



THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, Issue 6

AustinTxGenSoc.org

June 2015

Austin Genealogical Society (AGS)

Next Meeting: June 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731

Finally...A Good Life In Texas

Joyce Aldridge and Warren Freidrich will portray life in Austin as it was after the Alamo

Life for Alamo survivor Susanna was very difficult after the Alamo and it wasn't until she met and married Joseph Hannig that her life got appreciably better. She had enough money to live comfortably, she was able to spend quality time with her grandchildren, and she was welcomed by the Austin community as a celebrity. The same was true for Joseph as well. He and his brother left Germany in the early 1850's. At that time, life in Germany was tenuous at best. Opportunities for a successful life were extremely limited, so many Germans left home and family and moved half way around the world to seek freedom and opportunities in Texas. One can conclude both Sue and Joe's lives took a turn for the best and that life was "good."

Warren Friedrich

After 33 years of Government and Military service, being a second generation German and a native Texan, Warren retired with a goal to track his family's history and to continue his research of German immigration into Texas starting in the 1830's. He is currently a member of the German/Texan Heritage Society, Save Austin's Cemeteries, the Susanna Dickinson and Joseph Hannig Museum, and the Bullock Texas State History Museum where he is an active volunteer, bringing Texas history and the history of "Germans in Texas" alive in an exciting way to Texans, visitors to Texas, and future generations of Texans by both storytelling and costumed presentations.

Joyce Spivey Aldridge

"I wasn't born here, but I got here as soon as I could." This popular phrase describes Joyce's attitude towards Texas, her adopted home. A third generation teacher, Joyce's heart lies in educating others through the transformative power of theatre. Having earned her Ph.D. in Theatre from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Joyce's educational philosophy was developed in classrooms, rehearsal spaces, and theaters across the nation where she earned multiple teaching awards and received critical acclaim as an actress and director. Currently Joyce is employed by the Texas State Preservation Board as the Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Bullock Texas State History Museum where visitors enjoy Susanna's story as part of the Living History program.



Susanna Dickinson Hannig and Joseph Wilhelm Hannig played by Joyce Spivey Aldridge and Warren Freidrich January 17, 2015

Susanna Dickinson Hannig and Joseph Wilhelm Hannig played by Joyce Spivey Aldridge and Warren Freidrich.

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AGS News

Genealogy Writing Boot Camp**Have You Registered?**

If you have already registered, you will receive an email with information about the Boot Camp. There have been some technical difficulties with our registration process. If you would like to confirm your registration, please send an email to education@austintxgensoc.org

Back to Basics: Craft a Compelling Family History Narrative from Start to Finish

Lisa A. Alzo

10 Secrets You Should Know to Survive Microsoft Word

Thomas MacEntee

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church

June 27, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration: austintxgensoc.org/classes/

2015 AGS Writing Contest

Submit your articles to the AGS Quarterly to enter the contest!

First Prize - Winner's Choice - one of:

- Ancestry.com US one-year membership
- Fold3 all-access one-year membership
- Newspapers.com one-year subscription
- Legacy 8.0 Deluxe Bundle
- Roots Magic Super Bundle

Winners to be announced in January 2016.

Contest Guidelines: austintxgensoc.org

**AGS on Facebook****Austin Genealogical Society**

facebook.com/AustinGenealogicalSociety?fref=ts

Posts on this site include information about the AGS monthly programs, the annual AGS seminar, and classes sponsored or provided by AGS such as the Lifetime Learning Classes and the Introduction to Genealogy Classes.

Austin Genealogical Society Members helping Members

facebook.com/groups/643600238984459/

Posts on this site range from information about many genealogy related topics such as webinars, websites, and classes not sponsored by AGS. One needs to request to join the group. Members of the group may request help with any particular issue they are experiencing with their own research.

Let's Start a DNA SIG for AGS Members!

Have you gotten your DNA test completed and are wondering what to do with it? Or perhaps you've made some discoveries you'd like to share with others. Jane Schwendinger would like to start a new DNA Special Interest Group, and is looking for a leader for the group.

All interested members may contact Jane at janesca@earthlink.net.

Jane says, "I just got my mtDNA results back and want to learn more."

