

Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting: March 26, 2018

A Simple Recipe for Writing Your Family History by Devon Lee

You know that just listing names, places and dates on ancestral charts is not the most exciting way to bring your ancestors to life. To do that you need to tell an an engaging story. Yes, you need to create a family history.

Our March speaker, Devon Lee, will discuss simple, practical ways to turn a collection of impersonal facts into a captivating story that you can share with your relatives and future generations.

[Read more](#)

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 March edition of the AGS Newsletter

Read about the [latest news](#) this month, including . Find out about [AGS sponsored events](#). Learn how you can [volunteer](#). [Publish](#) your work. Find out about [online resources](#). Read about several [Non-AGS events](#) you may want to participate in. Enjoy!

Welcome new members!

Lila Coley and Samantha Hudson

... and Welcome Back to our returning members!

Phoebe Allen, Cynthia Evans, and Susan Jones

News Articles

The latest in DNA progress

There are two new – potentially major – developments in DNA utilization.

The first is that companies (My Heritage, Living DNA, and ToTheLetterDNA) are now capable of taking DNA samples from licked envelopes and stamps, offering the possibility that DNA can be retrieved from letters left behind by family and friends.

The companies are drawing the line at testing for living people; presumably a test on documents sealed by living people means they haven't consented to having their DNA tested. But the ethics of testing the DNA of dead people is still ambiguous. Dead celebrities, particularly, have no privacy rights.

The testing costs between \$400 and \$600 because it has to be done by a technician instead of robotics.

Read *The Atlantic* story here:

https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/03/dna-tests-for-envelopes-have-a-price/583636/?utm_source=eb

The second is that forensic scientists have developed a way to tell identical twins apart through DNA mutations. Right now the testing is very limited and very expensive, a “try it one at a time” operation. About one percent of paternity cases and crimes involve identical twins, so police and the courts are very keen on making this possible broadly. The science is complex, costly and hasn't been broadly tested, nor has it been scientifically published. But it is moving forward.

Read the *New York Times* story

here: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/01/science/twins-dna-crime-paternity.html?action=click&module=Top_Stories&pgtype=Homepage

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We heard it first!

Dr. Steven Murdock who spoke at AGS last year about Texas' rapidly changing demographics just gave the same presentation to our representatives in the

state legislature.

February's presenter, Justin Gordon, Chief of the Open Records Division, shared with us 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. The day of that presentation, the Austin American Statesman had an editorial article about the Public Information Act and the need to close some loopholes in it.

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20190226/editorial-texas-public-records-act-badly-needs-repairs>

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Stephen King and his wife Tabitha donate \$1.25 million to the New England Historic Genealogical Society

The Boston-based organization is the nation's oldest and largest genealogical society. It says it will use the gift ... to develop educational programming and fund a curriculum in family history for public school students. Full

story: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2019/02/26/stephen-king-wife-donate-1-25-m-genealogical-society/2991297002/>

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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 [AGS sponsored events](#) section of this newsletter and also on the website: <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/>

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We want to know what you think - survey open until March 15

It's been two years since we asked you what you think and want from AGS. It's that time again! A new survey has been sent to our members via email and also posted on facebook. 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. We are accepting your feedback until March 15.

Thank you to those that have responded to date, there have been many good suggestions!

To access the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W2KFKZR>

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 akippen@gmail.com 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 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 product or method for publishing your family tree or history? Share it with us at newsletter@austintxgensoc.org.

AGS Sponsored Events

AGS March Meeting

March 26, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

A Simple Recipe for Writing Your Family History by Devon Lee

You know that just listing names, places and dates on ancestral charts is not the most exciting way to bring your ancestors to life. To do that you need to tell an an engaging story. Yes, you need to create a family history.

Our March speaker, Devon Lee, will discuss simple, practical ways to turn a collection of impersonal facts into a captivating story that you can share with your relatives and future generations. Your ancestors may be gone but they will not be forgotten. So it's time to get your priorities straight. It's time to stop researching and start writing your family history. Fear not, there is a recipe to guide you in writing that family history. And our speaker, Devon, will show you how.



Speaker: Devon Lee

Author, Speaker, and Family Historian. Devon Noel Lee specializes in preserving and sharing family memories and motivating budding genealogists. She has published over 60 books, including a memoir and four family history how-to books, including the popular *A Recipe for Writing Family History*. With over 20 years experience in genealogy, she educates and inspires the genealogists through her videos at FamilyHistoryFanatics.com. She's a loyal Texas Aggie with degrees in Marketing and Journalism.

