

Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting: May 28, 2019

Genealogy Tech Review by Rob Richardson

Yes, it's time for a Genealogy Tech review! Member surveys in 2018 and 2019 showed that you really wanted a presentation focused on recent developments in genealogical software, online database tools, and DNA data analysis. Basically, you wanted to know how it all could be used to make your work more effective and more fun.

You asked and we listened. This month our speaker, Rob Richardson, will reveal an array of new technologies available to the genealogist. These are the tools, apps, and hacks you can use to make your research easier and more rewarding. For clarity Rob's presentation will take a hands-on approach in assessing these tools. Rob will provide case histories showing how the software, apps, or hacks can be used to address a specific challenge.

[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 May edition of the AGS Newsletter

Read about the [latest news](#) this month. 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!

Marie Holman, Rhonda Kevorkian, Glenace Klinker, Sarah Kroh
and Tina McCann

News Articles

AGS Member's house struck by lightning!

Jane Schwendinger's house was struck by lightning in one of our recent thunderstorms! It's a cautionary tale for all of us with priceless heirlooms stored in our home. Jane says, "Genealogy survived! It was in the two rooms with less damage. So lucky as I had all my dad's WWII letters to my mom." We are grateful Jane and her family were unhurt... and that her genealogy was spared as well.



Living room destroyed



Damaged roof

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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

Michael Lacopo is a dynamic and entertainment speaker. Space is limited so don't hesitate to register! Read more about the topics in our "[AGS Sponsored events](#)" section below.

Registration <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/2019-seminar/>

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Sign up now! 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 available on the website. Sign up with or get more information from Beverly Pritchett at Beverlygenea19@gmail.com.

Read more about the trip in our "[AGS Sponsored events](#)" section below.

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

ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR 2019

TELLING YOUR ANCESTORS' STORIES BY USING SOCIAL CONTEXT CLUES

Austin Genealogical Society

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.

Dr. Lacopo is an entertaining and popular speaker - one that draws crowds when he is a speaker at genealogical conventions. Avoid the line and reserve your space today!

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.

Register now as space is limited!

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/2019-seminar/>

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AGS May Meeting

May 28, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Genealogy Tech Review by Rob Richardson

Yes, it's time for a Genealogy Tech review! Member surveys in 2018 and 2019 showed that you really wanted a presentation focused on recent developments in genealogical software, online database tools, and DNA data analysis. Basically, you wanted to know how it all could be used to make your work more effective and more fun.

You asked and we listened. This month our speaker, Rob Richardson, will

reveal an array of new technologies available to the genealogist. These are the tools, apps, and hacks you can use to make your research easier and more rewarding. For clarity Rob's presentation will take a hands-on approach in assessing these tools. Rob will provide case histories showing how the software, apps, or hacks can be used to address a specific challenge.

Rob's presentation will:

1. Survey new tools available in Ancestry, MyHeritage, Geni, and FamilySearch
2. Review what the DNA Testing Companies have developed to better link DNA matches to persons in your family tree.
3. Look at what new DNA matching and data analysis software is available on-line; and what it can do for you.
4. And finally, Rob will explore easy hacks to genealogical research that are available to you to make your work more effective.

It's been a couple of years since we've had a Genealogy Tech review at one of our monthly meetings. Rob's presentation will be our chance catch up and explore the ever-advancing world of Gen Tech.



Speaker Rob Richardson

Rob is completing his third year on the AGS Board where he is currently the Chair for the Monthly Presentations. He became interested in genealogy more than 30 years ago after receiving a hand-drawn family tree from a relative – later determined to be full of errors. It turned out that, sadly, Rob was not related to a signer of the Declaration of Independence but to a Kentucky farmer

with the same name. But it was the work Rob did in validating that tree that triggered his love of genealogy.

Rob is a graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in chemistry and physics, and Texas A&M with a graduate degree in environmental chemistry. Rob worked as a Project Manager and Principal Scientist at an Austin-based environmental services company over his 40-year career, working with the EPA, Department of Defense, and the semiconductor industry

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!

May Volunteers:

Set-up: Jim Bridges, Shelley Augustin

Clean-up: Elizabeth Price, Susan Shaw

Snacks: Jon Bayer, Dave & Zita Easterday, Susan Shaw, Margaret Mills, Nan Kilkeary

Greeter: Erin Garcia

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May Conversation Starter: Who Is Your Most Important DNA Connection?