Check out the Austin American Statesman "Remembering Austin" Series by Michael Barnes

mystatesman.com/s/life/austin-history/

Ancestry Up for Sale - Scoop from Lisa Louise Cooke

Lisa Louise Cooke recently posted on her Genealogy Gems blog about a pending sale of Ancestry.com. We have reprinted parts of that blog with her permission. To keep up to date on the latest genealogy news such as this, subscribe to the Genealogy Gems newsletter at lialouisecooke.com/blog/

"Reuters *recently reported* that Ancestry 'is exploring a sale that could value it at between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion, including debt.' According to unnamed sources, Permira (a buyout firm that owns most of Ancestry) 'has hired investment banks to run an auction for the company.'

"It's far too soon to say what this might mean for paying customers, users of Ancestry Library Edition and corporate and community partners. The sale of a company can mean possible changes in direction and organization. Ancestry currently boasts delivery of 15 billion genealogy records to 2.1 million subscribers, and has stated its intent to acquire additional records at an aggressive pace. In an ever changing corporate and technological environment we believe it's important to retain ownership and responsibility of our own data.

"Our best advice to those whose master family trees are on Ancestry? Download and backup your data! We're not being alarmist. This announcement is just a good opportunity to do something we routinely recommend anyway."

For the rest of this blogpost, see lialouisecooke.com/?s=ancestry+for+sale

FROM THE 2015 SEMINAR CHAIR

Thank you to all who attended our May 30th seminar. It was a huge success!

We had over 100 people eager to hear Judy Russell and she did not disappoint. She had us laughing from the start. Not only were we entertained, but we learned in the process.

In addition, we handed out over \$2000 in raffle items and door prizes thanks to our many donors. Congratulations to our lucky winners! Some door prizes require activation and have expiration dates. Please send your information in soon. If you experience any difficulty with this, please contact me.

And to the many volunteers who came early and stayed late to help, thank you! An event such as this would not be possible without your help. It was very much appreciated. Thank you also to the seminar committee, Kathy Pemberton and Trisha Thompson, and the AGS Board. Your support meant a lot!

Finally, I encourage you to mark your calendar now for our 2016 Seminar featuring Thomas MacEntee on Saturday, May 21st. It promises to be another great event!

See you at the meeting on June 23rd!

Carol Mason
Seminar Chair

seminar@austintxgensoc.org



Offering a "welcome to Austin" bag to Judy Russell (left) are Seminar Chair Carol Mason (right) and Emcee Robin Raben (Middle)

2015 Board of Directors

Our governing body is a Board of Directors composed of twelve members. Their terms of office are two years beginning January 1st. Officers are elected each year to serve for a term of one year.

| <i>Terms Ending 2015</i> | <i>Terms Ending 2016</i> | 2015 Officers | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Marcia ARN | James E. BRIDGES | President | Anne MAMIYA |
| Inez EPPRIGHT | Missy HARRIS | 1st Vice President | James E. BRIDGES |
| Anne MAMIYA | Karin NELSON | 2nd Vice President | Marcia ARN |
| Carol MASON | Jan PELOSI | Secretary | Inez EPPRIGHT |
| Wynnie NOELKE | Robin RABEN | Treasurer | Karin NELSON |
| Kathy PEMBERTON | Trisha THOMPSON | | |

Local Genealogy Meetings & Resources

There are many opportunities to participate in genealogical activities in Austin and in nearby communities. Here are some 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.

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.
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 Website: AustinLUG.weebly.com

Texas State Library 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 to reference.desk@tsl.texas.gov.
tsl.texas.gov/

Williamson County Genealogical Society meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Round Rock Public Library. Social time at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting at 7:30 p.m.
williamsontxgenealogy.org/

Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources
library.austintexas.libguides.com/genealogy



Indicates an official AGS activity

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

Austin Genealogical Society Board Meeting Highland Park Baptist Church

April 28, 2015

Board Members present: Marcia Arn, Jim Bridges, Inez Eppright, Missy Harris, Anne Mamiya, Carol Mason, Karin Nelson, Jan Pelosi, Kathy Pemberton, Robin Raben, and Patricia Thompson. Wynnell Noelke was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Anne Mamiya, President, at 5:49 p.m.

The February and March, 2015, minutes were tabled.

The March 1, 2015 bank statement was in order.

Treasurer's Report – Was accepted as presented.

