

# THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20, Issue 7 [http:// AustinTxGenSoc.org](http://AustinTxGenSoc.org) July 2014

**Austin Genealogical Society Meeting Tuesday, July 22**

## **Your Family History as a Short Story**

**Presented by Mary Scrudder**

**Short stories are a GREAT way to start writing family history. A short story can be completed in one afternoon (or more), and it offers the author many options for sharing.**

**Mary will get your ideas spinning, and your fingers itching to write.**

**Mary has been researching her families for 40 years. She always expected that she would share her discoveries in family group sheets and pedigree charts.**

**A need to write a family story came gradually and painfully. Mary's 'Scrudder' family history is in the Library of Congress, and she is currently working on two more.**



**It's "bring a friend" night. Your friends will also enjoy Mary's presentation as well as popcorn, lemonade, and other refreshments.**



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

### **AGS Board Meeting, June 24, 2014**

#### **Board Minutes**

**Members present:** Marcia Arn, Inez Eppright, Missy Harris, Anne Mamiya, Winnie Noelke, Jane Schwendinger, Don Villoni, Kathy Pemberton, and Patricia Thompson. Lisa Smith-Curtean attended through phone connection. Members not present: Carol Mason and Karin Nelson

Patricia Thompson was appointed and accepted a position on the AGS board to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Leslie Inman.

Minutes of the May, 2014, AGS Board meeting were accepted as submitted.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The May Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

#### **Bank Statement**

Inez Eppright volunteered to review the monthly bank statements

#### **Membership**

There are currently 362 members. It was recommended that members bring a guest to the July meeting. The board agreed that there be door prizes, including a board basket, a book or books from Half-Price Books, and a 2015 membership.

Suggestions were made for increasing membership. Some of the suggestions were attending Fourth of July parades with handouts, having a mini-fair (possibly at the Asian Heritage Center), having a human interest story in the American Statesman, and making a connection with an historical ancestor through one of the societies such as DAR.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Ft. Wayne Research Trip**

The required number of hotel rooms have been booked for the trip in order to get the best cost for the rooms but there is still space available for the trip itself. ( For more information see page 8 or go to the AGS website <http://austintxgensoc.org>.)

**Board Positions for 2015**— Current board members wishing to be reelected were asked to make their wishes known to the president.

##### **Membership Directory**

The board agreed that a compact directory designed for members to be able to print a smaller directory needs to be behind the member wall on the AGS website where members may access it and print it.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Programs**

The speaker originally scheduled for October was Karen Matheson. She will be moving to California, and a new program will be needed. It was suggested that a talk regarding resources available through DAR would be of interest.

##### **Further Discussions**

There was a reminder that the Texas General Land Office will be holding a seminar on September 20th. (See further information on page 4 of this newsletter).

Genealogy After Dark at TSLA will be held July 18. (See complete information on page 4 of this newsletter.)

### From the President's Corner

Here's hoping you are enjoying the summer and are squeezing in a trip involving genealogy. It could be a visit to older family members, to a cemetery, or to an archive containing records of your family. May you learn things that take you back another generation or more!

We have room available for our trip to Ft. Wayne. Let me know if you are interested in joining us in October. More information is available on our website at <http://austintxgensoc.org>. Sue Kaufman will be presenting information on using PERSI in Austin on July 19th. This is a free event and will be particularly helpful to those going to Ft. Wayne. You will receive a blast about this presentation, and information is included in this newsletter.

The index for our Quarterly needs to be updated. We will be seeking volunteers to assist with this project. This is something in which our members who live out of the area can participate.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, get to know what is available on our website and on our Facebook page. Learn how to access the information in the Member's Only section. If you are on Facebook, be sure to like our page so you are informed of upcoming events, opportunities, and useful information.

We all hope to see YOU at the next meeting and look forward to your volunteering for AGS.

Jane Schwendinger

*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](mailto:janesca@earthlink.net). This is an official AGS activity.

