

THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20, Issue 2 [http:// AustinTxGenSoc.org](http://AustinTxGenSoc.org) Feb. 2014

Austin Genealogical Society Meeting Tuesday, February 25, 2014

The meeting will be held at the Texas General Land Office

At 1700 N. Congress Ave.

General Land Office Tour: What is Available at the GLO

Presented by James Harkins The time is 5:30-8:30.



With items dating from 1720 through the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, this presentation focuses on almost 300 years of archival records that can be found at the Texas General Land Office. James Harkins will focus on the time period immediately before the Texas Revolution, the Republic of Texas era, and early statehood for Texas. Also featured will be information about the various Special Collections found at the GLO and the many online resources found at the GLO, including the Clerk Returns, which the TSGS has donated \$45,000 over the last 3 years to conserve, scan, and provide access to. Land grant records will be examined and information provided on how they can be used for genealogy to secure entry into lineage societies such as the DRT and SRT.

James Harkins is the Director of Public Services for the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records Program. James graduated from Texas State University - San Marcos with a bachelor's degree in Communications in 2005, and a double minor in history and business. He received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Texas State in December of 2010. For his graduate thesis, James was the 2010-2011 James W. McGrew Research Award winner from the American Society for Professional Administrators (ASPA). He has worked for the Texas General Land Office since May of 2005, and became a Certified Archivist in 2012 through the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA). James is currently enrolled at the University of Texas School of Information, pursuing a Masters in Library and Information Science.



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AGS Business: *From the Minutes of the Board Meeting*

AGS Board Retreat, January 12, 2014

Members present: Marcia Arn, Inez Eppright, Missy Harris, Anne Mamiya, Carol Mason, Karin Nelson, Winnie Noelke, Jane Schwendinger, Lisa Smith-Curtean and Don Villoni. Members not present: Leslie D. Inman and Kathy Pemberton. The AGS Board Members introduced themselves.

Board Positions-Two new board members, Kathy Pemberton and Don Villoni were approved.

Officers for 2014 were selected as follows: Jane Schwendinger, President; Anne Mamiya, 1st Vice President; Marcia Arn, 2nd Vice President (Programs); Inez Eppright, Secretary; and Karin Nelson, Treasurer.

2014 Budget-There was preliminary discussion regarding the 2014 budget.

Treasurer Reports – The November Treasurer Report was accepted. The December Treasurer Report was accepted.

2015 Seminar-The 2015 Seminar speaker contract with Judy Russell was accepted as proposed.

2014 Maureen Taylor Seminar – The facility has been reserved. Board members will assist in various capacities. Anne Mamiya will do the registration form. The surname page will remain in the Seminar Handbook. Jane will send out a list of contact information and committee positions needed such as exhibitors, door prizes, etc.

Highland Park Baptist Church Meeting Facility – There was discussion regarding what procedure will be followed if Inez Enright is not able to open the church. It was also decided that Board members should know procedures. The February reservation will be canceled given that meeting will be at the GLO.

Education – Suggestions for education included webinars, writing family histories, working on brick walls, and transcribing records.

Website – Changes in the website were discussed. Webmaster Lisa Smith-Curtean has ideas on improvement. All digitized Quarterlies will be behind the member wall. There was discussion concerning the content of the Quarterlies.

Membership – There was discussion on handling membership sign-ups to make the process more efficient.

Seminar – The cost for the seminar will be \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members, and \$50 for non-members joining the society at the time of seminar reservation for the remainder of the year.

Handbook- It was suggested that a handbook be available digitally and on the website for members. It was also suggested that a survey be conducted to see what the members would like.

Publicity-A publicity person for the society is needed, and a request has been placed in the newsletter.

Communications – There was a discussion about Facebook, and it was suggested that a Bulletin Board be added for members with no Facebook connection. A bio is requested from each of the board members, and Sharon Foley has provided guidelines. For all newsletter items, the first of each month is the deadline. It was suggested there be a Query box for genealogical questions and that it could be online.