Education – Marcia Arn is working on having a program on the Orphan Train.

Seminar – A seminar update was emailed to Board Members prior to the meeting including an update on registrations, publicity, volunteers, door prizes and the addition of a raffle.

AGS Classes – June 27, Writing Boot Camp; August 1, Evidence; November 7, Newspapers and Obituaries.

LLI Genealogy Class – The class went well and the Fall Semester will be from September 14 to November 6.

Membership – As of April 27, we have 318 members, 45 new members and 6 who were members in the past and have rejoined. At this time last year we had 302 members.

Publications – May 1 is the newsletter deadline and May 16 is the Quarterly deadline.

Archive Donations – A donation of \$1,995.00 to the Austin History Center for a polyester sealing machine was approved. A donation of \$455.00 to the Texas State Library and Archives for the purchase of *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: 2015 Supplement* was approved. A decision on a donation to the Texas General Land Office was deferred to the May 3 retreat meeting.

Writing Boot Camp A/V Cost – A decision to pay Triumphant Love Lutheran Church \$100.00 to use the A/V equipment at the members only Writing Boot Camp was approved.

Medallions - Jim Bridges has the medallions he recommends for speakers and possible sale to members. This will be discussed and a decision made at the May 3 retreat meeting.

Patricia Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jan Pelosi seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Inez Eppright, Secretary

Volunteer Opportunities

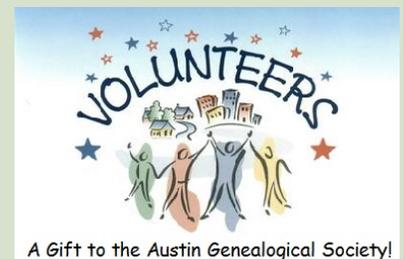
Interesting in lending a hand to the society? Here are ways to get involved!

AGS Quarterly Editor - Four times a year, the editor produces the Quarterly consisting of member and non-member submissions. No prior editorial experience required. Writing skills and Microsoft Word skills are helpful. This person is supported by the publications team - you won't be all alone! Contact Robin Raben at quarterly@austintxgensoc.org

AGS Education Instructors - If you are interested in teaching a genealogy related class either at a public library or for the next session of LLI (Lifetime Learning Institute), please contact Jane Schwendinger at education@austintxgensoc.org. Several classes are already scheduled, and we can always add more.

Publicity Chair - This position is currently open and needs some help. Opportunity to define the team and roles as you see fit, with the help of the board. The Publicity Committee's function is to promote the society, its mission, and its activities to the general public, and foster engagement and participation by the society's members. Contact Anne Mamiya at president@austintxgensoc.org.

Table Hostess - Meet the Hospitality Chair at 5:30 on meeting day in the meeting room to set up table and beverages. You are provided with "paper ware" and tablecloth; involves setting up beverages, receiving volunteered food items for membership to enjoy when they arrive at 6:30, watching the table, and presiding there from 6:30 to 7:00. Replenishing cups, water, ice is included. Previous Table Hostesses have chosen to do this yearly or for designated months. Contact missy_harris@att.net if you would like to help. Set up is most important; clean-up is usually taken care of by the committee chairs.



A Gift to the Austin Genealogical Society!

AGS 2015 Calendar

| MAY | | | | | | |
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| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30-S |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| JUNE | | | | | | |
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23-M | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27-C |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

C AGS Sponsored Classes**June 27, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.****Writing Boot Camp***Video Presentation**by Thomas MacEntee and Lisa Alzo*

Friendship Hall, Triumphant Love Lutheran Church

August 1, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**Learning to Find, File and Analyze Evidence***Presented by Dianne Holley*

North Village Library

Sep. 26/Oct. 3**Introduction to Genealogy**

Hampton Branch at Oak Hill Library

November 7, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**Newspapers and Obituaries***Presented by Cari A. Taplin, CG*

