich carrier fell off of the delivery truck sending apples rolling everywhere in the parking lot. We tried to keep that a secret at the time.

The profit from the 2000 & 2001 seminars enabled AGS to purchase two microfilm readers and 35 rolls of 1920 federal census for the Texas State Library. This was in conjunction with the "Cent\$ to Censu\$" microfilm acquisition project that I introduced in 2002 to supplement the TSL 1920 and 1930 census microfilm since the State only purchases Texas census rolls. Remember the beautifully wrapped themed gift baskets at the seminars!

AGS also joined the Federation of Genealogical Societies in 2001. We were invited to co-host the 2004 FGS Conference to be held in Austin with the Texas State Genealogical Society. Great committee chairs, many volunteers, and a huge attendance

made the event a success. The FGS Conference was my last official participation with AGS since my husband had already moved to Houston in late 2003.

Serving on the Austin Genealogical Society Board in several different positions during my eight years in AGS, provided me with perspective on how a really well organized genealogy society operates with and for its members. These ideas carried me forth to the Clayton Library Friends Board and the Houston Genealogical Forum, where in May I completed a two year term as President. I'm sure that the Houston folks are tired of hearing me say, "at AGS we did this and did it this way." But AGS is where I first experienced working in a genealogy society and I thank everyone connected with AGS for that opportunity.

The Austin Genealogical Society and so many of you that I worked alongside hold a special place in my heart. None of the good works could have been accomplished without many volunteers and AGS has the best volunteers around. Thank you for some cherished memories and your friendships.

Marilyn Maniscalco Henley,
President 2000-2001

2002 - We began the year with the first board retreat that allowed us to take a longer look at the way AGS was working. During the year, long-time Quarterly Editor Bill Koehler resigned after ten of years of handling the *Quarterly*. Alana Mallard took over the job. We also started planning for two out-of-town research trips - to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the Clayton Library in Houston. Jean Shroyer started the cemetery

project, Marilyn Henley took on the project to purchase the census for the state library and Kay Boyd started the indexing of Travis County records.

2003 – AGS was asked to be a co-host with the Texas State Genealogical Society for the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference to be held in Austin at the new Convention Center. We accepted and helped put on a national conference for FGS. Marilyn Henley was named co-chair of the event. Many of the members pitched in and took various jobs. Pat Oxley co-chaired the exhibit hall and it was her start to later become FGS President. Along the way, we also had research trips to the Dallas Public Library and to Salt Lake City. That summer, we began our beginner's classes.

James Hollas,
President 2002-2003

The most exciting event for AGS in 2004 was our hosting experience along with TSGS for the annual meeting of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) in Austin, September 8-11. The theme for the meeting was "Legends Live Forever". I had the privilege of making a conference workshop presentation, "Sleuthing the Internet - Connecting Family Lore to Archival Sources".

I was most impressed with the cooperative energy of our AGS members who volunteered assistance in making this a successful and pleasurable conference in our city. Several of us attended the 2003 FGS Conference in Florida to promote Austin as the 2004 site. At that meeting in a short skit Tex (me in cowboy dress) lassoed Mark Lowe (a lost Missouri

ancestor in farmers clothing) with a rope and dragged him to Texas.

During 2004 the Census Acquisition Project was in full swing under the leadership of Marilyn Henley. A new program, the Pioneer Award for Travis County first families, was launched with the guidance of Gaylon Powell. On July 27th the monthly AGS meeting was held at Camp Mabry (the first time I believe) for us to become familiar with their Library and Archives. We started a new format for our monthly meetings for questions and answers, "Up For Discussion", that was conducted for a half hour or so before the main speaker. A new type of AGS membership badge displaying our personal ancestral names was started and promoted by our First Vice President, Pat Oxley. And I enjoyed the opportunity of teaching an "Introduction to Internet Genealogy", a hands on computer class.

We were able to make several major revisions in our Bylaws including decreasing the size of the AGS Board from twenty to twelve members. Also we established a process by which AGS members could either grant or decline the listing of their contact or other personal information in AGS publications. And to facilitate planning and good management of activities we were able to establish several working committees with Board member leadership assignments. It was a great year, 2004, for which I have many pleasant memories.

Charles Locklin,
President 2004

It was my honor to serve as President of the Austin Genealogical Society for three years,

2005 – 2007. It was a busy three years and we were able to institute some very positive changes during that time.

Charles Locklin began the process during his term to mold AGS into a Committee driven organization rather than individuals making unilateral decisions. I continued this process and we had some dynamic committees which helped our dwindling membership surge back toward 300.

The most active and important committee that helped raise our membership numbers and our meeting attendance was the Program and Education Committee. From our portion of the profits from the FGS Conference in 2004 we had the courage to step outside the box and improve our programming to a new level. We began paying speakers as needed, bringing in national speakers for mini-seminars and instituting a more robust education program. This committee still functions today and is vital to the life of AGS.

In order to both save money and “go green” we took the newsletter electronic. The first year was a struggle and we still have some older members who do not have computers, but we do provide them with a paper copy. The initial savings was \$1200 year and is much greater at this point due to rising membership numbers, printing and postage costs. It is my sincere hope that AGS will eventually take the Quarterly electronic as this is the wave of the future and we have set an example at FGS by doing just that.

We did a major bylaws review during my term in office with the help of the FGS Bylaws review committee. We updated job description to fit with the age of the technology and we put term limits on offices along with several other minor changes. We also put out a conference survey electronically

with an amazing 50% or better return. The results of this survey were used for programming and planning trips.

