



THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting: April 25, 2017

Who are the Wends? by Weldon Mersiovsky



Weldon Mersiovsky

Weldon Mersiovsky could be summed up in one Wendish word, *radyserb*, which means “glad to be a Wend.” He knew he was Wendish when a young man, but he did not become fascinated to the point of obsession with his ethnic heritage until he was about 25 and fully discovered his roots. Since that time he has researched all of his familial ancestors and gladly assists others in their searches.

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Now 67, while still helping others with their familial and ancestral searches, he has determined to uncover all that is possible to uncover about the Texas Wends and German Sorbs. The results of this ongoing coordinated research and ongoing translation of German and Wendish works and documents into English have been placed on the website of the Wendish Research Exchange (www.wendishresearch.org). The sole beneficiary of Weldon's activities is the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and its members and friends.

The Wends came to Texas for three reasons: 1. to save their faith, 2. to save their language, and, 3. to save their culture. How well did they do? Weldon answers these questions and more in his presentation.

Social Time 6:30 p.m. / Program 7:00 p.m.
Highland Park Baptist Church
[5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731](https://www.google.com/maps/place/5206+Balcones,+Austin,+TX+78731)

Welcome New Members!

Mary Buck
Dolores Campbell
Karen Colbert
Sandy Crow
Elizabeth Hern
Marcella Kuan
Mark Ollmann
Katherine Richards

AGS 2017 QUARTERLY VOL. 2 DEADLINE MAY 21

Click [here](#) for submission guidelines.

Are you related to a celebrity? Royalty?

Let us know - we'd love to share if anyone has found an ancestor who was famous or even infamous!

Send the information to
[newsletter@
austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org).

AGS Education Instructors

If you are interested in teaching or assisting with a genealogy related class either at a public library or for the next session of LLI (Lifetime Learning Institute), please contact Cari Taplin at [education@
austintxgensoc.org](mailto:education@austintxgensoc.org).

AGS ON FACEBOOK

[AustinGenealogicalSociety](#) - Posts on this site include information about the AGS monthly programs, the annual AGS Seminar, and AGS

Register for the 2017 AGS Annual Seminar



Master Genealogist

Thomas W. Jones, CG, CGL Ph.D., FASG, FUGA, FNGS.

Learn more about our speaker here:

<http://www.fieldstonecommon.com/mastering-genealogical-proof-thomas-jones>)

APRIL 29, 2017 – One Seminar – Four Topics - 9:00am - 3:00pm:

- * Using Autosomal DNA to Solve a Family Mystery
- * Creating a Family History of Lasting Value
- * Finding “Unfindable” Ancestors

classes.

[Austin Genealogical Society Members Helping Members](#)

(private group) - Posts on this site include genealogy-related topics such as webinars, websites, and classes not sponsored by AGS. Members of the group may request help with any particular issue they are experiencing with their own research.

[Austin Genealogical Society Writing SIG](#) **(private group)** -

AGS Members interested in writing a personal or family history are encouraged to join this Facebook group and attend the monthly meetings (see below for details.)

“Liking” our pages helps get the message out to more people on Facebook! Please “like” posts when you see them to help market our Society.

CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR!

The latest schedule for AGS events is always available on the website [here](#).

* Five Proven Techniques for finding Your Ancestor's European Origin

Location:

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, [9508 Great Hills Trail, Austin, TX 78759](#)

Price:

Workshops (each): \$25.00 members, \$40.00 non-members

Seminar: \$40.00 members in advance, \$55.00 non-members & at the door.

Find **more information** and **register** at:

www.austintxgensoc.org/seminar

The workshops offered on Friday are sold out.

There are still seats open on Saturday - book now!

Can I Use That in My Genealogy? What You Should Know About Copyright

The second in a two-part series based on a webinar provided and reprinted with permission from the author, Thomas MacEntee.

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For more information, please visit *High-Definition Genealogy* at <http://hidefgen.com>.

The Truth about Fair Use

For purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship or research, you are



AGS DNA SIG

First Tuesday of every month. Next meeting: May 2nd, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Poke Joe's

[2121 Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78727](#)

Three blocks east of Mopac on Parmer Lane

Meetings will be based on the book: *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* by Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne. The May meeting will focus on chapter 3.