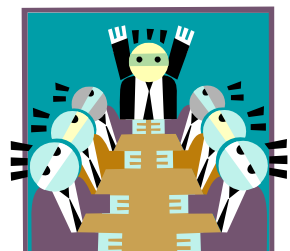
Austin Gen SIG meets from 1:00- 3:00 P.M. the second Saturday of the month at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Drive. This SIG is a part of Computer Club of Austin and is not an AGS affiliated group.  
<http://www.austingensig.com/>

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.rr.com/](mailto:Rjenkins7@austin.rr.com)

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/>

**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.**



## Good Things Coming Up

### GENEALOGY AFTER DARK

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission will host another of the popular Genealogy After Dark events on **Friday, July 18, 2014**, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There will be no evening program.

Registration is limited to 30 participants and the **deadline to register is July 11, 2014**. A link to the registration form is available at: [www.tsl.texas.gov/genafterdark.html](http://www.tsl.texas.gov/genafterdark.html). **Hurry! These slots fill up quickly.**

The State Library will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at 6:00 p.m. for Genealogy After Dark participants. The building will be locked at 6:45 p.m., and no participants will be admitted after that time.

The evening schedule is:

- 6:00 Sign-in Genealogy and Reference rooms open for research
- 6:15 Orientation: Requesting and Using Materials in the Texas State Archives  
(required for anyone planning to use archival materials during the event)  
Texas State Archives open for research, immediately following the orientation
- 7:45 Light refreshments in Lobby
- 9:45 Microfilm and photocopy rooms close
- 10:00 Building secured



If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [reference.desk@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:reference.desk@tsl.texas.gov) or 512-463-5455.

Archives and Information Services Staff

Texas State Library and Archives Commission



### MAKING WAVES ON LAND AND SEA

*Legends & Controversy in Texas History*

Saturday  
SEPTEMBER 20 8 AM TO 5 PM WILLIAM B. TRAVIS BLDG

1701 N CONGRESS AVE | AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

*Hosted by Commissioner Jerry Patterson & the Texas General Land Office*

The good, the bad, the ugly - Texas has its share. Our state's history is filled with stories of larger-than-life individuals whose illicit quests for fame and fortune shaped present day Texas. Juan Cortina, John Wesley Hardin and, of course, Santa Anna, are just a few. And for each villain, a hero exists. Stalwart Texans, such as James Earl Rudder, exemplified courage right here at home and on far away battlefields.

Making Waves on Land and Sea: Legends and Controversy in Texas History promises to be a day you'll remember, filled with the true stories of Texas villains and heroes.

Mark your calendar for **September 20** and register today!

Sign up here!

<http://www.cvent.com/events/save-texas-history-symposium-2014/event-summary-e989e41684384e8fb6844fcc65b632f0.aspx>



