



THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, Issue 10

AustinTxGenSoc.org

October 2015

Austin Genealogical Society (AGS)

Next Meeting: October 27, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731

Gathering Family Stories: Experiences, Knowledge, Loves, and Trials

Learning about a person's experiences provides a strong link between generations. This lecture explores interviewing family members, including: equipment you might use/need; setting up an appointment for the interview; whether you need to get permission to interview; priming your subject to get the best/juiciest stories; and sharing your family stories so family members will share the bond of knowledge for generations to come.

Presented by AGS Member Mary Stephens Scrudder

Mary Stephens Scrudder does not consider herself just a genealogist, she also considers herself a family historian. Her research experience includes using courthouses, libraries, and state archives. However, over forty years ago, Mary's research began by listening to family stories. Those stories led to more stories, then to family group sheets, then to computer programs, then to libraries and on-site research, which connected to family stories....



While researching her challenging family in the Carolinas, Mary is also a community volunteer at the Round Rock Family History center. Her research specialty is Virginia and the Carolinas.

"Like" us on Facebook

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

SAVE THE DATE FALL FESTIVAL 2015

NOVEMBER 24

Mark your calendar now for our annual Fall Festival - a potluck dinner event scheduled two days before Thanksgiving.

2015 AGS Quarterly Submission Deadlines

The AGS Quarterly deadline for the fourth and final issue of 2015 is coming up... **November 14!**

Quarterly Guidelines:

austintxgensoc.org/quarterly-guidelines/

OCTOBER MEETING TABLES TO CHECK OUT!

Member to Member Table: We will have a members' table where you may visit and network before the meeting. We will also be collecting "brick wall questions" for future reference and a possible future "brick wall session."

Resource Recycle Table: Bring books and magazines you wish to recycle to other researchers. It is always a popular table that members seem to enjoy. Please bring your items no later than 6:45. Please note that we are unable to store any of these items, we ask that you take left over items with you, anything left behind will have to be thrown away.

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AGS News



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 AGS 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.

“Liking” the pages helps get our message out to more people on Facebook! Please like posts when you see them to help market our Society.

AGS DNA Special Interest Group



Mondays

October 19th and November 9

5:45 PM to 8:00 PM

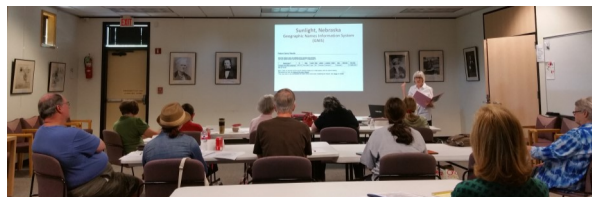
Spicewood Springs Library – [note change of location!](#)

8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.

Austin, TX, 78759

Bring your questions to the meeting.

Introduction to Genealogy Class



Introduction to Genealogy Class 2015, Nancy Stevens, instructor.

AGS hosted an *Introduction to Genealogy* class which was held on two consecutive Saturdays, September 26 and October 3, at the Hampton Branch at Oak Hill Library.

WWI Merci Gift from France At Camp Mabry

From AGS Member Wynelle Noelke

Did you know that France gave the United States rail cars as a thank you for our support in WWI? My daddy talked about the 40 & 8 rail cars that would hold 50 men or 8 horses. The Texas Merci boxcar can be seen at Camp Mabry. The web link is: txmf.us/international-history-returns-to-the-texas-national-guard

AGS Class: Newspapers and Obituaries

November 7, Saturday at 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Presented by Cari A. Taplin, CG

Hampton Branch at Oak Hill Library

Newspapers were daily snapshots of our ancestors' lives. Cari Taplin will take the audience on a tour of many different sites for viewing digital newspapers including both free and subscription based sites. Methods, techniques, and strategies for obtaining those items of interest will be demonstrated. Experience level: beginning/intermediate.

Registration will open soon!

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

Lifetime Learning Institute Fall Classes

LLI (Lifetime Learning Institute) is an independent, nonprofit organization and was established 35 years ago. It provides continuing education for adults over 50 years of age through daytime, non-credit courses.