The book is available from [Amazon](#) for \$36 paperback or \$9.99 for the Kindle edition. If you are a member of NGS, it is available for \$30.06, or \$36.06 for non-members.

Everyone interested in DNA for genealogy is welcome.

[More information](#)

allowed to use portions of copyrighted works. A useful summary:

“It not only allows but encourages socially beneficial uses of copyrighted works such as teaching, learning, and scholarship. Without fair use, those beneficial uses—quoting from copyrighted works, providing multiple copies to students in class, creating new knowledge based on previously published knowledge—would be infringements. Fair use is the means for assuring a robust and vigorous exchange of copyrighted information.” -- Carrie Russell, American Library Association

Put simply: copyright is not meant to interfere with or impede scholarly research. There is no “Fair Use law” – this is one of many “copyright urban legends” and bits of misinformation about US Copyright laws. There is no “magic formula” such as only using three lines of the work, or if it is on the Internet, it is free to use, etc.

Red Light, Green Light Test for Using Works

When you use other works for your genealogy research, basically you need to use a multi-step litmus test on your usage. I call this my “red light, green light” test:

- Is the work is in the public domain, royalty-free or covered by a Creative Commons or similar license? If it is, green light and use the work! If not, see next step.
- Does your use of the work constitute fair use? If it does, green light and use the work! If it doesn't, see next step.



AGS Writing SIG
Second Thursday of every month - no meeting in December
Tuesday, May 11, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
[IHOP, 1101 S Mo Pac Expressway, Austin, TX 78746](#)

The group was formed to support members in writing their family histories. We meet once a month and have member discussions, presenters, and a place to share our work and give and receive critiques. Our successes thus far: a self-published book, several blog entries, several memoirs, and a regular article published in the newsletter! Come and get inspired with the rest of us! Open to members of AGS.

[More Information](#)

- Are you willing to get permission from the author to use the work or pay a licensing fee? If you are, green light and use the work based on the author or licensing guidelines! If not, don't use the work.

If after going through the test above, you still decide to use the work, you open yourself up to being served with a cease and desist notice or even a lawsuit related to your use of the copyrighted materials. I've found that until you've created your own original works and have had your copyright violated, you don't really appreciate the value of copyright.

Copyright Myths

Here are some common assumptions that many genealogists and others make about copyright and the use of published works:

- **It's on the Internet so it must be free to use.**
Not true and one of the biggest myths perpetuated about copyright. Even unpublished works not posted to the Internet are covered by copyright.
- **There's no copyright notice. Author loses and I win!** The confusion here is that some works published between specific time periods are in the public domain if a specific type of notice wasn't included. Since March 1, 1989 works do not require a copyright notice.
- **The book I'm using as a source is out of print.** "Out of print" does not mean "in the public domain." The material may still be under copyright.
- **I can ask for permission later on.** It's not like asking for forgiveness; asking for permission after



AGS British Isles Genealogy Special Interest Group meets via email to exchange information. Contact Jane Schwendinger at janesca@earthlink.net.

AGS 2017 Calendar

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday (no meeting in December), Networking: 6:30 PM / Program: 7:00 PM Highland Park Baptist Church, [5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731](#)

25-April *Who are the Wends?* by Weldon Mersivsky P,B,D

23-May *Have You Found the "Schatz" in Your Family Tree?* by Cindy Foreman & Beverly Herring

27-June *Forensic Genealogy, Finding the Living* by Kelvin Meyer

usage does not absolve you of copyright infringement liability.

- **I don't need to ask permission as long as I give credit to the author.** If you only give credit for a work, at least no one can call you a plagiarist, right? You still have to ask permission in order to protect yourself from violating copyright.
- **Someone else posted the original work in a forum, a group or in a blog anonymously so I'm good to go.** The same rules about "everything on the Internet is free to use" apply even if posted anonymously. In fact, items posted with a pseudonym or *nom de plume* can still be copyrighted.
- **I'm using the work for a non-profit organization or for educational purposes so I don't have to worry about asking for permission.** Not true. Many confuse this type of use with Fair Use which depends on many factors, not just the type of organization using the work.

General Copyright Do's and Don'ts

- **Assume everything is copyrighted.** This is the best approach and until you can prove that either the work a) is in the public domain, royalty free or covered by a special license; or b) can be used according to Fair Use provisions; or c) can be used through permission or a licensing fee, then don't use it.
- **When in doubt, research or ask.** Use the Resources below or ask the owner of the work if and how the work can be used. Ignorance is not a valid excuse.