## Free AGS Event July 19th– 1:00 PM

**Hampton Branch Library- 5125 Convict Hill Rd, Austin, TX 78749**

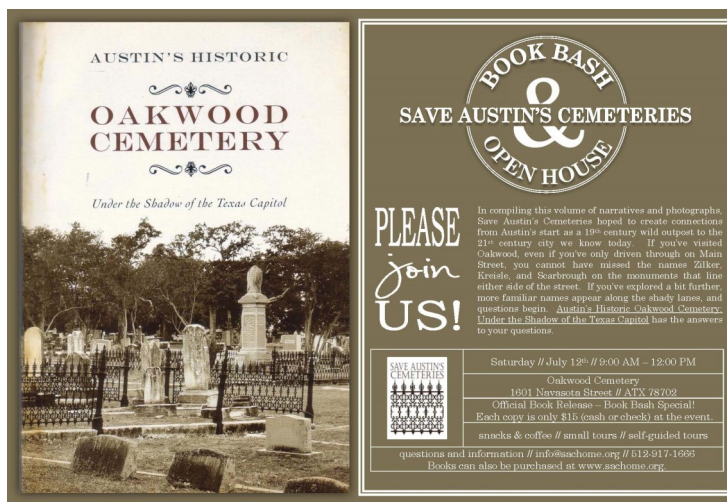
### Learn How to Use PERSI

**Sue Kaufman**, from the Clayton Library in Houston, will tell us everything we need to know about using PERSI (Periodical Source Index). If you are not using PERSI or have never used PERSI, you are missing a wonderful research tool. Those traveling to Ft. Wayne's Allen County Library with AGS in October will particularly benefit from Sue's presentation. But for those of us staying here in Austin, Sue will tell us how to use PERSI from the comfort of our home computers.

## SAVE AUSTIN'S CEMETERY BOOK BASH OPEN HOUSE

**JULY 12, 9-12 AT OAKWOOD CEMETERY**

Save Austin's Cemeteries has published a book. It is the first-ever collection of historical information about Oakwood Cemetery. Please join us in celebrating the publication of *Austin's Historic Oakwood Cemetery: Under the Shadow of the Texas Capitol* at an open house on the Oakwood Cemetery grounds July 12th from 9 a.m. to noon. The book weaves together the stories and personalities of early Austin citizens, farmers, and stonemasons as well as governors and judges. We'll have copies for sale at a special price of \$15, with all proceeds benefitting Oakwood and the other four city cemeteries. Some of the AGS members whose families are included are Connie Perdue, Terri Mirka, Cathy Ziller, Elizabeth Hicks, David Gracy, and John Luedecke. Our Oakwood history experts will host a few impromptu tours for those interested. Self-guided tours will be available, too, and we'll have lemonade, coffee and pastries ready to fuel your cemetery exploration.



## FGS Conference 2014

The 2014 FGS Conference is practically in our back yard. It is being held **August 27th through August 30th** in San Antonio. **This is too good to miss.** For complete information, check out the official website: <https://www.fgsconference.org/>





### **History Detectives Special Investigation**

#### **Servant Girl Murders of Austin, Texas**

**July 15, 2014, 8:00, KLRU**

In Austin in late 1884-1885, 8 individuals were murdered by what was known as the "Servant Girl Killer." The victims included Mollie Smith, Eliza Shelley, Irene Cross, Mary Ramey, Orange Washington, Gracie Vance, Susan Hancock, and Eula Phillips. These people were buried in Oakwood Cemetery, most in unmarked graves.

The Servant Girl Murders were a series of crimes, including eight murders, carried out by an elusive killer in the city of Austin, Texas in 1885. The victims of the crimes were "servant girls" –African-American women who at that time were commonly employed as domestic servants in many Austin households. The epithet "servant girl murders" is perhaps something of a misnomer – one of the victims was male, the boyfriend of one of the slain women; one victim was a child, the daughter of a servant who was herself attacked but not killed; and the last two victims were married white women, neither of them servants. Many theories were put forward and as the crimes continued without resolution, speculations about the perpetrators flourished. The crime scenes were consistent – a bloody axe or other implement was often left behind. The police arrested several suspects, but responsibility for the crimes could not be proven conclusively. Officially, the crimes remained unsolved.

The Travis County Archives staff recently uncovered 4 documents relating to the servant girl murders. Contact the archives for information on how to view them online or to view these documents in person.

Travis County Archives  
5555 Airport Boulevard, Room 507  
Austin, Texas 78751  
(512) 854-4675

Currently the Archives is open by appointment only.

The 2014 German-Texan Heritage Society Annual Meeting will be held August 8-9, in historic Comfort, TX, VFW Bldg.626, Front St. The Conference will feature informative speakers, a Friday evening social, Folk Opera next to the Treue der Union Monument, cemetery and historic site tours (with docents), plus welcome bags and door prizes. For additional information and registration, please visit the GTHS website: <http://germantexans.org/annual-meeting/> or call (512) 467-4569 or 1-830-625-3075 (toll free).