AGS Positions-Pat Oxley will continue as FGS liaison. Winnie Noelke agreed to be TSGS liaison. Jane will check to see if Leslie Inman will continue as TSL liaison. The position of Historian is part of the publicity committee. Missy Harris will handle membership hospitality, with Sheila Sargent assisting. Inez Eppright agreed to continue as LLI coordinator. Sharon and Bob Foley will continue as newsletter editors. Marcia Arn will chair the program committee. Lisa Smith-Curtean will be Quarterly editor. Jean Marostica will be contacted to see if she will continue her position. Lisa Smith-Curtean will be web master, and Carol Mason will help with membership.

Policies and Procedures – A Policies and Procedures Manual needs to be created. Anne Mamiya and Karin Nelson will help Jane Schwendinger with this.

Program Expenses-It was decided that an honorarium may be paid to any speaker who gives a formal presentation at an AGS meeting. The budget will include \$20 for speaker handouts per meeting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

People often ask and wonder what the benefits of membership in the Austin Genealogical Society are. I spent some time considering this and came up with the following list of just a few of the benefits:

1. A sense of belonging...important for those who see AGS as their social connection.
2. Discount on Seminars.
3. Potential discount on classes.
4. Online access to handouts from speakers at our monthly meetings.
5. Group travel to out-of-area repositories.
6. Receipt of Newsletter and Quarterly immediately upon release via email.
7. Publication of your surnames on our website.
8. Opportunity to volunteer for a worthwhile passion or cause.
9. Incentive to attend meetings to learn more about genealogy.
10. A forum to share questions and research with other members.
11. Means of financial support of education and information dissemination.

I'm sure many of you have other reasons for belonging, but this is quite a hefty list of reasons to belong. With that said, don't forget to renew your membership for 2014. Your access to the above benefits will expire shortly. You can renew online or obtain a form to mail in at <http://austintxgensoc.org>

Jane Schwendinger , President

Local Genealogy Opportunities

There are many opportunities to participate in genealogical activities in Austin and in nearby communities. The list below includes information on regularly occurring meetings in which AGS members may wish to participate.

AGS British Isle Genealogy Special Interest Group meets via email to exchange information. Contact Jane Schwendinger at janesca@earthlink.net. *This is an official AGS activity.*

Austin Gen SIG meets from 1:00- 3:00 P.M. the second Saturday of the month at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Drive. This SIG is a part of Computer Club of Austin and is not an AGS affiliated group. <http://www.austingensig.com/>

Austin Legacy Users Group meets on the third Saturday of the month from 1:00-3:00 P.M. at the Querencia at Barton Creek, 2500 Barton Creek Blvd., Austin. Rjenkins7@austin.r.com

Bastrop Genealogical Society of Texas (new name) still meets at 1:00 P.M. on the second Saturday of the month at Pressley Meeting Room, Bastrop Public Library. <http://www.bastroplibrary.org/genealogy>

Williamson County Genealogical Society meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Round Rock Public Library. Social time at 7:00 with the meeting at 7:30. <http://www.williamsontxgenealogy.org/> The program for February will be "Brick Wall Breakthroughs" by Karen J. Matheson.

Keep in mind that the Texas State Library and Archive is expanding its hours of operation to accommodate researchers. The Texas State Archives, Texas Family Heritage Research Center and the Reference and Information Center – will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. The facility is located at 1201 Brazos in Austin.



The nasty ice storm of January 28th caused the cancellation of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting.



So you especially won't want to miss our February meeting at the General Land Office. (We haven't been together since November! Far too long!) Street parking in the area is free after 6:00, and there are several parking garages in the area as well.

PLANNING AHEAD



Austin Genealogical Society

Seminar— Put It On Your Calendar!

Maureen Taylor will present four talks on **May 3, 2014**

- Reading Genealogical & Immigrant Clues in 19th Century Photographs
- Identifying & Dating Family Photographs
- Preserving Family Photographs -- 1839 to the present
- Walk in Your Ancestors' Footsteps: Plan a Family History Vacation



Two AGS members celebrated special birthdays in January. **Putnam Monroe** turned 92 on January 17 and **Wynnette Harris** celebrated #90 on January 23. We don't plan to include all members' birthdays in the newsletter, but if you know of an AGS member who will turn 90 or older during 2014, please let us know.

AGS BOARD MEMBER PROFILE– DON VILLONI

As a new member on the Board, I am looking forward to this year with AGS. The Seminar in May sounds exciting, and I know it will be well attended.

