Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting: February 26, 2018 Reclaiming Records Through the Texas Public Information Act by Justin Gordon

February's presentation is an important one for you to attend, both as a genealogist and as a citizen. The topic is the Texas Public Information Act and how it can be used by the genealogist to obtain not readily accessible records from state and local governmental agencies.

And our speaker is the right man to talk about access to records using the Act; he is Justin Gordon, the Open Records Division Chief of the Office of the Texas Attorney General.

Justin will not only provide an overview of the strengths and limitations of the Act, Chapter 552 of the Texas Public Code, but will also discuss practical strategies and tips that you can use to obtain the records you seek without delay or ultimately, without rejection.

Read more

6:30 p.m. Doors Open7:00 p.m. Presentation beginsHighland Park Baptist Church5206 Balcones Dr., Austin, TX 78731

Welcome to the February edition of the AGS Newsletter

Read about the <u>latest news</u> this month, including . Find out about <u>AGS</u> <u>sponsored events</u>. Learn how you can <u>volunteer</u>. <u>Publish</u> your work. Find out about <u>online resources</u>. Read about several <u>Non-AGS events</u> you may want to participate in. Enjoy!

News Articles

Registration is open for the AGS Annual Seminar: TELLING YOUR ANCESTORS' STORIES BY USING SOCIAL CONTEXT CLUES

Featuring: Dr. Michael Lacopo Friday and Saturday, May 17-18

Registration and more information in the <u>AGS sponsored events</u> section of this newsletter and also on the website: <u>http://www.austintxgensoc.org/</u>

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We want to know what you think

It's been two years since we asked you what you think and want from AGS. It's that time again! A new survey will be in your hands before March 1st. Beverly Pritchett — our events chair — has designed the survey and is including questions on the events you want, as well as others that will enlighten the board on your desires . . . but that will only work if you respond!

If you want AGS leaders to know what you want, be sure to take a few minutes to check the boxes.

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Meet the 2019 Board!



Nan Kilkeary, President, term ending 2020

Nan Kilkeary is serving her second year as President of the Austin Genealogical Society and second term on the Board. She has a journalism degree with a double major in political science, and is a certified Gestalt psychotherapist. Over her career, she worked as a senior editor for UPI and has also been a consultant in organizational design and development, and hopes her communications and organization experience can be useful in helping AGS grow and provide value to its members.



James Bridges, term ending 2020

James is serving his third term on the AGS board, and also served as First Vice President of AGS in 2016. He co -founded the AGS Writing SIG with Robin Raben in 2016. He is a frequent contributor of articles to the AGS Quarterly.



Carol Darst, term ending 2020 Carol is serving her first term on the AGS board.



Cynthia Evans, term ending 2020

Cynthia is a Museum Site Coordinator at City of Austin working in the Cultural and Genealogy Center at the George Washington Carver museum. She is serving her first term on the Board. Her interest in family history began as a young girl, listening to her great-grandmother talk to her about family history. As a young adult, she engaged in the study of genealogy in an attempt to prove a family story about Native American ancestry. Although she did not find any proof of this ancestry, she did discover a love for history and research.



Erin Garcia, Treasurer, term ending 2019

Erin Garcia has been on the AGS board for 3 years, first serving as Secretary and now completing her second year as Treasurer. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, she has lived in a variety of locations including Denver, Cincinnati and Boston. Happily, she moved to Austin in 2001. After spending 10 years as a travel agent and 10 more as an event planner, Erin now works as a bookkeeper. She became obsessed with genealogy in the late 1990's. She enjoys the Austin Genealogical Society because people don't roll their eyes when the subject of family history comes up. Erin lives with her husband, Jorge, and 9-year old daughter, Kiera.



