

Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting: June 25, 2019

The Leeds Method of Color Clustering: An easy way to group DNA matches to identify your ancestors' families by Dana Leeds

Dana will discuss how to apply the Leeds Method of DNA clustering to your own DNA results. Read more about the Leeds method in the [AGS sponsored events](#) section of the newsletter.

6:30 p.m. Doors Open

7:00 p.m. Presentation begins

Highland Park Baptist Church

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

Welcome to the June edition of the AGS Newsletter

Read about the [latest news](#) this month. Find out about [AGS sponsored events](#), including the Travis County History Day focusing on genealogy. Learn how you can [volunteer](#) even if genealogy is not your strong suit! [Publish](#) your work. Find out about [online resources](#). Read about several [Non-AGS events](#) you may want to participate in. Enjoy!

Welcome new members!

Rosemary Chagoya, Joyce Fisher, and Glen Long

News Articles

2019 Annual Seminar - overall great reviews!

Texas genealogists attending the annual AGS seminar on May 17-18, Telling Your Ancestors' Stories by Using Social Context Clues, were treated to an inspiring weekend filled with insights into filling the gaps between names and dates of births and deaths with the stories that make family history come alive. Participants were overheard declaring that they couldn't wait to get home and start using some of the tips learned to break down the brick walls that have plagued their research. Dr. Michael Lacopo received excellent ratings from all attending, as he peppered the sessions with entertaining, yet relevant, anecdotes in addition to weighty substance. Thanks to all that volunteered to help make the seminar a success!

Stay tuned for details for next year's seminar. You won't want to miss it!

Coming in January, AGS will present Genealogy Bootcamp for those new to genealogy. Be sure to tell your friends who are always asking you questions about your family history searches.

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Coming up: the new Research Special Interest Group

This fall, our Third Saturday class will become . . . the Research SIG. Bring your laptop (or pen and paper) to the Saturday morning session for help with research problems, processes and questions. We've outlined what we think are the four tracks of genealogy effort – field work, internet, DNA, and telling the story – and we have SIGs for DNA and Writing (story). The new Research SIG gives all our members the ability to get help on research processes and solve research problems, combining work on the first two tracks. Thank Elizabeth Price, our education chair, for the idea. She noted that Third Saturday attendees were often more interested in asking questions than listening to presentations.

We'll still be meeting at the North Branch Library on Steck.

There's still a couple of terrific speaker sessions ahead in July and August that you won't want to miss.

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Member Family Treasure found on Ebay!

Have you found information on an ancestor in an unexpected place? Jim Bridges certainly has! He sent us this little tidbit. "Genealogy in strange places. I found a receipt on Ebay that confirmed the time of death of an ancestor. Jim Bridger the mountain man was an orphan but we were unsure when his father passed away. A store receipt from 1817-18 where his father bought on credit a wool hat for \$2.00 and whisky for 50 cents but did not pay because he had died. Signed by the JP, Edward Tanner, 20 Jan 1818 in the county of New Madrid, MO."

Volunteer

Like to help AGS but not an expert genealogist? We have need for many other skills!

We have a lot of administrative type tasks that we could use some help on - managing member lists (data entry), printing out name badges, applying milestone ribbons to name badges, things like that. Also if you know even a little bit about websites we need help insuring our website calendar events are posted in a timely manner, and posting files behind the member wall. Good at organizational structure and managing people? We have committees that could use a chairperson. Contact us at newsletter@austintxgensoc.org if you'd like to help.

Help at a monthly meeting

Each meeting is supported by members who are willing to help. If you are going to attend anyway, it's a great way to get to know fellow members and at the same time contribute to AGS! Please contact newsletter@austintxgensoc.org 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.
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Publish

The AGS Quarterly is accepting submissions for the 2019 Summer Edition.

Deadline is AUGUST 23. 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 quarterly@austintxgensoc.org.

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 newsletter@austintxgensoc.org.

Have you found an interesting online resource or article? Share it with us at newsletter@austintxgensoc.org.

AGS Sponsored Events

AGS June Meeting

June 25, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

The Leeds Method of Color Clustering: An easy way to group DNA matches to identify your ancestors' families by Dana Leeds

Dana will discuss how to apply the Leeds Method of DNA clustering to your own DNA results. As effective as it is, the method does not require advanced computer skills nor an advanced knowledge of genetic genealogy. Everyone can use it and benefit no matter their skill level. Since a previous knowledge of a test taker's full family is not required, the Leeds Method can be highly useful in identifying links to unknown surnames; perhaps allowing you to break through that brick wall that has stymied you for years.