Of all the relatives you've discovered through DNA testing, who has been the most significant? Did you contact them? What treasures have they shared with you?

Has a DNA cousin provided you with missing records, a diary or a biography, pages of a family bible? Did they share a trove of letters or family photographs? Could they tell you stories about a side of your family you knew little about?

Could they prove a biological connection to an ancestor you weren't certain you were related to, or didn't know existed at all? Did you solve an adoption mystery? Did you pinpoint the father of an ancestor born out of wedlock?

Did you visit your DNA cousin in another state or another country? Did the two of you establish a bond and now keep in touch?

Please join us at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 28th, 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](#)

May 25, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The April FOURTH SATURDAY Class with Randy Whited was all about Ancestry.com DNA, what to do with your results. Randy's presentation to a full audience was excellent. He'll deliver again later this year. Just one of our many not-to-be-missed PC lab Class offerings.

If you missed it the first time around, here's your chance to learn

RADICAL RESEARCH (a different approach)

– How to Maximize YOUR On-Location research:

- Find it. Source it. Record it,
 - Back at your home computer: Process it. Analyze it. Report it.

Contact the organizer to register: dianne@cmemories.us

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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.

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/understanding-and-applying-the-genealogical-proof-standard-by-carol-joiner/>

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June DNA SIG Meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 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.

The June topic will be clustering and/or genesis.

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

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/june-dna-sig-meeting/>

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June Writing SIG meeting

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

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

NORTH AUSTIN IN JUNE, La Madeleine Arboretum, [9828 Great Hills Trail #650 Austin, TX 78759](#)

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

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/june-writing-sig-north-austin/>

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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%)

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/event/2019-fall-research-trip-family-history-library-salt-lake-city/>

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12th Annual Austin History Day

November 1

Travis County Archives

AGS is working with the Travis County Archives on this event. Focus will be on the genealogy of Austin ancestors. If you have a little time, we need four genealogists to work on the history of four Austin families. Email us at communications@austintxgensoc.org. There will be speaking opportunities, too.

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April meeting recap

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

Speaker: Cari A. Taplin, C.G.

Attendees: 57

Thanks to the volunteers who helped support this event!



Non-AGS Events

Bay Area Genealogical Society

May 31, 6:30 p.m.

University Baptist Church (UBC), [16106 Middlebrook Dr., Houston, X 77059](#)
([Clear Lake City](#)).

League City Police Department representatives and genealogist Shera Lapoint will discuss the genealogy and DNA research performed to determine the identities of the victims in the Jane Doe and Janet Doe unsolved murder cases.

https://www.txbayareagen.org/?page_id=5

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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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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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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.

Next meeting: May 11

Topic: Foreign Research by Debbe Tipping

<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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Heritage Quest online has been renewed by Austin Public Library

Heritage Quest is now available using your Austin Public Library card. According to the Austin Public Library website, "Heritage Quest helps researchers find data from the U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1930; more than 22,000 full-text family and local histories; and PERSI, a subject index of 6,300 local history and genealogy periodicals.

It includes Revolutionary War pension and bounty-land-warrant application files, as well as the Freedman's Bank Records, an important resource for African-American genealogical research. Additionally, there are more than 250 primary-source documents such as tax lists, city directories and probate records."

<https://library.austintexas.gov/database/heritagequest-online>

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United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Records collections

The Museum's National Institute for Holocaust Documentation houses an unparalleled repository of Holocaust evidence that documents the fate of victims, survivors, rescuers, liberators, and others. Our comprehensive collection contains millions of documents, artifacts, photos, films, books, and testimonies.

<https://www.ushmm.org/collections/the-museums-collections/about>

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Become a Citizen Archivist for the National Archives

The National Archives have many volunteer opportunities to transcribe and tag historical records. This work can be done online from any computer, anywhere, at any time. You can do as little or as much as you want. Everything helps!

[https://archives.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?
u=bfeaf03e7b0b1636c0b375892&id=28eadbcf5f&e=011b40e22a](https://archives.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=bfeaf03e7b0b1636c0b375892&id=28eadbcf5f&e=011b40e22a)

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Gravestone Cleaning 101 by BillionGraves.com

Learn about cleaning gravestones on the latest blog post at [billiongraves.com](https://blog.billiongraves.com/2019/04/24/gravestone-cleaning-101/).

<https://blog.billiongraves.com/2019/04/24/gravestone-cleaning-101/>

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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 SIGs



AGS Online



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