Ann Kippen, Secretary, term ending 2019

Before she began genealogical research, Ann had always been haunted that she knew next to nothing of her paternal ancestors, even very little of her grandparents. Through the programs and encouragement of AGS, she has quickly been able to uncover a rich family history in Scotland and Sweden. She is also learning more advanced skills that can take her work to a higher level and preserve it. She is the chair of the Member Connection Committee, and is excited by the challenge of helping AGS to become a stronger community that can reach out to many new members.



Karen Liston, term ending 2020

Karen is serving her first term on the AGS Board and is the Seminar Chair for 2019. While not a newcomer to genealogy, Karen Liston is a relatively new member of AGS. Her genealogy interest was initially sparked with a science project in fifth grade. Stories told by her maternal grandmother added fuel to the interest. A trip to the National Records Office in Edinburgh, Scotland where she was able to trace her maternal Scottish line back three generations fanned the flames to a full-blown unquenchable fire.

Karen looks forward to every AGS gathering for the opportunity to learn and share with other genealogy enthusiasts as we learn to seek out and preserve the stories as well as the records or our past.

By day, Karen is a Pre-K teacher as well as a wife and mother of two grown sons.



Jean Marostica, term ending 2019

Jean has been doing genealogy research for about 20 years. She joined AGS in 2000 and has also been involved in volunteer positions from the beginning. She maintains the membership database and has been the webmaster for several years. She has handled the hospitality duties off and on but ongoing for the past 5 or so years.

Elizabeth Price, term ending 2020

Elizabeth Price is serving her first term on the AGS board and is the Chair for the Education committee.



Beverly Pritchett, term ending 2020

Beverly is serving her first term on the Board and is also the Chair of the Events Committee. She started researching the genealogy of her family after she was given her great grandmother's wash basin and pitcher. This initiated a desire to learn more about the original owner whom she knew very little about. Since then she's traced one of her family lines originally from Alsace Lorraine back to the 1700s. Beverly retired as Colonel in the US Army in 2006 and then worked in public health until 2017. She now devotes her time to genealogy research and traveling.



Robin Raben, 1st Vice President, term ending 2019

Robin has been a project manager in software development and computer manufacturing for over 30 years. She and her husband married 15 years ago. She became interested in her family history when she inherited all the family papers and photos in 2010. She did a google search for a local genealogical society and found AGS, and decided to join. Starting in 2015, she served a two year term on the Board, became Quarterly Editor for that year, and started as Newsletter Editor which she still does today. James Bridges and Robin started the Writing Special Interest Group in 2016, which still continues to meet every month.



Rob Richardson, 2nd Vice President, term ending 2020

Rob is a long-time Austin resident, moving here in the fall of 1966 to attend college at the University of Texas. His interest in family history began when his grandfather showed him a collection of Civil War era heirlooms originally owned by his great-grandfather, including a daguerreotype, powder horn bullet mold, and Civil War parole paper. He began to seriously document his family history in 1992 with the arrival of personal computers and genealogy software. He hasn't stopped since. This is Rob's second term on the AGS board. He continues to be impressed by the board members' commitment to providing AGS members with learning opportunities and resources to make their family

history research more effective, insightful, and just as important, more fun.

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Time to Renew Your Membership

It's that time of year again! If you haven't already done so, you can renew your membership on our website, or Jean Marostica and Erin Garcia will be available at the January meeting to take your money or credit card. If you're a renewing member, check your email from Nan Kilkeary for your discount code. <u>http://www.austintxgensoc.org/membership-account/membership-levels/</u>

Volunteer

Help with a monthly meeting

Each meeting is supported by members who are willing to help. Can we count on you? Please contact Ann Kippen at <u>akippen@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in helping in a future meeting. Ways to help:

- Greeter meet folks at the door and hand them the materials for the meeting.
- Food bring a light snack (crackers and cheese, cold cuts, fruit and veggies, or cookies).
- Setup you will be given detailed instructions on where the setup materials are might require some moving of tables and a cart.
- Cleanup you will be given detailed instructions on where to put things away after the meeting might require some moving of tables and a cart.