AGS sponsors a genealogy class, *Find Your Ancestors*, for LLI at the Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail. Classes are held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. September 15 through November 3.



Registration for Fall classes is available at lliaustin.org.

AGS Writing Special Interest Group

Thursdays **NEW DATES**

October 22 & November 19

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. **NEW TIME**

Buildasign **NEW LOCATION**

11525 Stonehollow Dr., Austin, Texas 78758



AGS Website

Did you forget your login or password to the Members Only section?

Contact: webmaster@austintxgensoc.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

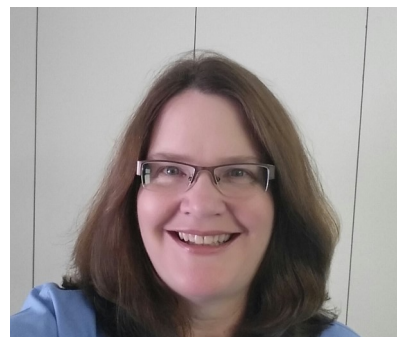
It's election time! October is the month that AGS holds its annual election to fill 6 of the 12 board of director seats. Our nominating committee (Robin Raben – chair, Kay Boyd, Missy Harris, Jean Marostica, and Carol Mason) presented the slate of nominees at our September meeting. They are: Marcia Arn, Teresa Devine, Erin Garcia, Anne Mamiya, Jean Marostica, and Cari Taplin.

I want to thank the nominating committee for all their hard work in securing 6 nominees for our board. I also want to thank the nominees for agreeing to serve on our board for a two year term. Please make sure to attend the October meeting to take part in the election.

Remember to check out the events tab on our website and in this newsletter. We have classes and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in addition to our monthly meetings. Please make sure to take advantage of these.

I'll see you at the October meeting where our own Mary Scrudder will be speaking on Gathering Family Stories. This is a timely topic as soon the holidays will be upon us and we will be visiting our family members. Time to get those stories!

Anne Mamiya
president@austintxgensoc.org





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

 **AGS British Isle Genealogy Special Interest Group** meets via email to exchange information. Contact Jane Schwendinger at janesca@earthlink.net.

 **AGS DNA Special Interest Group**, Monday, Mondays, October 19 & November 9, 5:45-8:00 p.m.
NEW LOCATION: Spicewood Springs Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd., Austin, TX, 78759. Contact Randy Whited at whited.randy@gmail.com.

 **AGS Writing Special Interest Group** **NEW**
EVERYTHING Thursdays October 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Buildasign, 11525 Stonehollow Dr., Austin, Texas 78758. Contact Robin Raben at mrsraben@austin.rr.com or Jim Bridges at bridgework@aol.com.

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. Website: 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. Website: 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. Website: williamsontxgenealogy.org/

Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources

Website: 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

August 25, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order by Anne Mamiya, President, at 5:47 p.m.

The July 2015 minutes were accepted as amended.

The July bank statement was in order.

Treasurer's Report – The July report was accepted as presented.

President's Report – Anne Mamiya, Karin Nelson, Jean Marostica, and Missy Harris met to discuss improving the membership process and the website. AGS will be an exhibitor at the Texas GLO Save Texas History Symposium. Anne Mamiya and Jan Pelosi volunteered to man the exhibit table.

Education – A program committee meeting needs to be scheduled to plan programs for next year. AGS classes are going well. Diane's class was a success. The Lifetime Learning class needs dates confirmed from instructors.

Membership – Missy Harris reported we have 348 members.

Publications – September 1st is the newsletter deadline. Robin is looking for help with publications. The first meeting of the Writing SIG is scheduled for Thursday, August 27 at 5:45pm at the North Village Branch Library.

Nominating Committee – Robin advised there are four openings on the Board for next year as two current members are willing to serve again. She has sixteen potential nominees.

Missy Harris made a motion to adjourn and Jan Pelosi seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Inez Eppright, Secretary

October Volunteer Opportunities

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

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 Host/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.