Hampton Branch at Oak Hill Library

M AGS Meetings, Tuesdays 7 p.m.**June 23****Finally...A Good Life In Texas***Presented by Joyce Aldridge (as Susanna Dickinson) and Warren Friedrich (as Joseph Hannig)***July 28****Using the Perry-Castañeda Library for Genealogy***Presented by Katherine Strickland***August 25****Earning a Living: Your Ancestors at Work***Presented by Pat Gordon***September 22****World War I: One Hundred Years of Records***Presented by Debbie Pearson from Fort Worth Genealogical Society***October 27****Talking to Elders to Record Family History***Presented by Mary Scudder***November 24****FALL FESTIVAL***Presenter to Be Determined*

| JULY | | | | | | |
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| AUGUST | | | | | | |
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| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
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| OCTOBER | | | | | | |
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| NOVEMBER | | | | | | |
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| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24-M | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
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| DECEMBER | | | | | | |
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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

SAVE THE DATE - NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR**Salt Lake City Research Trip
April 17-24, 2016**

AGS will once again sponsor a research trip to Salt Lake City. Details and registration will be available in September 2015.

* * *

**AGS Seminar 2016
Saturday, May 21, 2016**

Speaker: Thomas MacEntee
Details and registration will be provided Spring 2016.

AGS Members Get Discounts!

FamilyTreeDNA offers a discount to AGS members who sign up through the AGS Group Project. familytreedna.com/

"Like" us on Facebook

[facebook.com/AustinGenealogicalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AustinGenealogicalSociety)

Member Appreciation

Cari A. Taplin

By Robin Raben

Cari Taplin is a new resident of Texas, a newly certified genealogist and, luckily for us, a new member of the Austin Genealogical Society. She and her family have recently moved here from Colorado. We met at my favorite interview spot, Russell's Bakery, in April and what follows here are the highlights of that discussion.

Q: How did you hear about the Austin Genealogical Society?

A: I've been a long time society member back in Colorado. I just knew the power of being in a community, so when we decided to move I was like, all right we've got to look for what's close. So we just Googled. I'm trying to get my husband into genealogy so I made him join with me. He's into it, it's just we still have kids at home so we don't have time and he's working full time. Someday, we'll all be retired!

Q: What advice would you give to someone who is just starting in genealogy?

A: First of all, the thing I didn't do well in the beginning was keep track of my sources. You know, I don't know how many scraps of paper I've written a note on that didn't say where I got it from, or who told me.

When you are starting out and you've got five pieces of paper, it's a good time to start being organized and thinking about how you want your stuff to be organized. Even if you're digital, how do you want it digitally organized on your computer?



Cari A. Taplin, CG
Researcher, Speaker, Consultant
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GenealogyPANTS
www.genealogypants.com

Make sure you're educating yourself. Start reading how-to articles from reputable places. I did read NGSQ (National Genealogical Society Quarterly) articles when I was a

baby genealogist and I would go, "Oh! Gosh I can't even understand what's happening here." The more you read them and the more you do your own stuff you go, "Oh, that makes sense, Oh, okay, I get that." Light bulbs.

Some of Her Publications

She has had articles published in the Boulder Genealogical Society Quarterly, Digital Genealogist and the National Genealogical Society Magazine. She is the 2013 recipient of the Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr. Prize from IGHR (Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.) *For a more complete list, see her website.*

Her Certification - The Power of a Mentor

Cari says her genealogical certification was, "A major undertaking, shall we say, a big ball of stress, but it was worth it." The biggest reason she got her certification was because "I had a great mentor." She met her mentor nearly 15 years ago, a woman who encouraged her and even nagged her a little bit until Cari took the plunge. When her mentor died from cancer, Cari was determined to get her certification to honor her memory. Cari says, "She was just nudging me from beyond, so I did it so I could say, 'I did that.'"

Read about her on the Board for Certification of Genealogists website: <http://bcgcertification.org/blog/2015/03/welcome-cari-taplin-cg/>



About Cari

She was born in Ohio and moved to Wyoming right before she started high school. She got a scholarship to the University of Wyoming where she met her husband, Seth. They moved to Colorado in 1997 for his work, and lived there almost 20 years until their recent move to Pflugerville, Texas.

She does not work outside of her home but is kept busy with her two children, a son who is 14, and a 12 year old daughter, and her genealogy practice.

As a genealogist, her focus is on lecturing, writing and teaching classes. She will be teaching her first (and probably not the last!) class for the Austin Genealogical Society on November 7, "Newspapers and Obituaries."

Early Onset Genealogical Addiction

Cari started her interest in genealogy at a young age - about 25. She always had an interest, listening to her parents and grandparents stories. She started researching when she was pregnant for the first time, and found herself at home looking for something to do. She says, "I totally got hooked."