Help with the annual seminar

Volunteers help at our annual seminar in various ways - from support on the day of the seminar (i.e. the nametag table, selling raffle tickets, handing out lunch, etc.) to helping prepare for the day (i.e. getting donated items for raffles, driving the speaker to and from the airport, printing nametags, etc.) This year's seminar is scheduled for May 17 & 18. If you are interested in helping out, please contact our 2019 Seminar Chair, Karen Liston,

at mom2mischief@gmail.com.

Publish

The AGS Quarterly is accepting submissions for the 2019 Summer Edition. **Deadline is MAY 24**. We share copies of the Quarterly with several institutions to preserve in their collections, including: The University of Texas @ Austin - Texas State Library Genealogy collection, Familysearch library in Utah (some of our editions appear in their online collections,) Allen County Public Library Genealogical Periodicals in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) library in Washington, D.C. Preserve your research today - send in an article for the AGS Quarterly to <u>quarterly@austintxgensoc.org</u>.

The AGS Newsletter includes short articles of interest - are you working on a project that others might want to know about? Perhaps you've had an exciting find in your family tree? Send in an article for the newsletter (or "just the facts, ma'am" and we can help turn your facts into an article) to <u>newsletter@austintxgensoc.org</u>.

Family Charts - Maureen Taylor (the photo detective) Podcast: Family ChartMasters

Maureen Taylor does it again: highlighting an interesting genealogy product for displaying your family trees - either using their standard views or customized for you! Pricing and more information can be found on the website https://familychartmasters.com. For the podcast episode where Family ChartMasters is discussed: https://maureentaylor.com/episode-28-charting-your-family-history/

Have you found an interesting product or method for publishing your family tree or history? Share it with us at <u>newsletter@austintxgensoc.org</u>.

AGS Sponsored Events

AGS February Meeting February 26, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Reclaiming Records Through the Texas Public Information Act by Justin Gordon

February's presentation is an important one for you to attend, both as a genealogist and as a citizen. The topic is the Texas Public Information Act and how it can be used by the genealogist to obtain not readily accessible records from state and local governmental agencies.

And our speaker is the right man to talk about access to records using the Act; he is Justin Gordon, the Open Records Division Chief of the Office of the Texas Attorney General. Justin will not only provide an overview of the strengths and limitations of the Act, Chapter 552 of the Texas Public Code, but will also discuss practical strategies and tips that you can use to obtain the records you seek without delay or ultimately, without rejection.

And have no doubt, the Act does impact many records necessary to good genealogical research, including vital records (birth and death), property transactions and locations, legal proceedings, even the material held at the Texas State Library and Archives and General Land Office.

Done right, the Texas Public information Act can truly be your key to obtaining records you need from state, county, and city agencies. Justin's presentation will be a rare opportunity to have an expert in state government and access to public records show you the way to acquire tho records you need.



Speaker: Justin Gordon

Justin Gordon is the chief of the Open Records Division of the Office of the Attorney General. Previously, he was an assistant general counsel in the General Counsel Division of the Office of the Governor. Before joining the governor's office in 2011, Justin served as a senior attorney and a drafting attorney in the Open Records Division of the Office of the Attorney General. Justin earned a B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin in 2002 and a J.D. from Baylor Law School in 2005.

Highland Park Baptist Church, <u>5206 Balcones Dr., Austin, TX 78731</u>6:30 p.m. Social time7:00 p.m. Presentation begins.

February Volunteers:

Snacks: Nan Kilkeary, Shelley Augustin, Diana & Louie Sellers, Jim Bridges Greeter: Mary Todd

Set-up: Nan Kilkeary Clean-Up: Diana & Louie Sellers, Charlie Jamison

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February Conversation Starter: Who Was Your First Ancestor to Migrate to America?



Which of your ancestors was the first to set foot on American soil? Where did they come from and how did they arrive? Do you know why they left their homeland behind?

Did your first American ancestor immigrate to escape starvation, or to break free of political and religious oppression? Was he

an adventurer, a missionary or an entrepreneur? Was she a maid seeking service in a wealthy home?