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



AGS 2015 Calendar

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15-C	16	17	18	19
20	21-DNA	22-M/C	23	24-W	25	26-C
27	28	29-C	30			

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3-C	4	5	6	7-C
8	9-DNA	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19-W	20	21
22	23	24-M	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3-C
4	5	6-C	7	8	9	10
11	12	13-C	14	15	16	17
18	19-DNA	20-C	21	22-W	23	24
25	26	27-M/C	28	29	30	31

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

C AGS Sponsored Classes

www.AustinTxGenSoc.org/classes

November 7, Saturday at 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Newspapers and Obituaries

Presented by Cari A. Taplin, CG
 Hampton Branch at Oak Hill Library

September 15 - November 3,
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Lifetime Learning Institute Classes

Find Your Ancestors

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church
 9508 Great Hills Trail

SIG AGS Sponsored Special Interest Groups

AGS DNA SIG

October 19 & November 9, Mondays 5:45 - 8 p.m.

NEW LOCATION: Spicewood Springs Library
 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd., Austin, TX, 78759

AGS Writing SIG

NEW EVERYTHING October 22 & November 19, **Thursdays at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Buildasign, 11525 Stonehollow Dr., Austin, Texas 78758.

M AGS Meetings, Tuesdays 7 p.m.

October 27

Gathering Family Stories:

Experiences, Knowledge, Loves, and Trials

Presented by Mary Scrudder

November 24

FALL FESTIVAL POTLUCK DINNER

The Orphan Train

Presented by Jenna McEachern

(No Regular Meeting Scheduled for December)

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.

Complete trip details will be posted to our website on

October 19 at austintxgensoc.org/research-trips/

* * *

AGS Seminar 2016

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Speaker: Thomas MacEntee

Details and registration will be provided Spring 2016.

Member Highlight - Would you like to be a Star?

As you may have noticed, we are publishing interviews of individual members of the Society each month for our Member Highlight series. You might consider being highlighted in an upcoming issue!

Interested parties may contact newsletter@austintxgensoc.org

We Want to Hear from You!

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

- 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.
- Want to provide your opinion on a genealogical topic or about the Society? Write a letter to the editor!
- Have some tips or tricks in doing research that you'd like to share?

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



More AGS News

Kudos to the FGS Genealogy Cruise!*From AGS Member David McCabe*

My wife Nancy and I had the pleasure to participate in the first ever FGS genealogy cruise to Alaska in late August and early September. The conference chair was none other than one of AGS' finest, Pat Oxley. And Pat did a whale of a job planning, coordinating, directing, controlling, administering, and also enjoying an excellent program of lectures and workshops with five outstanding speakers (David Rencher, Judy Russell, Elizabeth Shown Mills, Josh Taylor, and Cherie Bush). We learned about:

- DNA testing promises and pitfalls
- Best practices for evidence collection and documentation
- Problem-solving with families of common names
- Family history clues from your ancestor's friends, associates, and neighbors, and
- Workshops in reconstructing Irish neighborhoods and working with court records.

Pat Oxley and the conference committee put in hundreds of hours of time and effort for the total enjoyment of the 117 participants. AGS should again be proud of Pat's terrific organizing efforts on behalf of fellow family history addicts.

August 1, 1966 - Were you there on that horrible day?

A documentary film, TOWER, is being produced by a group of UT alumni. They are interested in hearing first hand accounts from people that were there. If you would like to contribute your story, please submit your name and email address to: towerdocumentary.com/stories

In Memoriam - Larry Foreman

Larry Foreman, husband of former AGS President Cindy Foreman, passed away from complications of Alzheimer's on September 25. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday October 14.

He was born on May 2, 1940 in Vestaburg, MI to Robert W. Foreman and Verda Mae Morey. Larry graduated in 1958 from Sacred Heart Academy in Mt. Pleasant, MI, attended one year of college at Central Michigan University and then joined the Air Force from 1959 to 1964. He then moved to Maryland, graduated from the Capitol Institute of Technology in Washington, D.C., with a BSET in 1969. He was an electronic engineer for Sperry at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland in the optics lab from 1969-1977. He then moved to Austin, TX and worked for Motorola from 1977-2003 as an electronic engineer. He married in May, 1989, Cindy Whipple-Rosier and in 2003 they moved to Wimberley, TX.