Check Out Her Website

genealogypants.com

Her Genealogical Tools of Choice

Ancestry - They've got a lot of great features that will help you along. One of my favorite things on Ancestry is when I'm looking at somebody's record and then over on the side it says, "You might look at these records, too," and up pops a little record I hadn't thought of. I love that technological cross-over that can happen. You just did not have that when you were scrolling in microfilm.

FamilySearch - I love that FamilySearch has all that free stuff. I'm not a fan of their family tree. So I use it for clues, like if I really can't find somebody or I'm not sure somebody even exists, I'll go and see what clues I can get from what somebody else has done.

Fold3

Newspapers.com

Evernote - I use Evernote tons. I love Evernote. I use both the tags and the notebooks. So I can find it either way, maybe, if I'm lucky! I use primarily my laptop, I have it on my phone and my iPad, and they all sync, I love it.

Reunion - I have a Mac and I use Reunion, mostly, for my software. I've just used it since the get-go. Two years in I decided I really ought to have some software to put all this stuff in, so I started to use Reunion because of the Mac.

Snagit - I use Snagit a lot. It's a screen capture tool and it's got a lot of features. You can take a screen capture then you can add arrows or circles and then it will send it right to Evernote.

Skitch - does a similar thing, is faster but it doesn't have as many bells and whistles as Snagit.

Evidentia - You get a source, like a death certificate, and you enter the source in your software rather than a person. It's a little bit different, it helps you analyze the sources and their evidence rather than focus on the person. I use it when I have a specific project or problem to solve.

Cemetery Search Tips

By AGS Member Sarah Shaw

I've been fulfilling photo requests for people wanting photographs of monuments at Assumption, Austin State Hospital, and Concord (Wood County) cemeteries these past few months.

Missing Markers

One tip I can share is that if you have specific plot information, don't be so quick to assume there is no marker. There may have been periods of time where grass or dirt have accumulated and covered the marker. Now I bring a hard plastic spike and plastic paddle tool to break away any grass and push away the soil that has accumulated over the marker.

There are many reasons why no one has visited the gravesite. When this happens, the markers (even expensive high quality granite) get lost to the elements of the seasons. I've found several markers that were under up to two inches of soil.

Plot Maps

If the cemetery is in Texas, a lot of volunteers have posted many Texas Cemeteries listings on the internet.

Larger Cemeteries, like Forest Park Lawndale in Houston, will provide it to a family member, if you call them. There are over 50,000 interments there, so searching without the plot information will be futile.

The Texas State Library may have some books, which are filed by county, for Texas counties. For example, Wood County has "Cemeteries of Wood County." It was published in the mid 1960s, but I have been able to connect some folks with relatives they did not know existed because of the burial records published in this book.

For smaller cemeteries, there is a website called Guidestar.org that is one way to see cemetery management information filed with the IRS for non profit cemeteries. At a minimum, you can find the current contact information like officers names, phone numbers, and mailing addresses. (You can create a free account on the site to see all the documents.)

Some libraries may have genealogy info. Wood County has a large genealogy reference section, and the Austin History Center seems to have information about the larger city or state cemeteries for Austin and Travis County. Most of the Austin information is also available on the internet. The UT Perry Castañeda library will have more detailed records for Travis County and Texas.

One thing that I learned was to also find out who was buried nearby. Often times, I could find the names of people nearby much easier than just looking for one specific name. I would keep a list of about 5-10 people who were buried close by and I would say 9 out of 10 times, I found those names first and then I knew I was close.

We Want to Hear from You!

We'd love to add some input from our membership to the newsletter! Here are some ideas -

- Share an upcoming event or tell us what you liked about an event you just attended.
- Review your favorite family tree software, website, or tool. Tell us why you like it.
- Have you seen a good movie, television show, heard a podcast or read a good book with a genealogical slant lately? Tell us about it.
- Share a brick wall or a challenge you are currently facing - maybe a member could help! Ask in the newsletter.

Please send any items of interest or feedback to our newsletter editor, Robin Raben: newsletter@austintxgensoc.org.



In Remembrance... Judge Howard Robert Kaufman

Most genealogist in Texas and across the nation know Sue Kaufman as the head of the Clayton Library in Houston. She has been a speaker at a recent AGS meeting. We are sad to have learned that her father has passed away.