Did your ancestor set out to find steady work as a laborer on a farm or in a factory? Or did he quickly stake his claim on undeveloped land?

Maybe your earliest American ancestor is impossible to trace. He or she may have crossed the Bering Strait 20,000 years ago, or survived passage to the New World in a slave ship. The earliest branch of your family tree may begin at a reservation or a plantation.

Please join us at Highland Park Baptist Church for a half hour of snacks and socializing on February 26th at 6:30 pm. We're looking forward to our speaker Justin Gordon's 7:00 presentation - "Texas' Official Records: What's Available For Genealogists and What's Not."

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See you on Tuesday, February 26th!
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March DNA SIG Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Po-Ke-Jo's Barbecue<u>, 2121 W Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78727</u>

This SIG (Special Interest Group) focuses on how DNA is being used for genealogical research. We will review the features available in *DNA Painter* in the March meeting.

Please register below if you plan on attending.

http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/ags-dna-special-interest-group-march-6/? instance_id=609

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March Writing SIG meeting

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month (no meeting in December). Next meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. SOUTH AUSTIN IN MARCH, La Madeleine Bakery and Cafe Sunset Valley, <u>5493 Brodie Ln, Sunset Valley, TX 78745</u>

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. Those of us that are ready read aloud our latest work. Come and get inspired with the rest of us! Open to members of AGS. You are welcome to purchase dinner (at your expense) but that is not required. We will meet in the small room at La Madeleine, rotating between the north and south side of town.

http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/ags-writing-sig-5/?instance_id=591

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How to use Probate and Deed Records in Genealogy

March 16, 10:30 a,m, – 12:00 p,m, North Village Branch Library, <u>2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757</u>

Erin Garcia will present a brief overview of how to use probate and deed records in genealogy. She will go over terms and definitions, plus she will demonstrate the use of some websites like: HistoryGeo and FamilySearch!

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TELLING YOUR ANCESTORS' STORIES BY USING SOCIAL CONTEXT CLUES Austin Genealogical Society Annual Spring Seminar Featuring: Dr. Michael Lacopo Friday and Saturday, May 17-18

Hours of diligent searching of official documents often leaves empty holes and

frustration, as you feel like there is nowhere else to look for your ancestors. Becoming more aware of the social context of the world your ancestors were living in leads to a new perspective, and often fresh sources to dig for those missing relatives.

Join us in Austin at the sleek and modern conference facilities at the University of Texas at Austin's north research campus, UT Commons, on Friday afternoon and a full day on Saturday, May 17 and 18 for six exciting topics.

Friday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

- Incorporating Social History into Your Research
- Medical Genealogy: A Primer of Diseases That Killed Our Ancestors and Epidemics They Lived Through

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Re-Evaluating the Evidence
- I Am Poor, Obscure, Plain and Little: Researching the Invisible Ancestors
- Magnificent, Magical, Mesmerizing Manuscript Collections
- She Came from Nowhere ...: A Case Study incorporating Social History

Registration Fees:

Friday - \$35 AGS members/\$45 nonmembers Saturday - \$65 AGS members/\$80 nonmembers \$15 Saturday box lunch optional.

Online registration will open on March 15. Registrations will be accepted in the upcoming Tuesday meeting on February 24.

For more information visit the Austin Genealogical Society's website: <u>www.austintxgensoc.org</u>

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January meeting recap

There were 74 in attendance.

Topic: Discover Austin's Genealogical Treasure – The University of Texas' Briscoe Center for American History Speaker: Ben Wright, UT Briscoe Center Assistant Director for Communication Thanks to the following for their help:

Nametag - Gary & Kathy Pemberton, Tom & Judith Morris.