25-July *Building a Family Web Site* by Sandra Crowley

22-August *The Importance of Mapping Cemeteries, Not Just Recording the Names* by Dale Flatt

26-September *More than Daughters: Using the DAR's Genealogical Research System (GRS)* by AGS Member Teresa Devine

24-October *I've Got My DNA Results. But How Do I Use Them?* by Sara Gredler

28-November *Fall Fest, The Archives Wars* by James Harkins

AGS Website

Did you forget your login or password to the Members Only section?
Problems renewing a membership?
Contact: webmaster@austintxgensoc.org

AGS 2017 Class Schedule
Information about our classes is available [here](#). All classes are free.

Saturday, May 20, 10:30a-

- **Cite your sources.** Not only do source citations serve you as a genealogist and help improve the research process, for Fair Use purposes you should make clear the name of the work, the author and all pertinent details in your citation.
- **Don't fall prey to "copyright urban legends."** Misinformation abounds when it comes to copyright and especially which works can and can't be used and how. Educating yourself is protecting yourself.

Resources

- **Attribution: It's The Right Thing To Do**
<http://tarletonlibrary.blogspot.com/2014/07/attribution-its-right-thing-to-do.html>
- **Compendium II of Copyright Office Practices**
[http://www.copyrightcompendium.com/#202.02\(b\)](http://www.copyrightcompendium.com/#202.02(b))
- **Copy Right, Copy Sense**
<http://www.pddoc.com/copyright/index.html>
- **Copyright Curiosities – The Legal Genealogist**
<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2014/08/07/copyright-curiosities/>
- **Copyright Genie**
<http://librarycopyright.net/resources/genie/>
- **Copyright Watch**
<http://www.copyright-watch.org>
- **Creative Commons**
<http://creativecommons.org>
- **Electronic Frontier Foundation – Legal Guide for Bloggers**
<http://www.eff.org/issues/bloggers/legal/liability/IP>
- **Is It Protected By Copyright?**
<http://librarycopyright.net/digitalslider/>

Noon

Using Google's MyMaps -

Cari A. Taplin, CG

Little Walnut Creek Branch
Library

[835 W Rundberg Ln, Austin,
TX 78758](http://www.835WRundbergLn.com)

*Registration is required for
this class to insure there are
enough handouts.*

*Registration will open on April
20.*

Did you know you can create your own maps using Google's *My Maps*? Many of us use Google Maps for travel or locating a place. *My Maps* allows users to create custom maps which makes it a fantastic and easy-to-use research and analysis tool. Maps can be shared with others making it a great way to present your research to family and friends. This webinar will give an overview of *My Maps*, examples for why and how it can be useful for genealogy, and will go in-depth to demonstrate to the audience exactly how to create custom maps, including inserting lines, shapes, images, text, and more.

Monday, June 12, 10:30a-

Noon

Using FamilySearch.org -

- **Mistake or Misdemeanor?**
<http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Article.aspx?id=1557>
- **Stanford University Libraries – Copyright & Fair Use**
<http://fairuse.stanford.edu>
- **The Copyright Quandary and Copyright Myths**
<http://www.costcoconnection.com/connection/201304?pg=27#pg27>
- **The Practical (non-Legal) Guide to Curation and Copyrights**
<http://blog.shareist.com/is-curated-content-a-copyright-issue/>
- **U.S. Copyright Office FAQs**
<http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/>

Thanks to Thomas MacEntee for permission to reproduce this very informative article!

From the President's Corner



Anne Mamiya, AGS President
president@austintxgensoc.org

Our annual seminar is this month and we are so pleased to welcome Thomas Jones to Austin! Dianne Holley and her seminar committee are working hard to put the final

Dianne Holley
North Village Branch Library
[2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757](https://www.austintexas.gov/department/2505-Steck-Ave-Austin-TX-78757)

*Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts.
Registration will open on May 12.*

FamilySearch.org – it's all about the records and this genealogy site is FREE – the world's largest free genealogy website is as close as your internet-connected computer. In this class you will learn how to begin to use this site to support your research. From family trees to census records to church and tax records, and much, much more, learn how and why this source is a genealogy researcher's best friend.