Judge Howard Robert Kaufman, 84, went to the big courthouse in the sky 29 May 2015. Beloved Father of Susan (Doug) Kaufman and Ilene (Luis) Rivera; Grandfather of Dante; Partner to Janet Nedoba, proceeded in death by his father Emil and mother Helen (Levy) and brother Carl; he spent his life serving others. A United States Marine; an Assistant United States Attorney General; First Chief of Consumer Fraud for the State of Illinois and finally a Cook County, IL Judge, he gave of his life in many ways. Through volunteering and mentoring youth, through sharing his wisdom, humor and his zest for life, he left a mark on all he encountered.

A dear friend to many, he leaves many lives touched in many places. He loved to travel, loved to play sports, and had a competitive spirit and a warm place in his heart for his dear rescue Greyhound dog, Chase. He loved a good conversation, and was not afraid to share his opinion on most anything. As a Father he instilled goals, direction and love to his children, as a Partner he was caring, loving and giving. All people that crossed his path remember Howard.

He will be remembered in our hearts and minds forever. "It's good to be Chief."

Published in *The News-Press* on June 3, 2015, legacy.com/EnhancedObit/EnhancedObit.aspx?PersonID=174991259



Summer Events

Austin Juneteenth 2015 Parade and Park Celebration Sesquicentennial Year 1865-2015 June 20

Juneteenth marks the official celebration of Emancipation Day in Texas, the day that word reached Texas, more than two years after the fact, that President Lincoln had officially freed all slaves in the United States. The first official Juneteenth Celebration in Austin was in 1930 at Rosewood Park, where the Austin Juneteenth celebration is still held today. The celebration includes a parade featuring floats, area bands, musicians, clowns and classic cars. The Austin Juneteenth Parade concludes at the Doris Miller Auditorium on the edge of Rosewood Park, followed by an all-day Juneteenth Celebration at Rosewood Park with food vendors, children's entertainment and live music.

juneteenthcentraltexas.com/



Found on Pinterest & facebook.com

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society 2015 Summer Conference

Saturday, July 11, 2015
McHenry County College
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

<http://www.mcigs.org/conference.html>



Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) 2015 Courses

June 28-July 3, 2015
and July 19-24, 2015 in Pittsburgh.

Week-long genealogical courses.
REGISTRATION. For more information on GRIP see gripitt.org.



Give Voice to Freedom

Carver Library
1161 Angelina St., Austin, TX 78702

June 20, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Do you have a favorite folktale, poem, speech or writing that speaks to the topic of freedom in the black community? Come and read a selection aloud from the Carver African American Special Collection in the spirit of Juneteenth.

For more information: library.austintexas.gov/event/give-voice-freedom-312458



Dallas Genealogical Society 2015 Summer Symposium "Researching in Texas"

August 7-8, 2015

Featured Speaker: Teri E. Flack, MA, MBA (and AGS Member)

Additional Speakers from Portal to Texas History, U of North TX, State of Texas General Land Office, and more.

Registration: dallasgenealogy.org



CRUISE, ANYONE?

August 28 - September 4, 2015 - FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) Alaska Cruise

Set sail from Seattle, Washington, for a 7 night cruise along the breathtaking Alaskan coast on FGS' maiden voyage of genealogy cruising.

For details and booking information fgsconference.org/cruise/



19th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference Friday & Saturday, July 17 & 18, 2015

"Solving Genealogical Conundrums using Local History, Special Collections and the Internet"

Angelina College Campus
3500 South First Street (Hwy 59 South) · Lufkin, Texas

angelina.edu/gen-conf/



2015 SEMINAR HOSPITALITY REPORT

By Missy Harris, Hospitality Chair



Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist, JD, CGSM, CGLSM

First of all---great seminar! Best speaker ever---made everything fun and we could hear every word!

Great job on door prizes, organization and syllabus, Carol, Kathy and Trish!

Now, to the Hospitality Committee, thank you so much. Gary and Jim also helped us and it took "our village" to get it all done!

Marcia and Jane, thanks for your help in handing out the sandwiches at lunch; Alyssa, Kay, Barbara, Carolyn, Jim and Gary... thanks for helping out in the "line" and kitchen area to make sure our registered guests had everything they needed and being as hospitable as you all

were! For those of you/us that helped with the idiosyncrasies and eccentricities of the equipment of the church, ever so many thanks!