Set-up - Nan Kilkeary, Carol Darst, Rob Richardson, Shelley Augustin, Jim Bridges

Snacks - Beverly Pritchett, Shelley Augustin, Judith Morris, Dianne Holley Greeter - Kay Boyd

Clean-up - Robin Raben, Nan Kilkeary



Non-AGS Events

Williamson County Genealogical Society Annual Seminar Featuring: Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist March 16, 2019 @ 8 am - 3 pm First United Methodist Church, <u>1004 N Mays St., Round Rock, TX 78664</u>

Topics: That First Trip to the Courthouse, When Worlds Collide: Resolving Conflicts in Genealogical Records, Revelers, Hogkillers and Disobedient Children: Early State Laws, and No Vitals? No Problem! - Building a Family through Circumstantial Evidence.

https://williamsontxgenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=33

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Inspire Genealogists with your Knowledge and Passion! The Texas State Genealogical Society announces a Call for Presentations **for our 2019 Family History Conference.** This year's conference will be held October 11-13 in Houston, Texas, at the Omni Houston Hotel Westide.

We are looking for dynamic, enthusiastic presenters! If you feel passionate about your area of expertise and would like to teach and inspire other genealogists, this is the venue for you. Seasoned speakers and speakers new to the genealogical lecturing arena are encouraged to submit proposals for presentations or workshops.

Submission Requirements

Speakers who wish to submit lecture or workshop proposals should follow the published guidelines at the TxSGS Call for Presentations web page: <u>http://www.txsgs.org/2019-conference/call-for-presentations/</u>. Presenter requirements, compensation details, and a timeline are referenced there as well.

Speakers may submit up to five proposals for presentations or workshops via the online Submission Form.

All proposals must be submitted by March 22, 2019.

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Texas Czech Genealogy Society Genealogy Workshop April 12-13, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center, <u>119 West French Ave.</u>, <u>Temple, Texas 76501</u>

Sponsored by the Texas Czech Genealogy Society and the Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center. This workshop is open to anyone wanting to research their family history, learn how to use internet sources, translate documents, use research books emphasizing Czech immigrants and Czech Republic maps, including Cadastral maps, search for ancestors in the Czech Republic Archives, get individual help with genealogy questions, dating old photos and much more.

More information: https://txczgs.org/eventListings.php?nm=38#er62

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National Genealogical Society Family History Conference

May 8-11 St. Charles, Missouri

The upcoming NGS 2019 Family History Conference will be held in St. Charles, Missouri, and will offer the best and most expansive series of lectures to advance your research. St. Charles is easily accessible with a small-town feel and an abundance of history.

The NGS Family History Conference, 8–11 May 2019 is your opportunity to choose from more than 150 lectures presented by many nationally recognized speakers, explore an exhibit hall filled with more than 80 exhibitors, and network with more than 2,000 genealogists. Every NGS conference has a different theme with a new program top to bottom—so there is always more to learn and discover. Register now for the Family History Conference.

https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/

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TIGR: 2019 Texas Institute of Genealogical Research June 10-14 Crowne Plaza Hotel, <u>6121 N Interstate Hwy 35, Austin, TX 78752</u>

Join TxSGS (Texas State Genealogical Society) for the 2019 Texas Institute of Genealogical Research slated June 10-14, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Austin. This year's event adds a second track. In addition to a track focusing on Texas Research Essentials, coordinated by Kelvin Meyers, a second track is coordinated by J. Mark Lowe and will focus on Advanced Southern Research Techniques.

Learn more about Lodging & Venue, schedule and facult and make your reservations: <u>http://www.txsgs.org/2019-tigr/</u>

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Adventure Skaraborg presents EXCLUSIVE GENEALOGY TRAVEL PACKAGE TO SWEDEN August 27 - September 5

Walk in your forefather's footsteps. You will visit where they lived and hopefully meet relatives of today. This is a travel package that allows participants to find their roots in Sweden combined with touring Swedish historical and cultural highlights with their own guide. The travel package also includes four days in the capital of Sweden, Stockholm.