Highland Park Baptist Church, [5206 Balcones Dr., Austin, TX 78731](http://www.5206BalconesDr.com)

6:30 p.m. Social time

7:00 p.m. Presentation begins.

March Volunteers:

Set-up: Audrey Poche

Snacks: Erin Garcia, Caroline Sinclair, Diane Harvey Anderson, Betty Castro

Clean-up: Carol Darst, Elizabeth Price

Greeter: Max French

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March Conversation Starter: Who Is the Most Interesting Character in Your Family Story?

If you were to write your family history as a novel, who would you choose as its main character? Which of your ancestors intrigues you most?

What do you know about them? What about them remains a mystery?



This ancestor may have been upstanding, a war hero, a success. Or they may have been...well...complicated.

They may be a character you identify with, perhaps would love to emulate...or they may just be *colorful*.

Perhaps your ancestor accomplished something that brought your family to the next level, improving their lives for generations to come. Or maybe they took a catastrophic fall that darkened your family's

destiny.

This ancestor's struggle, for better or worse, might embody a theme that recurs more than once in your family's story. Or something about them just strikes in you a personal chord.

Please join us at 6:30 pm on March 26th for a half-hour of snacks and socializing at Highland Park Baptist Church. Beginning at 7:00, speaker Devon Lee will guide us through "You Can Do It: A Recipe for Writing Your Family History."

See you there!

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April DNA SIG Meeting

Wednesday, March 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.

Watch the AGS calendar for information and registration for the DNA SIG April meeting: <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/special-interest-groups/>

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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, [5493 Brodie Ln, Sunset Valley, TX 78745](https://www.google.com/maps/place/5493+Brodie+Ln,+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 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

Presenter Erin Garcia

Saturday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

North Village Branch Library, [2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2505+Steck+Ave,+Austin,+TX+78757)

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!

Registration closes March 15: http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/how-to-use-probate-and-deed-records-in-genealogy/?instance_id=589

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AGS / AGE Fourth Saturday Class

Taming the Digital Tiger

Presenter Dianne Holley

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Austin Groups for the Elderly, Austin Computer Lab, [3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX 78705](https://www.google.com/maps/place/3710+Cedar+St.,+Austin,+TX+78705)

What you should know:

- basic computer skills that include: keyboard familiarity, mouse uses (both left and right-click buttons), and Windows 7 or newer navigation/software application interactions.

- general understanding of genealogy including understanding of terms such as “facts”, “sources”, and “media”.

In Taming the Digital Tiger – You will learn how:

- To capture a document and what to do with it once you’ve got it.
- To analyze a document and understand what it is and is not telling you.
- To create a filing system to manage all your documents
- To SAVE the document source information (there is an easy way!)

Genealogy research could be fun, except for those Documents! Find them... Copy or download them... And then what?

Whether you are a seasoned family history researcher or a first timer, you know, or soon will, that those precious documents you’ve found to tell your family’s stories will accumulate to the point of overwhelm! It is akin to holding a tiger by the tail (yes, pun intended 😊).

The AGS Fourth Saturday Class with Genealogist Dianne Holley will show you how to wrap your arms around that Tiger and learn to process, use, and manage those documents from download to disposition.

These two and ½ hours can change your genealogical life for the better.

AGS membership required. Class fee is \$10.00. This is a computer lab. Seating capacity is 10.

http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/taming-the-digital-tiger-3/?instance_id=615

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Join us for our first event of 2019

Oakwood Cemetery Tour

“Texas Independence Tour”

April 6th, 9:45 a.m.

Rain date April 13th at 9:45

Oakwood Cemetery, [1601 Navasota St., Austin, TX 78702](#)

The fight for Texas’ independence from Mexico may not be well known or understood by many of today’s Austin residents who have moved here from other states. For many native-born Texans whose family goes back

generations, the stories of the people who fought for a new land and government free from Mexican rule is something they hold near and dear, for it was their ancestors who shed blood to help in that great cause.

On the "Texas Independence Walking Tours" at Historic Oakwood Cemetery you will hear about some of the heroes interred at Oakwood who participated in the Texas Revolution (October 1835 to April 1836). You will learn about eight "residents" of Oakwood Cemetery on what it was like to live and fight in Texas during the Revolution days.