Saturday, July 1, 10:30a-Noon
Georgia Headrights and Bounty Land Grants: From Scandal to Settlement - Teresa Devine
North Village Branch Library
[2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757](https://www.austintexas.gov/department/2505-Steck-Ave-Austin-TX-78757)

*Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts.
Registration will open on*

touches together. The Friday workshops have sold out, but there is still some room in the seminar on Saturday, April 29. Make sure to get your registration completed if you want to attend. We are looking forward to a great event and hope to see many of you there!

It has been a while since we last surveyed our members about their genealogical interests and needs. Nan Kilkeary, 1st Vice-President and Membership co-chair, has been conducting the first phase of a membership survey since the end of March.

So far, about 15 percent of our members have responded, either by email or at our last meeting. That's a good response, but we need to hear from more of you! We'll use the information to plan activities, programs, speakers, educational opportunities, and to determine how we can help our membership grow.

If you haven't already responded, I hope you will take the opportunity to make your opinions heard and return the survey. There will be another mailing just after the newsletter comes in case you buried the first one in your email folder. Let us hear from you!!

Upcoming Events and Resources

June 1.

The acquisition and control of land has played a major role in American history not only on a national level but for states and individuals as well. One of the earliest problems faced by Georgia was the inability to attract men who were willing to settle on the land, create homes, and produce crops. Georgia passed its first headright law in 1777, which was intended to facilitate the transfer of land ownership to individuals to "strengthen the state." However, the headright grant process was fraught with problems and after years of scandal, fraud, speculation, and political embarrassment, Georgia passed the Land Lottery Act in 1803. Seven lotteries were held to distribute land from the Creek and Cherokee, leaving behind a genealogically rich record.

**Saturday, September 16,
10:30a-Noon
Land Workshop Pt. 1 –
Metes and Bounds - Cari A.
Taplin, CG**
North Village Branch Library
[2505 Steck Ave. Austin, TX
78757](https://www.austintexas.gov/2505-Steck-Ave-Austin-TX-78757)

Registration is required for



TEXAS CZECH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
501(c) (3) nonprofit organization

Open Genealogy Workshop: Tracking Ancestral Footprints

Texas Czech Genealogical Society (TCGS)

April 28 and 29, 10am - 4pm

\$10 for one or both days

Caldwell Civic and Visitor Center

103 Texas Hwy. 21 W., Caldwell, TX 77836

The Texas Czech Genealogy Society (TCGS) is offering an open workshop to try and meet research needs for anyone wanting individual help in researching their family history.

[More Information](#)

Discovering Methodist Circuit Riders on the Frontier Bastrop Genealogical Society

**Bastrop Public Library, 1100 Church St, Bastrop, TX
78602**

Saturday, May 13, 1:00 Meeting / 2:00 Program

Guests welcome!

[More Information](#)



Briscoe Center for American History

this class to insure there are enough handouts.

Registration will open on August 16.

Have you ever wondered how to draw those land descriptions from the Metes & Bounds survey system? This system was used primarily in the original thirteen colonies and so is mostly found when dealing with land in the east. This workshop will describe the system and then take the students through some real examples teaching them how to draw the land shapes as described in old deeds.

**Saturday, September 23,
10:30a-Noon**

**Land Workshop Pt. 2 –
Rectangular System - Cari
A. Taplin, CG**

North Village Branch Library
[2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX
78757](#)

Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts.

Registration will open on August 16.

Have you ever wondered how to draw those land descriptions from the rectangular survey system? This system was used in the Federal Land states to survey

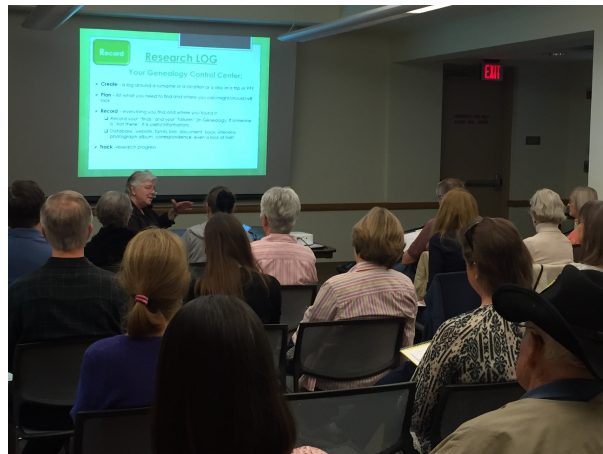
2300 Red River St., Austin, TX

Re-Opening April 10

Renovation of the Briscoe Center for American History's first floor is complete! The physical layout of the first floor has changed. The reading room is now at the south end of the building and the entrance is on the north end, closer to the LBJ Library. When you enter the building, you will walk through their expanded galleries – three times the size of the previous exhibit space. There now is a registration area with beautiful new lockers in which to store your belongings. They are improving the reference service with additional staff and electronic access to the finding aids and indexes.