I will have to say Kay Boyd's planning and purchasing was right on. There was also candy on every table---it was a welcoming touch. Thank you, thank you!



Registration check-in table:
Adeliza Tiffany and Betty McCreary



Socializing before the seminar



Yummy Donuts!



Dinner with Judy Russell at Chez Zee: L-R James Bridges, Gary Pemberton, Kathy Pemberton, Jane Schwendinger, Robin Raben, Marcia Arn, Inez Eppright, Judy Russell, Carol Mason, Trish Thompson, Missy Harris



Raffle Table: Gayle Boyce and Teresa Devine

Thank You to the 2015 Seminar Volunteers!

SEMINAR COMMITTEE/DOOR PRIZES:

Carol Mason (Chair), Kathy Pemberton and Trish Thompson

SYLLABUS:

Anne Mamiya

LOADING/UNLOADING CARS

Jim Bridges and Gary Pemberton

ROOM SET UP & SURVEY HAND OUT:

Gary Pemberton, Kathy Pemberton, Greg Noel

GREETERS:

Marcia Arn and Trisha Thompson

REGISTRATION CHECK-IN/DOOR PRIZE HELP:

Betty McCreary and Adeliza Tiffany

REGISTRATION WALK-IN:

Karin Nelson

RAFFLE:

Teresa Devine and Gayle Boyce

TECHNICAL:

John Marostica

WEBSITE:

Jean Marostica

HOSPITALITY:

Missy Harris and Kay Boyd - all areas

Barbara Innis, Carolyn Gresham, Alyssa Behr, Jim Bridges and Gary Pemberton helped in the kitchen area

Jane Schwendinger and Marcia Arn handed out lunches

TRANSPORTATION FOR JUDY RUSSELL:

Inez Eppright

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Trisha Thompson

EMCEE:

Robin Raben

BEHIND THE SCENES:

Anne Mamiya and Kay Boyd

Want More of Judy Russell?
legalgenealogist.com/blog/

Annual Financial Examination Committee Report

Every year at this time the results of a review of the AGS Financial Records is provided in the newsletter according to our bylaws:

Financial Examination Committee – Subsequent to the Treasurer's annual report in January, but prior to the May meeting of the Board and the Society, the Financial Examination Committee shall examine the financial records and prepare a written report to be presented at the May Board meeting. The Committee's report will be included in a June publication.

What follows below is a documentation of the results of the 2014 Financial Records review.

May 6, 2015

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

RE: Examination of AGS Financial Records for Calendar Year 2014

Dear Anne:

The AGS Financial Examination Committee consisting of AGS Members Mary Todd, Gary Pemberton, and me, as Committee Chair, met on Tuesday, April 21 at the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) restaurant on South MoPac Expressway near Bee Caves Road. We were joined by AGS Board member liaison Jim Bridges who observed the process and will document the review procedures on behalf of the AGS Board.

REVIEW METHODOLOGY

You appointed the committee to conduct a limited examination of Calendar Year 2014 AGS financial records. AGS treasurer Karin Nelson provided the Committee with the Society's financial records in a portable file case with one folder of records for each month of the year. Each folder's contents generally included the following items:

- Bank Statements from Wells Fargo Bank;
- Credit Union Statements from PECU;
- Bank Statement Reconciliation Reports;
- Bank Deposit Summaries itemizing check deposits and PayPal deposits;
- Debit Transaction Forms covering AGS debit card expenditures;
- General Transaction Reports covering PayPal deposits and PayPal fees;
- Copies of invoices paid by AGS checks along with copies of cancelled checks;
- Monthly Profit and Loss Statements; and
- Miscellaneous other items, some prepared for Board review covering seminars and other activities.

In addition, information was obtained from the treasurer and the prior AGS president regarding actions taken in response to four recommendations made by the Financial Review Committee last year.

After discussing the general process for the examination, we reviewed the records contained in each monthly folder. The examination included:

- Comparison of deposits against the bank statements;
- Comparison of expenditures against the bank statements, and verification of invoices or other documentation to support the expenditures;
- Reconciliation of the bank statements with the AGS checking account and savings account using the verified deposits and expenditures;
- Confirmation that expenditures were allocated to regular AGS account categories;
- Review of (1) recommendations made by Financial Review Committee last year and (2) the actions taken by AGS leadership in response to those recommendations.