In early in 2018, Dana sought a way to sort an adoptee's DNA matches into maternal and paternal groupings and to identify likely surnames for each. From this need to resolve family clusters, Dana developed her Leeds Method of Color Clustering. She found that she could easily visualize and sort her adoptee's DNA matches, clearly exposing the maternal and paternal roots.

Dana will show us exactly how that method works. And she will provide results of case studies that used her innovative tool to discover family links and ancestors.

The Leeds Method that Dana developed is a way for experienced genealogists to see DNA matches from a new perspective. For newbies, the method can be a easy and rewarding first step in assessing your own DNA matches.

Dana's method has been discovered and written about by such notables as Blaine Bettinger and Kitty Cooper. This year she was invited to teach her method at both the national Rootsweb Conference and at the Utah Genealogical Society. We are indeed fortunate that she has agreed to travel to Austin to speak to us about the Leeds Method.



Speaker Dana Leeds

Twenty years ago Dana Leeds started working with traditional genealogy, doing research at libraries and court houses. Five years ago she took her first DNA test. Her world of genealogy immediately changed. Adding DNA to her genealogical tool kit merged passions for genealogy, science, and teaching with great results. She developed the Leeds Method, a tool widely used throughout the world to logically organize DNA results into meaningful data.

Dana, a 1993 graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma, lives in the Houston area and is a frequent speaker at area genealogical societies as well

as at national events. As busy as she is, she manages to write a great blog DanaLeeds.com which is chock-full of tips by Dana and guest authors on how best to analyze your DNA findings and merge that information with the resources available on major on-line databases.

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

6:30 p.m. Social time and great snacks!

7:00 p.m. Presentation begins.

Please bring a friend to our meeting. Visitors are always welcome at AGS!

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June Conversation Starter: Where are you doing genealogy on your summer vacation? Where do you travel to do genealogy?



Summer is a traditional time for travel to fun, sunny places with sand, water and umbrellas in your drink. A genealogist's idea of a fun summer vacation, however, might be more like a cemetery, historical society archives or research library! Many of us travel to other states or even other countries during the warm months in order to learn more about our family history.

Do you have plans to do a research trip this summer? What will you be looking for?

Do you have fond memories of a trip you've taken in the past? What did you learn? How many branches of your family tree were you able to fill in?

We look forward to hearing from you!

Please join us at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 25th, at Highland Park Baptist Church, for a half hour of snacks and socializing.

See you then!

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AGS/AGE FOURTH SATURDAY Class

AGE Computer Lab, [3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX 78705](#)

June 22, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Renee Lasswell (Family Tree superuser) will lead Family Tree Maker Next Steps, the second of four classes on Family Tree Maker. This class focuses on accessing merging data from internet sites.

Members only. There is a \$10 fee.

Contact the organizer to register: dianne@cmemories.us

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July DNA SIG Meeting

Wednesday, July 3, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Po-Ke-Jo's Barbecue, [2121 W Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78727](#)

This SIG (Special Interest Group) focuses on how DNA is being used for genealogical research.

Everyone is welcome. You don't need to have tested your DNA to come and learn.

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July Writing SIG meeting

Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month (no meeting in December).

SOUTH AUSTIN IN JULY, La Madeleine Arboretum, [5493 Brodie Lane, Sunset Valley, TX 78745](#)

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 private room at the back of the restaurant at La Madeleine. Meeting rotates between the north and south side of town.

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Researching Deed & Probate Records.

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

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

An overview of how deed and probate records can help your genealogy research. Includes an explanation of land descriptions (Public Land System Survey vs. Metes & Bounds). Review various websites that aid in deed/ land research. List and analyse the various components of probate records.

The cost for this class will be \$5 due to the extensive handout. Attendees must register and pay for the class by August 14th in order to get a handout.

Registration opens August 1st.

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2019 Research Trip to the Salt Lake City Family History Center October 13 - 18

Join us for a trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, to visit the Family History Library! We will have a more detailed activities schedule in the coming weeks on the website. For questions and interest contact Beverly Pritchett at Beverlygenea19@gmail.com

Rooms have been set aside for AGS members at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel:

- Deluxe Double Queen \$103 / night
- Standard Double Queen \$93 / night

(taxes not included in prices above - 13.67%)

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12th Annual Austin History Day will focus on genealogy

Friday, November 1

Travis County Archives

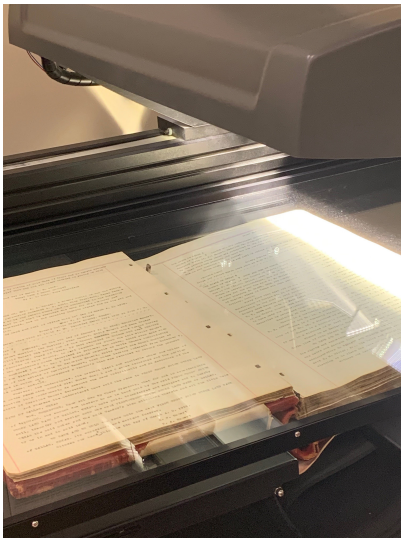
Because genealogy is the focus, we're partnering with the Travis County Archives and co-organizing Austin/Travis County History Day on Friday, November 1.

