



THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting: February 27, 2018

Preserve Your Family's History for Future Generation by Emily Higgs

It's a given that genealogists want to preserve their family's history for future generations. One key component of that is saving and preserving your keepsakes: those old letters, photographs, and documents that you've collected over the years. We all know that once lost these pieces of history are gone forever. And that is what Emily's presentation will address - how to save those keepsakes, how to preserve them from further damage. Emily will show us how to avoid their loss by adopting the easily adapted practices of professional archivists. In addition to preservation and storage, she will also address restoration, telling us how we might give those old, faded photographs and documents new life.



Emily Higgs

Emily Higgs is experienced in caring for and digitizing a wide variety of materials, including books, letters,

What's in the February newsletter?

[Welcome new members](#)
[Renew Your Membership](#)
[February Conversation
Starter](#)
[DNA and Genealogy](#)
[Help SAC Identify Military
Graves](#)
[Fill in the Blanks](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[Blumberg-Elley-Kaiser-
Koepsel Reunion](#)
[January Meeting Recap](#)
[AGS Education](#)
[Instructors](#)
[AGS on Facebook](#)
[AGS Board Meeting
Minutes](#)
[AGS DNA SIG](#)
[AGS Writing SIG](#)
[2018 AGS Calendar](#)
[2018 AGS Class
Schedule](#)
[Local Genealogy
Meetings](#)

**AGS 2018 QUARTERLY
SPRING ISSUE
DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 17**

Click [here](#) for submission
guidelines.

AGS Education

photographs, and legal documents. She currently works with rare books and archival materials in Special Collections at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and has previously worked with local history collections at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. She will complete her MSIS at the University of Texas School of Information in May 2018 with a specialization in historical collections.

6:30 p.m. Doors Open

7:00 p.m. Presentation begins

Highland Park Baptist Church

[5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731](#)

Welcome New Members!

Melissa Alvarado
Melva Codina
Jill & Randy Johnson
Brenda Kane
Elizabeth Price
Ed Roberts
Claudia Rush
Diana & Louis Sellers
Carol Smith
Kent Stewart

Time to Renew Your AGS Membership

Take a moment and renew your AGS membership for 2018. It promises to be an exciting year that you will not want to miss.

austintxgensoc.org/membership-account/membership-levels/

AGS February Conversation Starter: Most Treasured Ancestral Photo

If you could save only one old photograph in your family history archive, which would it be?

Instructors

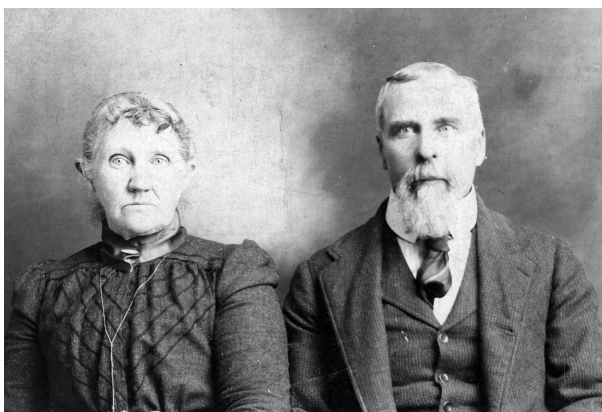
If you are interested in teaching or assisting with a genealogy related class either at a public library or for the next session of LLI (Lifetime Learning Institute), please contact us at education@austintxgensoc.org.

AGS on FaceBook

[Austin Genealogical Society](#) - Posts on this site include information about the AGS monthly programs, the annual AGS Seminar, and AGS classes. **"Liking" this page helps get the message out to more people on Facebook! Please "like" posts when you see them to help market our Society.**

[Austin Genealogical Society Members Helping Members](#) (public 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](#) (closed group) - AGS Members interested in writing a personal or family history are encouraged to join this



From the Robin Raben Family Photo Collection

Your most treasured ancestral photograph will be our AGS February meeting's conversation starter. Feel free to bring to the meeting any visual aids, whether a computer scan of your beloved photo, or an iPhone download or snapshot to "show and tell."

We are all looking forward to speaker Emily Higgs' presentation "Preserving Your Family History: Saving Old Documents and Photographs" on February 27th. Please come to the meeting at 6:30 to share these family treasures, research news and snacks.

See you there!



DNA and Genealogy

Preparation for Blaine Bettinger's Seminar in May 2018

by AGS Board Member Debbe Tipping

If you have a television, you have likely seen advertisements for *Ancestry DNA* and *23andMe*. These companies use varying tactics to lure potential customers to take their DNA test, often focusing on their ethnicity estimates. After defining what autosomal DNA (atDNA) is, let's look at those ethnicity estimates.