Our destination trips, which began during Charles’ term as President, have become very popular and thus far we have gone to Salt Lake City four times and Ft. Wayne twice. A Ft. Wayne trip is being planned for 2011 and we hope to put together a trip to DC and possibly Mid Continent Library in future years. We also continue hosting annual bus trips to either Houston or Dallas.

Thank you for allowing this native of Illinois the opportunity to serve as President of this outstanding Texas organization. I’m truly a Texan at heart and am proud that my Granddaughters are second generation Texans!

Pat Oxley,
President 2005-2007

It has been my honor to serve as President to the Austin Genealogical Society during the years 2009 & 2010. During that period of time the society gained statewide acknowledgment from TSGS for our quality Newsletter and Quarterly. In addition FGS approved our request for recognition of one of our members as Volunteer of the Year award. AGS also celebrated its 50th Anniversary year in 2010 with a party and program in September, 2010 with many past Presidents attending.

In addition, our membership has grown to 370 when a count was tallied this past August. I credit this growth to our

improved website as well as offering quality monthly programs, lap top Saturdays and Saturday mini seminars. AGS continues to encourage participation in our beginning genealogy classes twice a year, taught by our AGS members. Once every 18 months, a research trip to Salt Lake City, UT or Fort Wayne, Indiana is

offered to those who enjoy traveling. Now as past President I hope to see a continuation of these activities and anticipate AGS will strive to develop new educational opportunities for its membership.

Cindy Foreman, President 2009-2010

CHARTER
OF
AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In the name and by the authority of
THE STATE OF TEXAS
Office of the Secretary of State

Certificate of Incorporation
of
Austin Genealogical Society

The undersigned, as Secretary of State of the State of Texas, hereby certifies that duplicate originals of Articles of Incorporation for the above corporation duly signed and verified pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, have been received in this office and are found to conform to law.

Accordingly, the undersigned, as such Secretary of State, and by virtue of the authority vested in him by law, hereby issues this Certificate of Incorporation and attaches hereto a duplicate original of the Articles of Incorporation.

Dated October 23rd, 1961.

Signed: P. Frank Lake

Secretary of State

Charter of Incorporation

We, the undersigned natural persons, of the age of 21 years or more, all of whom are citizens of Texas, acting as incorporators of a corporation under the laws of Texas, Non Profit Act, do hereby adopt the following articles of incorporation.

Article I – The name of the corporation is Austin Genealogical Society.

Article II – The corporation is a Non Profit Corporation.

Article III – The period of its duration is Fifty Years.

Article IV – The purposes for which this corporation is organized are: dedicated to collecting, exchanging, publishing genealogical material for the benefit of historian and genealogists.

Article V – The street address of the initial registered office of the corporation is 1502 Lorrain Street, Austin, Texas, and the name of the initial registered agent at such address is Jno. A. Gracy.

Article VI – The number of directors (or trustees) constituting initial Board of directors is 20 and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the initial directors (or trustees) are:

1. Mrs. William T. Barron of 406 West 33St., Austin Texas
2. Mr. Ralph A. Bickler of 809 West 16 St, Austin, Texas
3. Mr. Seth D. Breeding of 2205 Greenlee Drive, Austin, Texas
4. Mr. Lewis H. Carstarphen of 3205 Gilbert St., Austin, Texas
5. Miss Elva B. Colglazier of 2110 Rio Grande St., Austin, Texas
6. Mr. Robert H. Folmar of 1401 Gaston Avenue, Austin, Texas
7. Mrs. Herbert R. Gracy of 3311 Clearview Avenue, Austin, Texas
8. Mrs. David C. Gracy of 2509 Harris Boulevard, Austin, Texas
9. Mr. John A. Gracy of 1502 Lorrain St., Austin, Texas
10. Mr. Winston Harwood of 4506 Edgemont, Austin, Texas
11. Mrs. J. F. Kramer of 612 East 43 St., Austin, Texas
12. Mr. Robert E. Lee of 1809 Forrest Hill, Austin, Texas
13. Mrs. Louis O. Shudde of 2404 Rio Grande St., Austin, Texas

14. Mrs. Richard W. Pettway of 1608 Enfield Road, Austin, Texas
15. Mrs. J. F. Springfield of 2110 Rio Grande, Austin, Texas
16. Mrs. Claude B. Tate of 101 West 32 St., Austin, Texas
17. Mrs. H. J. Weiler of 204 West 32 St., Austin, Texas
18. Mrs. Charles A. Walker of 3108 Cherrywood Road, Austin, Texas
19. Mrs. Kelly McAdams of 2422 Rio Grande, Austin, Texas
20. Mrs. Roy E. Morris of 3224 Windsor Road, Austin, Texas

Article VII – The name and address of each incorporator is:

1. Mr. Robert E. Lee of 1809 Forrest Hill, Austin, Texas
2. Mrs. J. F. Kramer of 612 East 43 St., Austin, Texas
3. Mr. John A. Gracy of 1502 Lorrain St., Austin, Texas

Article VIII – The corporation will collect, exchange, publish genealogical material for the benefit of historians and genealogists.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this 23 day of October A. D. 1961.

Signed: Robert E. Lee

Mrs. J. F. Kramer

John A. Gracy

The State of Texas

County of Travis I, Doris A. Armstrong, a Notary Public do hereby certify that on this 23rd day of October A.D. 1961, personally appeared before me Robert E. Lee, Mrs. J. F. Kramer and John A. Gracy who each being by me first duly sworn, severally declared that they are the persons who signed the forgoing document as incorporators and that the statements therein contained are true.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23rd day of October A.D. 1961.

Signed: Doris A. Armstrong

Notary Public, Travis County, Texas

(Notary Seal)

Com exp June 1, 1962

Retyped from Austin Genealogical society Quarterly, Vol. III, No. 3, Sept, 1962

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