Several of our members will be speakers. Kay Boyd is helping the Archives create visual genealogies for display.

The Archives are, oddly, occupying space in the Travis County Sheriff's Building on Airport Blvd. while waiting for permanent space. Staff is happy to work with researchers by appointment. Ask about obscure County history . . . like the Travis County Poor Farm or lost communities. One was called "Mud" after its riverbanks.



Images of collections at the Travis County Archives.



Their superlarge, superfast scanner.

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May meeting recap

Topic: How'd You Find That?!? Tips for Locating Obscure or Hidden Records

Speaker: Rob Richardson

Attendees: 62

Thanks to the volunteers who helped support this event!



Non-AGS Events

FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies)

2019 Family Conference

August 21-24

Omni Shoreham Hotel, [2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC 20008](#)

Hosted by the Federation of Genealogical Societies in cooperation with sponsoring local societies, corporate sponsors, and partner organizations, FGS 2019 offers a new full four-day format jam-packed with topics of interest to every genealogist. Whether you're a beginner just starting to explore your family history or an old hand at research, the wide variety of new and inclusive topics offers something for you.

<https://fgs.org/annual-conference/?fbclid=IwAR02BsD6xhgMUwEcypKn5qHhFwwnlwM6HikfRLvZNMRT-v68oUZ7-63pUAW>

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Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)

June 23 - 28 or July 14 - 19

La Roche College, Pittsburgh, PA

Two Institute weeks are offered in 2019 at La Roche College, Pittsburgh, PA: June 23 to 28 and July 14 to 19. Each week has a unique set of courses. Click on the link below to see course detailed descriptions of the 18 sessions and their prerequisites (if any). Each one consists of four sessions per day, except Friday which has two, finishing by lunch time. The class lectures lead you deeper into the course topic and build your knowledge through presentations, discussions, and hands-on exercises. Some courses may have homework options and optional projects.

<https://www.gripitt.org/registration/>

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7th annual Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend Friday, August 2 and Saturday, August 3

FRANCES SPROTT GOFORTH

MEMORIAL GENEALOGY WEEKEND
August 2 & 3, 2019



**"BELIEVE IT OR NOT? —
How to Verify Research"**

HOSTED BY:

Walker County TX Genealogical Society &
The Huntsville TX Public Library

On-site registration opens 9:30 a.m. each day or
register online at myhuntsvillelibrary.com
or call (936) 291-5471 to pre-register.



Friday, August 2
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Lock-in with light supper provided

Saturday, August 3
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Silent auction ends

Hosted by the Huntsville Public Library and the
Walker County Genealogical Society

On-site registration for "Believe It or Not? – How to
Verify Research" will begin at 9:30 a.m. for both
days at the Huntsville Public Library. Programs will
be presented from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday,
August 2 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday,
August 3. A light supper will be provided on
Friday. The library will remain open until 8 p.m. for
further research for attendees only. A silent
auction of books and genealogical materials will

be held during the weekend and will end at 1:00 p.m. Saturday.

The event is free, but pre-registration is suggested. Contact Mary Kokot at 936-
291-5471 or sign up at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/calendar.aspx?eid=3226>.

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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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Texas Genealogical Society

October 11-13

2019 Family History Conference

Omni Houston Hotel Westside, [13210 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77079](#)

"Blazing Family Trails" with 56 sessions, workshops, an exhibit hall and more!

<http://www.txsgs.org/2019-conference/>

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Austin Gen SIG

[Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin](#)

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

4th Saturday Genealogy Class and Seminar

[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
2nd Saturday Reading Room Research Workshops**

2nd Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m.

[1201 Brazos St., Austin](#)

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/workshops>

Genealogy Online

**Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG)
Virtual Programs
Fall 2019**

In-Depth Education in the Comfort of Your Home! Registration opens June 15 at 11:00 a.m. MDT. Course schedules vary, but classes are held once a week for a number of weeks. Each will begin in the early Fall of 2019 and end before Thanksgiving. Full course descriptions, outlines, and prerequisites will explain the schedule and make-up of the courses; they should be fully posted by mid-May

<https://slig.ugagenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=590;>

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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

newsletter@austintxgensoc.com!



AGS Classes



AGS News



AGS Online



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