Humans have 46 chromosomes. We have two copies of each chromosome; that means we have 23 pairs of chromosomes. When geneticists literally look at the chromosomes they sort them from longest to shortest and put the sex chromosomes last. They number the pairs

Facebook group and attend the monthly meetings (see below for details.)

CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR!

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

AGS Board Meeting Minutes

You can now find the AGS Board meeting minutes behind the member wall: austintxgensoc.org/members-only/#minutes



AGS DNA SIG

First Wednesday of every month (no meeting in July). Next meeting Wednesday, March 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Pok-E-Joe's [2121 Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78727](#) three blocks east of Mopac on Parmer Lane.

In the March meeting, we

from one (longest pair) to 23 (sex chromosomes, ie. X or Y). The first 22 pairs are called autosomes. These chromosomes have the "instructions" for what our bodies look like and what all the different organs in our bodies do. These first 22 pairs of chromosomes do not dictate if our body will be male or female. Only chromosome pair 23 does that. Parts of these first 22 pairs of chromosomes are what is tested in autosomal DNA tests.

Ethnicity estimates are often misunderstood. On the first day of class, my statistics professor said that he could make numbers say anything he wants them to say using statistics. This statement is partially true with ethnicity estimates. The biggest problem with ethnicity estimates is that people assume they are definitive, like the information in a sworn statement in an affidavit. An ethnicity estimate will never be definitive, never completely accurate. Several television talk shows have shown how ethnicity estimates vary from testing company to testing company. They even showed identical twins and triplets that have different results. Astute test takers have noticed how their estimates do not match their well-documented family trees. Why does this happen? According to *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* by Blaine Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, there are three reasons for these issues.

Estimates vary from company to company because each company uses different reference populations. A reference population is the DNA from a group of people from a defined location. Ideally, the people from that location have lived there in isolation for thousands of years and have become genetically different than their neighbors. The phrase, "lived in isolation for thousands of years" should alert you to the first point where an error occurs in the data. With the exception of the handful of native people living in the remote Amazon Rainforest who have had no contact with the outside world, humans have been mobile through history. People have moved in and out of communities. Therefore, it is incredibly difficult to have genetic populations completely distinct from neighboring communities. Each company using a different reference population for the same location makes comparing tests between companies impossible.

The second and third ways testing companies make comparing results impossible to compare is how they use

will begin to review the book, *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, by Blaine T. Bettinger. It is available on Amazon in paperback and kindle editions: [link](#)

[More Information](#)



AGS Writing SIG

***Second Thursday of
every month - no
meeting in December
Wednesday, March 7,
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.***

Cafe Express
[3418 N Lamar Blvd,
Austin, Texas 78705](#)

The purpose of the Writing SIG is to support members in writing family histories and genealogical articles. We meet once a month and have dinner together while we discuss genealogical topics and those of us that are ready will read aloud our latest work. Come and get inspired with the rest of us! Open to members of AGS.

Join the Writing SIG
facebook group: [Austin
Genealogical Society
Writing SIG](#) (closed
group) - join us on
Facebook to keep
informed on Writing SIG

math with the data. First, once a DNA sample is analyzed raw data is produced. Some companies use the raw data to compare to reference populations while others rearrange the data before it is compared. This rearrangement is called phasing. Let me use an equation to show what rearranging means. I am given the equation $2x + 10$. I can rearrange it to $10 + 2x$. The equations are the same but in a different order. When you use an algorithm (an equation or set of equations) to compare the data with the reference sample, the order of the data can lead to slightly different results.

The second way math is used with the data involves the confidence level of the data. My autosomal DNA data is compared with reference population data. The computer states that there is an 85% chance I am 1% Italian. One company may report that I am 1% Italian while another company will not report that result. Why? The second company does not report confidence below 95%. What?!? Remember what my statistic professor said. One company feels that an 85% confidence level is relevant while the other company feels that confidence level is too low. If the differing reference populations, differing use of the data, and differing opinions on confidence thresholds do not muddy the water enough, remember the companies can change their minds about all of these and that will change the ethnicity estimates.

Next month we will look at how autosomal DNA can be used to help us solve our family mysteries.

If you are interested in learning more about DNA, we have a DNA SIG (Special Interest Group) that meets the first Tuesday of each month. They are studying the book Genetic Genealogy in Practice by Blaine Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne. Click [here](#) for more information.

Special thanks to AGS member Reneé Lasswell for her helpful suggestions for this article.

Can you Help to Identify Military Burials in Austin City Cemeteries?