[More Information](#)

"Taming the Digital Tiger " a Success



Dianne Holley teaching class

On Saturday, March 25, Dianne Holley found herself in front of a sold-out audience who had come to learn about "Taming the Digital Tiger." Taming the digital tiger means

and sell the land to private citizens. This workshop will describe the system and then take the students through some real examples teaching them how to draw the land shapes as described in old deeds.

Saturday, October 28,

10:30a-Noon

**DNA for Beginners -
Instructor TBD**

North Village Branch Library

[2505 Steck Ave. Austin, TX
78757](#)

Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts.

Registration will open on September 28.

This class will go over some of the basics needed to get started with DNA testing for genealogical purposes.

Saturday, December 9,

10:30a-Noon

**How to Teach a Genealogy
Class – Panel and Workshop**

North Village Branch Library

[2505 Steck Ave. Austin, TX
78757](#)

Registration is required for this class to insure there are enough handouts.

Registration will open on November 9.

learning to find, analyze, and file all those images and documents that are the sources of your genealogical evidence. In this simple method, document image storage takes place at your fingertips and is not limited by the size of either your house or your workspace. The class and Dianne received very positive reviews!

Correction: AGS Member M.C. Forister Article

In the March issue, we noted that M.C. Forister was acknowledged for a contribution of a new sign to the Karnes City Cemetery. We mistakenly reported that the cemetery was located in Wilson County, Texas, when in fact it is located in Karnes City, [Karnes County](#), Texas.

Genealogy or Family History?

by AGS Member John F. Marostica

To most people, the terms Genealogy and Family History are totally interchangeable, but to me, they are two very different terms with two entirely different meanings. In fact, I will go as far as to say that you can't have one without the other.

- Genealogy is the study of an individual's line of ancestors and descents.
- Family History studies the life and times of an individual's ancestors and descents.

Even the questions used to study these two disciplines are different:

- Genealogical questions are: Who? What? When? and Where? - These questions are answered by researching official records and documents.

This will be a panel discussion and workshop for anyone interested in learning how to teach their own genealogy class. There will be a short lecture, a panel discussion with local genealogical speakers, and then a workshop period to help attendees develop their ideas for teaching a class or get tips on public speaking.

Do You Have a Brick Wall? A Genealogical Question?

Feel free to send it in for the newsletter to [newsletter@
\[austintxgensoc.org\]\(mailto:newsletter@AustinTXGensoc.org\)](mailto:newsletter@AustinTXGensoc.org) or post it to our Facebook page, "Austin Genealogical Society Members helping Members."

Local Genealogy Meetings and Resources

Austin Gen SIG, meets from 1:00–4:00 p.m. the second Saturday of the month at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, [7051 Village Center Dr., Austin](#). Part of the Computer Club of Austin. Click [here](#) for website.

Austin Legacy Users Group meets on the third Saturday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

- The Family History questions are: Why? and How?
 - These are answered thru personal interviews, letters and diaries and the study of family folklore and the understanding of history.

This was all put in clear perspective for me when I accompanied a friend of mine, Mr. Paul Noack, to a presentation he gave to the Comal County Genealogical Society several weeks ago.

When we arrived, I did not bother to sign in and make myself a name badge, but rather busied myself with setting up the laptop with the technical aspects of preparation for my friend's lecture.

A bit later, one of club members asked if I had signed in and made myself a name badge. She watched as I wrote my name on the sign-in sheet and after asking how to pronounce my last name, she asked if I knew Paul Marostica. When I answered that he was my father, her eyes lit up and a bigger-than-life smile came across her face! As we stood staring at each other, I was not sure what to think: how did this little, frail looking, 90 year old woman know my dad?

Her name was Laverne Pearce and as it turns out, she knew my father before I knew him!