Some of the highlights we will be celebrating are Oakwood residents who:

- Participated in the opening battle of the Texas Revolution at the Battle of Gonzales
- Was one of the leaders at the Siege of Bexar and negotiated General Cos' surrender
- Was a participant in the "Runaway Scape".
- Survived the Alamo
- Escaped from Goliad, avoiding the tragic Goliad Massacre
- Elected as one of 59 representatives to write and sign both the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Texas Constitution and risked being charged with treason
- Helped win the decisive Battle of San Jacinto
- Guarded Santa Anna after his capture

The tour will not only be educational, but will also be filled with fun and interesting facts!

Visitors need to wear closed-toed comfortable shoes because of the uneven ground.

Registration for the Oakwood Cemetery tour will be available on the AGS website March 22: http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/oakwood-cemetery-tour/?instance_id=619

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AGS / AGE Fourth Saturday Class

Ancestry.com DNA Results – Getting Started

Presenter Dianne Holley

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Austin Groups for the Elderly, Austin Computer Lab, [3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX](#)

[78705](#)

You received the email that your Ancestry.com DNA results are ready. Now what do you do?

Join us in this class designed for the true beginner in getting started with their Ancestry.com DNA results.

What you should know:

- Basic computer skills that include: keyboard familiarity, mouse uses (both left and right-click buttons), and Windows 7 or newer navigation/software application interactions.
- You must have taken the Ancestry.com DNA test and received your results. You should know your Ancestry.com username and password so that you can log in at the lab and follow along.

What you will learn:

- An understanding of what your Ancestry.com results mean
- How to use their provided tools to review and manage your DNA information – Your DNA Story, DNA Matches, and DNA Circles (if applicable).
- How to manage your privacy and sharing settings

Been here before? Even so, a reminder or a repeat is a good idea. Our attendees tell us they, "...always learn something new!"

Registration opens April 11.

http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/ancestry-com-dna-results-getting-started/?instance_id=617

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Understanding and Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard

Presenter Carol Joiner

Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Little Walnut Creek Branch Library, [835 W Rundberg Ln., Austin, TX 78758](#)

This presentation discusses what the Genealogical Proof Standard is, why it was created and how it can improve your research. Each step is explained in

detail and this is followed by a real world example.

Registration opens April 25.

http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/understanding-and-applying-the-genealogical-proof-standard/?instance_id=611

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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:

www.austintxgensoc.org

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February meeting recap

There were 73 in attendance.

Topic: Reclaiming Records Through the Texas Public Information Act

Speaker: Justin Gordon

Thanks to the following for their help:

Nametag: Gary and Kathy Pemberton

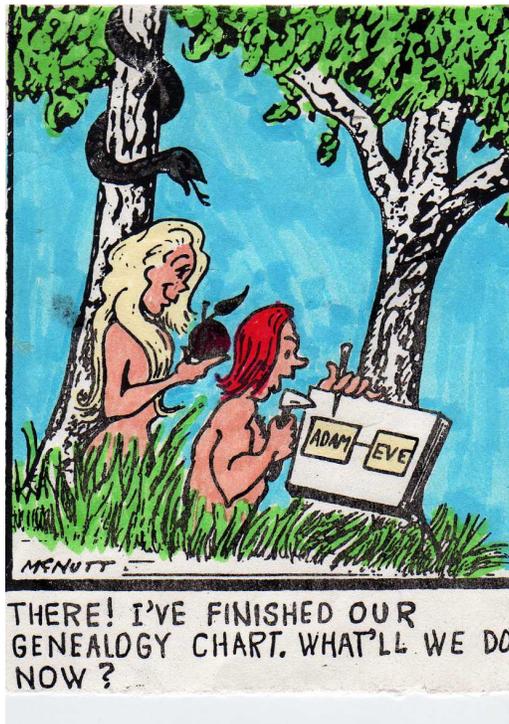
Snacks: Nan Kilkeary, Shelley Augustin, Diana & Louie Sellers, Jim Bridges

Greeter: Mary Todd

Audio-visual setup: John Marostica, Beverly Pritchett

Set-up: Nan Kilkeary

Clean-Up: Diana & Louie Sellers, Charlie Jamison



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, [1004 N Mays St., Round Rock, TX 78664](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1004+N+Mays+St,+Round+Rock,+TX+78664)

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 Westside.

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:

<http://www.txsgs.org/2019-conference/call-for-presentations/>. 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, [119 West French Ave.,
Temple, Texas 76501](#)

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, [6121 N Interstate Hwy 35, Austin, TX 78752](#)

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 faculty and make your reservations: <http://www.txsgs.org/2019-tigr/>

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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, [3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX 78705](https://www.austingroupsfortheelderly.com)

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

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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

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

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](http://www.tsl.texas.gov)

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

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

Genealogy Online

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 SIGs



AGS Online



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