[Save Austin's Cemeteries](#) (SAC) is trying to identify all US military personnel buried at city cemeteries (Oakwood,

meeting locations and dates, new ideas for writing topics and classes.

[More Information](#)

AGS 2018 Meeting Calendar

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday (no meeting in December)

Doors Open: 6:30 PM

Program starts: 7:00 PM

Highland Park Baptist Church, [5206 Balcones](#), [Austin, TX 78731](#)

Feb 27 Archival and Preservation Techniques for Your Family Treasures by Emily Higgs

Mar 27 Save Your Family History Part I: Publishing Your Family History by Debbe Tipping

Apr 24 Save Your Family History Part II: Creating A Family Web Site by Sandra Crowley

May 22 The U.S. Census Part I: The Impact of the 2020 Census on Genealogy by Dr. Steve Murdock

AGS Website

Did you forget your login or password to the Members Only section? Problems renewing a membership?

Oakwood Annex, Plummers, Evergreen and Austin Memorial Park) so that our heroes can be recognized on appropriate holidays. They are documenting all those with military markers, however some gravestones are not legible, and there are many without military markers. If you have ancestors who served in the military, please let SAC know so that they can be included. Please provide the name, burial location, and any summary service info that you have such as branch of military, wars served, etc. SAC will also include these markers in their gravestone cleaning project. If you know of someone who does not have a military stone but participated in WW I, WW II, the Korean War or Vietnam, please send the name to info@sachome.org.

Your Genealogy Research can Fill in the Blanks For Those who Stayed Behind

Submitted by AGS member Polly Newman

I traveled to Ireland recently with a friend whose family comes from Sneem (a village of Sullivan's and O'Sullivan's). We brought with us all the genealogy papers we had to help us find relatives. When we were introduced to the local Sneem genealogist he was thrilled with all the genealogy work we had done and made copies of everything. I asked him why he was so happy to have these papers and he said because so many people had left Ireland back in the day and the ones who remained didn't know what happened to them. They wanted to know where they went, were they successful, did they marry and have a family, etc. We helped him close the chapter on one large Sullivan family that immigrated to the US.

Another AGS member, Wendy Fielding, did the genealogy research for us and then we both corresponded with a couple genealogists from Sneem after our return. They were very happy to connect the dots for us, and happy to learn about the success of locals who went to the states. I'm sure there's a genealogist in every Irish village anxious to hear about families who left!

Upcoming Events and Resources

Contact: webmaster@austintxgensoc.org

AGS 2018 Class Schedule

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

Saturday, Feb 17, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Genealogy Internet Websites and Software Class by John Marostica

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

Genealogy has gone digital. Most genealogists are working online to different degrees on their own computers. This class will look at the dominant research and some lesser-known but valuable websites, along with types of software to help you hunt for your family and organize your data.

[More Information](#)

Saturday, Feb 24 10:00 a.m. - noon

Using GEDmatch to Find More DNA Family
AGE Computer Lab
[3710 Cedar St., Austin, 78705](#)

A hands on workshop to learn about the basics of GEDmatch and what to do with YOUR matches. We'll cover how to



Legacy Family Tree Webinar 2018 Series

Choose from 106 classes from genealogy's leading educators on topics ranging from Jamestown to England, from DNA to online privacy, and from Geni and MyHeritage to Legacy.

[More Information](#)



Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin FIND YOUR ANCESTORS

Sponsored by the Austin Genealogical Society

10:00—Noon Tuesdays

Starts Feb. 13

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

Exploring records to learn about your ancestors—who they were, where they lived, what they did—has never been easier or more exciting. The Austin Genealogical Society exists to encourage and support such searches, using methods old and new. Beginners and experienced researchers are welcome. Each session is presented by a member of the society, covering a variety of topics. Expect to pay \$3 to the coordinator for copies. Limit 20. Inez Eppright, Coordinator 10:00—Noon Tuesday, Starts Feb. 13

[Registration](#)



Rootstech 2018
February 28 - March 3
Salt Lake City, Utah

perform one-to-many matches, one-to-one matches, best practices for contacting matches, and what do those centimorgans mean anyway?

These classes are a result of the new partnership with the AGS and the AGE Computer Lab. You will use a computer at the class. Seating is limited. Please register by Feb 22nd.

[Registration/More Information](#)

Mar 17, 10:30 a.m. - noon

From Organization to Research Plan Class by Nancy Stevens

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

So much data, so little time. To make the best use of your research, you need good organization and record-keeping so that you can retrieve and use what you find. Most genealogists struggle with this! Come learn four ways you need to be organized to keep your research moving.