In 1947, four years before I was even born, my father worked as an auto mechanic at Krueger Motor Company in New Braunfels, Texas. She was the Assistant Office Manager and the only woman working at the company. She was 19 at the time and remembered my father. She remembered he was shy and soft spoken. It was her responsibility to pass out the pay (cash) every week.

at the [Querencia at Barton Creek, 2500 Barton Creek Blvd., Austin](#). Click [here](#) for website.

Texas State Library is open from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. 1201 Brazos in Austin. Questions concerning Second Saturdays may be sent [here](#). Click [here](#) for website.

Williamson County Genealogical Society meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the [Round Rock Public Library, 216 E Main Street, Round Rock](#). Social time at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Click [here](#) for website.

Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources Click [here](#) for website.

Did you know?

You can change your contact information or surnames on your profile page on our website? Click on the "membership account" button at the top right corner after you've logged in. austintxgensoc.org

What's on the AGS Website?

I did not get a chance to talk with her for very long, partially because of the time constraints of the meeting and also because I was so surprised by the encounter that I did not know exactly how to respond or react.

This is a perfect example which highlights the difference between 'genealogy' and 'family history'. While there may be some documents that can confirm where my father worked, the personal relationships and stories of his daily life as he interacted with others cannot be found in any public or vital record. I will look through my records to see what I have about his work and I plan to meet with her again. I am sure she has more to tell me, not only of my father, but of the history of New Braunfels, Texas, where my parents raised me and lived out the remainder of their lives.

This kind of information about your family can only come from first-hand encounters. That is why it is so important for us to create and keep some form of written history of our lives and our family. Letters, diaries, family newsletters, e-mails, audio/video recordings or well documented photos need to be preserved so that our descendants can have some way to remember us. Otherwise all that will remain of us in the future will be a stack of dusty old paper records...

AGS Member Recognized with a Top 10 Webinar!

A webinar given by Cari Taplin was recently recognized as one of the Top 10 webinars for March 2017 in the online publication *LegacyNews*. Congratulations to Cari! See the article here:

Have you ever wanted to look at a handout from a meeting you attended but just can't find it? Never fear - we post them on the Members Only page of our website!

austintxgensoc.org/members-only/#handout

2017 AGS Board of Directors

Terms ending 2017:

Marcia Arn
Teresa Devine
Erin Garcia
Jean Marostica
Anne Mamiya
Cari Taplin

Terms ending 2018:

James E. Bridges
Dianne Holley
Nan Kilkeary
Rob Richardson
Jean Shroyer
Debbe Tipping

2017 AGS Officers

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1st VP Nan Kilkeary
2nd VP Marcia Arn
Secretary Debbe Tipping
Treasurer [Erin Garcia](#)

http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2017/04/top-10-genealogy-webinars-of-march-2017.html

AGS Volunteers - Can You Help Us?

By AGS Volunteer Coordinator, Debbe

Tipping, dtipping@att.net

We have many opportunities for our members to participate in support of the Society and our events. In February's newsletter I listed every position that is available. Please click [here](#) to see that list in last month's newsletter. For this month, let's look at the volunteer positions that support our publications, the newsletter and quarterly.

Write articles for the newsletter and quarterly

You do not have to be a wiz at writing in order to submit articles. That is what we have editors for. (grin) Our editors help make our writing better. Is there something exciting you learned in your research? Share it with us. Articles are not limited to Texas and Travis County. Did you learn something the hard way? Share it with us so others can avoid the mistake. Did you find a great resource for your genealogy research? Share it with us.

Proofreaders for the newsletter and quarterly – Publications Review Team

Do you have a knack for finding grammar, punctuation, and other written errors? Help us proofread the newsletter and quarterly! You get a sneak peek at the publications before everyone else does!

If you are interested in helping with our amazing publications, please contact Robin at newsletter@austintxgensoc.org or Angela at

Got something for the newsletter?

Submissions are welcome - due the first day of the month for each submission.

newsletter@austintxgensoc.org

Headstone Humor

Provided by AGS Member Earle F. McBride from the Steuben County, IN, Quarterly for Winter 2016

Henry Edsel Smith, Albany, New York b 1903 - d 1942
"Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was."

Ezekial Aikle, East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia:

"Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102...
Only The Good Die Young.."

In a London, England cemetery:

"Here lies Ann Mann,
Who lived and old maid,
But died an old Mann. Dec. 8,
1767"

quarterly@austintxgensoc.org.