### **Kerrville Genealogical Society October 11 Seminar**

#### **GENEALOGY AND TECHNOLOGY**

New Ideas, New Technologies To Learn About Your Ancestors

Speaker, Caroline M. Pointer, will present four sessions.

For registration information, call: 830-377-3172.



## BOOK AND MAGAZINE SALE

### COME EARLY TO OUR JULY 22 MEETING

We know that our members will find many treasures in the huge stack of books and magazines that AGS will have for sale at can't-be-beat prices. The assortment includes general research books, books specific to locations, and even some interesting but non-genealogical books that our members have decided to pass along. How about a French, German, Czech, or Portuguese dictionary? Other items include recent magazines and some older, but not ancient, magazines that contain information that you just can't find any other place.

**SHOP EARLY BEFORE A TREASURE JUST MEANT FOR YOU IS SOLD TO SOMEONE ELSE! BRING A BAG ALONG!**



## NO! Not that kind of record!



Another year of sexton records has been added to the Austin History Center cemetery database. The Austin Genealogical Society began this project about ten years ago and others are now working on it. The people were interred in Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Annex and Mt Calvary (Catholic Cemetery).

<http://www.austinlibrary.com/ahc/oakwood.htm>

## PUZZLED ABOUT HOW TO BEGIN TO WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

Check out the most recent AGS Quarterly!

The Quarterly begins with an article by Peter Flagg Maxson. Many of us have stumbling blocks when it comes to putting our words on paper. Be sure to read his article for some hints on writing your family history to share your research.



## **AGS Research Trip to Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana**

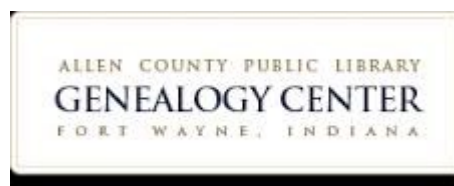
October 5th -- October 11th, 2014

Lodging at the Hilton Ft. Wayne at the Convention Center for 6 nights.

Tentative cost: \$100 deposit. Final payment of \$640 single or \$301double .

We still have space for YOU on this trip and there is still time to register but do it soon.

Contact President Jane Schwendinger at [president@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:president@austintxgensoc.org)



### **Austin Genealogical Society Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2013**

#### **ASSETS**

##### **Current Assets**

Checking/Savings	8561.19
Public Employees Credit Union	10706.61
Wells Fargo	12421.12
Total Checking/Savings	31688.92

TOTAL ASSETS	31688.92
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#### **LIABILITIES & EQUITY\***

##### **Liabilities**

##### **Current Liabilities**

Total Liabilities

##### **EQUITY \***

##### **Retained Earnings**

##### **Net Income**

Total Equity

\*These figures to be applied at a later date.



## HOSPITALITY REPORT

**Our greeters for June were Glenda Martin and Lori Henry.**

**Refreshments were provided by Kathryn Roberts, Inez Eppright, Betty Jean Steinke, and Suzy Snyder .**

**Sign-in Table: Martha Carpenter, Gary Pemberton, Shirley Villoni, and Jean Marostica.**

**The refreshment table was served by Sheila Sargent.**

**Attendance at the June meeting was 66.**

**New members joining us are Connie Roberts, Janice Jenkins, and Jennifer Bryant .**

**Our renewals were Julia Mellenbruch and Suzy Snyder .**

**Visitors at the June meeting were Karin Simpson, Paul Noack (former member) and Donna and Don Valdes.**

**July Greeters will be Robin Raben, Jean Shroyer, and Marcia Arn.**

### 2014 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2014:	Terms Ending 2015
Missy HARRIS	Marcia ARN
Patricia Thompson	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

## 2014 PROGRAMS

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

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

**Aug 26 Heritage Makers - Scrapbooking & Sharing Photos -Luci Anderson.**

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

**Oct 28 To be determined**

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

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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Austin Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 10010  
Austin, TX 78766-1010