On Tuesday, April 28 the committee chair and the Board member liaison reviewed the following documents provided by the treasurer:

- Documentation of account access and signature authority for Wells Fargo accounts;
- Documentation on debit cards issued to five designated AGS members; and
- Documentation of reports filed with the IRS (Forms 1096 and 1099) and the State Comptroller of Public Accounts (Sales and Use Tax).

REVIEW RESULTS

Several items of interest were noted during the review:

- AGS has checking and savings accounts with the Wells Fargo Bank. Account balances at December 31, 2014 were \$4,962.01 and \$10,922.93 respectively.
- AGS has a savings account and a certificate of deposit (CD) at the Public Employees Credit Union (PECU). Account balances at December 31, 2014 were \$25.00 and \$10,697.78 respectively. The CD matured on April 10, 2015 and earned \$32.05 total interest in 2014.
- Total AGS assets in savings, checking, and CD accounts increased from \$24,907.34 on January 1, 2014 to \$26,607.72 on December 31, 2014.
- AGS 2014 donations included \$536.00 to the Texas General Land Office and \$500.00 to the Federation of Genealogical Societies for the War of 1812 Pension Project.
- All Wells Fargo checks were accounted for with two "VOID" checks registered during the year. Both "VOID" checks were located in the monthly files.
- Three checks were written for over \$1,000 each and each check contained two signatures as required by the AGS Bylaws. Two of the checks pertained to hotel expenses for the May 2014 AGS seminar and the third check was for annual rent to the Highland Park Baptist Church.
- Two debit card payments in excess of \$1,000 each were for hotel expenses for the Fort Wayne, Indiana research trip.
- There are two accounts with the Public Employees Credit Union (PECU), a savings account and a 6-month certificate of deposit. The status of these accounts was shown in General Journal Entries, in Balance Sheet Reports and in Quarterly Statements.
- Required 1096 and 1099 reports to (1) the U.S. Department of the Treasury for Tax-Exempt Organizations and (2) to the State of Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Sales and Use Tax) were properly filed.
- An IRS Form 1099 was properly filed for the stipend paid to Maureen Taylor for the May 3, 2014 AGS seminar .
- There continued to be several instances of duplicate payments for membership fees and appropriate action was taken to refund member payments or reverse PayPal charges.
- AGS leadership has taken several actions to address recommendations made in the last year's financial reviews. Please see Attachment 1 for a status report on four recommendations made last year.

In summary, the CY 2014 financial records are complete, thorough, and have been maintained in an orderly manner. The use of the check request procedure has been properly followed and the debit card use appears to have been responsibly used.

REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee offers the following recommendations for consideration by AGS leadership:

- **Begin using the recently-developed cash receipts form.** This one-page form should be completed and turned in to the treasurer, along with the cash and checks, after completion of AGS meetings and events. Although not involving large amounts of cash and checks, this issue was also a concern in the last three financial reviews and successful implementation of the cash receipts form would help strengthen accountability and control.
- **Confirm documentation of AGS members with PECU account access.** Similar information was recently confirmed with the Wells Fargo Bank and should be verified at least once each year. We recommend that account access documentation for both accounts be maintained by both the AGS president and treasurer.
- **Continue efforts to develop procedures and forms for future financial examination reviews.** Such procedures will help ensure more complete examinations of AGS financial records. Board Member Jim Bridges is currently developing these procedures.
- **Provide the Financial Review Committee with a complete set of Board Meeting minutes in future financial reviews.** Such records provide additional evidence of payment authority for certain transactions.

APPRECIATION

Karin Nelson completed her first year as AGS Treasurer in December, 2014, and continues to serve in that volunteer capacity for Calendar Year 2015. She is commended for her dedicated efforts in maintaining the financial records in excellent condition. She has made a significant contribution of personal time and effort to the AGS membership that is much appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mary Todd
Committee Member


Gary Pemberton
Committee Member


David J. MacCabe
Committee Chair

Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
(except May and December)

Social time at 6:30 p.m.; Program at 7:00 p.m.

Highland Park Baptist Church

5206 Balcones Drive

Austin, TX 78731

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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