My interest in genealogy is of long standing. My first visit to Italy was in 1937, and I have been visiting Italy frequently over the years. My wife and I have gone on several of AGS's trips to Salt Lake City, and my family tree now has 1450 family members. We have traveled world wide for many years and have always included our genealogy research when applicable.



After working 44 years in aerospace in California, we retired in Austin in 1991 and now live in Georgetown. In 2008, I served as president of the Williamson County Genealogical Society and have also been a member and attended many of the AGS meetings.

I have four children, seven grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

Huge thank you to Don from the newsletter editors for submitting this biography. We know that Don has had many experiences, and it's difficult to capsulize these in one short paragraph. We know that all AGS members appreciate his willingness to serve on the board. Please say hello and thanks to Don when you see him at our next AGS meeting.



CEMETERY CORNER

Jane Schwendinger submitted this photo. Her second great grandparents, James and Mary Adkin were drying flax in their home with candles and the house caught fire on 3-14-1867 in Clinton, Lincoln, Canada



West (Ontario). Three of their 13 children perished from the fire. The three who perished were all born in Canada, but 8 of their older siblings, including her great grandfather, came on a ship from England with their mother in 1854. The graves are visible on **Google Earth**. Jane went to the cemetery address on google earth, and there they were!

Please submit your favorite gravestone photos to sharonkfoley@gmail.com or

robertlfoley@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY REPORT

The hospitality report will return next month.

2014 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2014:	Terms Ending 2015
Missy HARRIS	Marcia ARN
Leslie INMAN	Lisa SMITH-CURTEAN
Anne MAMIYA	Inez EPPRIGHT
Karin NELSON	Carol MASON
Jane SCHWENDINGER	Wynnie NOELKE
Don VILLONI	Kathy PEMBERTON

2014 Officers

President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
1ST Vice President	Anne MAMIYA
2nd Vice President	Marcia ARN
Secretary	Inez EPPRIGHT
Treasurer	Karin NELSON

Officers were officially named on 1/12/14

2014 PROGRAMS

Your program committee, led by program chair Marcia Arn, is excited to present the scheduled programs for our monthly meetings in 2014.

Feb 25 General Land Office Tour: What is Available at the GLO-James Harkins

Mar 25 Using Evernote to Organize Your Genealogical Research-Caroline Pointer

Apr 22 Copyright & Intellectual Property Law for Genealogists-Matthew J. Booth, Atty.

May 27 Effectively Using Family Search for Research-Dave Anderton

June 24 Maps & Online Resources at the Perry-Castaneda Library Katherine Strickland (rescheduled)

Jul 22 How to Write Short Stories About Your Family History-Mary Scrudder

Aug 26 We Bet You Didn't Know That-AGS Members

Sep 23 GATA GACC! DNA and Genetic Genealogy today -Debbie Parker Wayne

Oct 28 Document Analysis 101-Karen Matheson

Nov 25 Fall Festival. How Austin Came to Be-Teri Flack



Austin Genealogical Society Membership Form

☐ New member

☐ Renewal of 2013 membership

☐ Returning Member (prior to 2013)

Membership Dues

Individual Member : \$20 _____ (New____) (Renew____)
Family Membership:: \$30 _____ (New____) (Renew____)

Supporting Donation (in addition to dues above)

____ Friend of AGS add \$20
____ Sponsor of AGS add \$30
____ Patron of AGS add \$80

\$ _____ **TOTAL DUES & DONATION**

Volunteers make a difference! Please mark any of these projects you are willing to assist us with – and Thank You!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality and Refreshment Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> One-time Special Event Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee or Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership & Registration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |

Member Information

Name: _____ Spouse (if member): _____
Email: _____ Spouse email: _____

Mailing address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

May we list this information in our membership directory? ☐ yes ☐ no

Surnames: list up to eight surnames and locations for posting on the AGS website, or indicate "no changes".

Surname 1: _____	Location: _____
Surname 2: _____	Location: _____
Surname 3: _____	Location: _____
Surname 4: _____	Location: _____
Surname 5: _____	Location: _____
Surname 6: _____	Location: _____
Surname 7: _____	Location: _____
Surname 8: _____	Location: _____

☐ No changes to surname listings

Please mail this form with your payment to:
Austin Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, TX 78766-1010

Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
(except December)

Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00

Highland Park Baptist Church

5206 Balcones Drive

Austin, TX 78759

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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