Please refer to our [February Newsletter](#) for more information about these volunteer opportunities:

- Greeters
- Meeting Desk Check-In
- Set Up and Clean Up (snack table only)
- Snacks
- Publicity Chair(s)
- Publicity - Austin Genealogical Society Facebook Page "Likers" and "Clickers"
- Publicity – Community Calendars
- Publicity – Community Newsletter Liaison(s)
- Grant Coordinator(s)
- Message Board Moderators
- Web page help(ers) with WordPress

Please refer to our [March Newsletter](#) for information about these volunteer opportunities:

- Within Texas Research trip coordinator(s)
- Long Distance Research trip coordinator(s)

March Meeting Recap

Topic: Tracking Down Your Ancestors Without Leaving Town

Speaker: AGS Member Teri E. Flack, MA, MBA

In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery:

"The children of Israel wanted bread,
And The Lord sent them manna.

Clark Wallace Wanted a wife,
And the Devil sent him Anna."
* * *

In a Ruidoso, New Mexico, cemetery:

"Here lies Johnny Yeast..
Pardon him For not rising."
* * *

A lawyer's epitaph in England:

"Sir John Strange.
Here lies an honest lawyer,
And that is Strange."
* * *

On a grave from the 1880s in Nantucket, Massachusetts:

"Under the sod and under the trees,
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.
He is not here, there's only the pod.
Pease shelled out and went to God..."
* * *

In a cemetery in England:

"Remember man, as you walk by,
As you are now, so once was I
As I am now, so shall you be..
Remember this and follow me."

To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:

"To follow you I'll not consent,



Teri E. Flack at the April Meeting

Until I know which way you went."

First a reminder: The AGS monthly meetings are a great way to expand your genealogical skill-set while connecting with like-minded people. What more could you ask? The March meeting was certainly no exception to that observation.

Austin is full of places to help you discover the lives of your ancestors. Teri's presentation showcased those Austin locations. Her presentation was built around a case study which demonstrated how she used these resources and related web-sites to discover records and correspondence which shed new light on her family's history.

Several of the resources showcased by Teri were:

1. **The Texas State Library and Archives**

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/> The library has an extensive collection of books and quarterlies covering every state in the Union as well as most Texas counties. The library has access to microfilmed county records as well. It is open every day of the work week and the second Saturday of each month. In addition, TSLAC has made it easy

on their web site to find the collections that they have identified as useful to genealogists.

2. Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO)

<https://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/> An online search engine accessing manuscript and archives state-wide. It includes university collections, the general land office, the archives, and libraries with collections available to the general public.

3. Local LDS Family History Centers (North Austin, Oak Hill, and Round Rock). Family Search has digitized only a portion of the Salt Lake City FHL records. But you can rent an extraordinarily rich selection of microfilms covering FHL undigitized U.S. and international records and histories through Family Search. You access them at the local FHC. The FHCs also have free access to Ancestry (world), FindMyPast, MyHeritage, ArkivDigital, and newspaper.com.

4. Other local sources mentioned by Teri that have a more Austin and Travis county bent:

- Travis County Archives
<http://archives.traviscountyhistory.org/>
- Travis County Clerk - *Deeds, probate, vital records. Some records have been digitized and are available through the Portal to Texas History (see below)*
- Dolph Brisco Center for American History – *newspapers, business records, private papers, old geo survey maps, personal histories*
- U.T. Austin's Perry-Castañeda Library
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/pcl/> *Includes a very large map collection <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/> as well as hundreds of history books and bios as well as dissertations*

- Portal to Texas History
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/> *Digitized newspapers, documents, photos, genealogical quarterlies*
- Library of Congress - Chronicling America
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Meeting Attendance

66 attendees, with 4 visitors: John McKenzie, Betty Williams, Iris & Glenn Scott.

Thanks to our volunteers!

Sign-in table - Gary and Kathy Pemberton

Set Up - Robert Richardson & Teresa Devine

Snacks - Marcia Arn, Judy Morris, Marsha Patterson, & Shelley Scott

Greeter - Lise Doss

Clean Up - David Easterday

Are you looking for your sweater?



We had an extra sweater left behind after the February meeting - if this is yours, please contact Jean Marostica jmarostica@sbcglobal.net. If you do not claim it, I will keep it for myself as it looks comfy and stylish. :)



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