Registration opens February 17.

[More Information](#)

Do You Have a Brick Wall?

[More Information](#)

San Antonio Missions Bus Tour

**Hosted by the Thankful Hubbard Chapter of the DAR
(Daughters of the American Revolution)**

April 7, 8:30 a.m.

**Meet at the Texas Associates office building, 1120
Capital of Texas Hwy South, Austin, TX, 78746**

Cost: \$65 per person (open to anyone interested)

The Thankful Hubbard Chapter of DAR is planning a bus tour for April 7th. This tour will highlight the four San Antonio Missions located on the EL CAMINO REAL de TEJAS as the Chapter commemorates the 100th anniversary of the DAR marking of the historic trail.

Contact Janan at janangrissom@mac.com or Rebecca at rebeccakohout@gmail.com for more information.



**National Genealogical Society
2018 Family History Conference
May 2-5
Grand Rapids, Michigan
"Paths to Your Past"**

Choose from more than 175 lectures presented by many nationally recognized speakers, explore an exhibit hall filled with more than 80 exhibitors, and network with over 2,000 genealogists. Every NGS conference has a different theme with a new program top to bottom - so there is always much new to learn and discover.

[More Information](#)

Feel free to send it in for the newsletter to newsletter@austintxgensoc.org or post it to our Facebook page, "Austin Genealogical Society Members helping Members."

Local Genealogy Meetings and Resources

Austin Gen SIG, next meeting March 10, 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, [7051 Village Center Dr., Austin](#). Click [here](#) for website.

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](#). 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.

Adventure Skaraborg 2018

Exklusive Genealogy Trip to Sweden 2018

ADVENTURE SKARABORG 2018

Aug 27 - Sept 5

This is a travel package that allows the participants to find their roots in Sweden combined with touring Swedish historical and culture highlights with their own guide. Your own researcher assists you with tracing your roots. The travel package also includes four days in the capital of Sweden, Stockholm.

[More Information](#)

Blumberg-Elley-Kaiser-Koepsel Reunion

Submitted by AGS Member Andrea Burkhart

The Blumberg- Elley- Kaiser- Koepsel Reunion will be held on April 21-22, 2018 in McQueeney, TX.

We are trying to update the 1938 Carl F. Blumberg Clan/Ancestry Book, which listed all the Blumberg descendants at the time. Nearly every one of the descendants now was born in 1938 or after! We are asking each descendant to fill out a Family Group form and return it to me so they can be added to the tree! An example Family Group form can be found at this [link](#).

One of our German cousins is planning to attend and we are so excited that he is making the trip!

The reunion is for the descendants of Carl F. Blumberg and Catherine (Ruff) Blumberg and their six children (one remained in Germany) who landed at Indianola, TX in the 1850's. They settled in Seguin, McQueeney, New Braunfels, Fredericksburg and other small towns in Texas.

1. Julius F. Blumberg (spouse-Caroline Hartung)- who went to New Orleans and then to California- San Francisco area and then to Santa Ana
2. Albertine "Bertha" (Blumberg) Kaiser (spouse-Carl Kaiser) -Guadalupe and Comal Counties, TX

with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Click [here](#) for website.

Austin Public Library Genealogical

Resources Click [here](#) for website.

Got something for the newsletter?

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

[newsletter@
austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org)



3. August Blumberg (spouse-Bertha Runde) remained in Hannover, Germany
 4. Henriette (Blumberg) Elley (spouse- Rev Gus Elley (von Elterlein) -Guadalupe and Comal Counties, TX
 5. Fritz A. Blumberg (spouse- Emma Rosa Weisbach) Seguin, Guadalupe and Comal Counties, TX
 6. Ernest Blumberg (spouse- Margarete Zipp) - Seguin, New Braunfels area, Guadalupe and Comal Counties, TX
 7. Hulda (Blumberg) Koepsel (Michel Koepsel) - Seguin, McQueeney, New Braunfels area
-

January Meeting Recap

Topic: Tracking Your Ancestor on America's Historic Migration Routes

Speaker: Steve Mabie

Meeting Attendance: 85

Welcome guests Ann Hargrave and Judi Smith!

Thank You from Debbe Tipping:

Thanks to Shelley Augustin, Debbe Tipping, and Tracy Tipping (plus Jean's volunteers) for help in January.

Helping at sign in table was Gary & Kathy Pemberton and Judith & Thomas Morris.

February volunteers: Audrey Poche (greeter), Shelley Augustin, Laura Stephenson, Sam Martin, and Susan Tyler (snacks), Louis and Diana Sellers (clean up)



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