When the participant has decided to go on the family tour, a local genealogist and guide in Sweden help to find her/his roots based on the information and family records the traveler has of the family in Sweden. All the genealogy work will be made prior to when the travelers board the airplane with destination Gothenburg Landvetter airport in Sweden.

The cost of the trip is \$ 4,400 for a double room (\$500 extra cost for a single room) including a local genealogy researcher, housing, transportation and more. The price is exclusive of travel insurance and round trip airfare.

http://adventureskaraborg.com

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COME JOIN THE GENEALOGY CLUB!

Austin Groups for the Elderly, <u>3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX 78705</u>

The Genealogy Club at Austin Groups for the Elderly (AGE) is now open to registration for 2019 – and you don't have to be elderly. It is your interest in all things genealogy (and a membership fee) that gets you in the door. Membership is \$75.00 for the year - that entitles you to eleven 2-hour sessions with genealogists of all levels of experience.

This is a computer-based club. We talk about / learn / share any and everything genealogy, and Family Tree Maker is the primary application. Family Tree Maker sessions are led by FTM super-user Reneé Lasswell. Facilitated by Dianne Holley, the Genealogy Club meets the third Tuesday of every month (except December) from 10:00 A.M. to NOON.

Register here: <u>http://www.agecomputer.org/clubs/Clubs2019.php#genealogy</u>

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Austin Gen SIG

Next meeting: Saturday, March 9, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin The Most Prominent Citizens: Using County & Local Histories to Locate Ancestors by Cari A. Taplin, C.G. Genealogy interest group with interesting speakers and topics, meeting monthly. Join us as we explore, discuss and learn together...

http://www.austingensig.com

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Austin Legacy Users Group

Meets on the third Saturday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Querencia at Barton Creek, 2500 Barton Creek Blvd., Austin

http://austinlug.weebly.com/

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George Washington Carver Genealogy Center

1165 Angelina St, Austin, TX 78702

- Genealogy Basics: Every 4th Saturday of the month, 10 AM -11AM (exceptions July, November & December). This class teaches the basics of genealogy research. It requires that participants have basic computer experience and know how to perform basic computer searches.
- Genealogy Seminar: Every 4th Saturday of the month, 1 PM 2 PM (exceptions July, November & December). Every month the Center invites a presenter to cover a genealogy related topic.

http://www.austintexas.gov/genealogycenter

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Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Open during the week from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. the second Saturday of

each month.

1201 Brazos St., Austin

Questions concerning Second Saturdays may be sent to reference.desk@tsl.texas.gov.

https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/genfirst.html

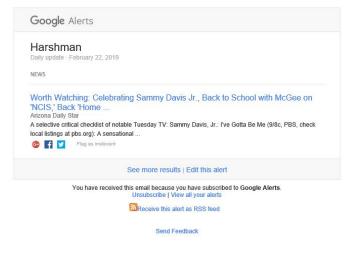
Genealogy Online

Using Google Alerts

By Robin Raben

Google alerts have been around for quite a while - if you google "Google alerts for genealogy" you will find several tutorials on how to set them up, including this one from RootsTech 2017: <u>https://www.rootstech.org/blog/how-to-use-google-alerts-for-genealogy</u>. By setting a google alert on a phrase, you are asking google to send you an email anytime information with that phrase is added to the internet.

I decided to try this for one of my less common surnames, Harshman, to see how they work. (I realized that using my maiden name, Smith, was probably not a good option.) I thought it would be best to use just the last name. I got my first email (below) which pointed me to an article that included a mention of my second cousin - an actress on a television series. Pretty neat. I plan to try this with a few other surnames and see what pops up! Perhaps someone will post something relevant to my family tree next time.



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Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources (online)

http://library.austintexas.gov/database/genealogy-and-people-search-guide

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Index to genealogical resources and family search tips. https://www.genealogyinc.com/

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Do you have a useful online resource for genealogical research? Send it to <u>newsletter@austintxgensoc.com</u>!







AGS SIGs



AGS Online



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