His complete obituary can be read at : legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=larry-robert-foreman&pid=176009840#sthash.a3RIYwxu.dpuf

**AGS Member Highlighted in Austin American Statesman***From AGS Member Kay Boyd*

The Locklins have been members of AGS since 2000, and Charles was president of AGS in 2004. Beverly is active with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Below is an excerpt from an article, published in the Austin American Statesman on Friday, September 4th, 2015, in the Home and Leisure section where Beverly and her friends were highlighted.

“Six Austin women stay friends for 50 years through good times and bad

The Steel Bluebonnets keep their traditions of witty Christmas presents and birthday get-togethers

They met as young women who arrived to Austin between 1963 and 1966, following husbands who were professors or in graduate school.

Suellen Mills, 75, Beverly Locklin, 77, Rachel Flake, 76, Barbara Lightsey, 77, Martha Fontaine Burns, 82, and Carol Kolsti, 75, all joined University Baptist Church and began friendships that will turn 50 next year.

‘I still remember the day that you and Bob came’ to Sunday school class, Lightsey says to Flake about her and her ex-husband. ‘Really? I don’t,’ Flake says with a laugh. For the longest time, they called themselves simply ‘the Group,’ though at a recent lunch celebrating their birthdays, they decided on a more colorful name suggested by Kolsti’s husband, John: ‘the Steel Bluebonnets.’ ...

As Kolsti once wrote to Flake: ‘Our ‘Group’ means more than words can convey — comfort, support, sharing talents, assisting in difficult times.’”

If you have a subscription, the entire article is available online: statesman.com/news/lifestyles/six-austin-women-stay-friends-for-50-years-through/nnW6p/

Upcoming Events

Genealogy After Dark
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Friday, October 16, 5:45 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Registration is limited to 30 participants and the deadline to register is October 9, 2015. A link to the registration form is available at:

tsl.texas.gov/genafterdark.html

Texas State Genealogical Society
2015 Family History Conference
October 30 - November 1

Crowne Plaza Austin
 6121 North IH 35
 Austin, Texas 78752



Registration: txsgs.org/conference

Crossroads of Culture:
Folk Art and Travis County's Cultural Heritage
8th Annual Travis County History Day
Friday, October 16, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Commissioners Courtroom and Hall of Government
 700 Lavaca Street
 Austin, Texas 78701

Travis County History Day features special speakers, historical displays, and refreshments. Travis County History Day is sponsored by the Travis County Archives, the Travis County Historical Commission, the Austin History Center, and the Austin Bar Association.

traviscountyhistory.org/index.php/travis-county-history-day

Riders on the Orphan Trains
A Conference and Sharing Session
Saturday, October 31, 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center
 250 W Fair Grounds Rd.
 La Grange, Texas 78945

RSVP to Alison Moore: orphantrain99@yahoo.com

More details are available on the TCHCC website:

www.czechtexas.org/events.shtml

6th Annual Save Texas History Symposium

In the Shadow of the Dome: Austin by Day & Night
Experience Austin in a New Light

Saturday, November 14

William B. Travis State Office Building
 1701 N. Congress Ave.
 Austin, Texas 78701

glo.texas.gov/save-texas-history/symposium.html


Annual SAGHS
Genealogy Seminar
Saturday, October 17

John Calvin Presbyterian Church
 8102 Midcrown Dr.
 Windcrest, Texas 78239

Join us for a full day of genealogical learning, door prizes, our annual handmade quilt raffle and more!

Speaker: Patti Hobbs

txsaghs.org/cpage.php?pt=31


National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair
October 21 & 22, 2015

Please join the National Archives for the 2015 Virtual Genealogy Fair on October 21 & 22. This will be a live broadcast via YouTube so you can ask our genealogy experts questions at the end of their talks.

archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair


Dallas Genealogical Society's 2015 Fall Seminar
Features Dr. Michael Lacopo
Saturday, October 24, 9:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

"Thinking, Assessing, & Storytelling: Genealogy Beyond Birth, Marriage, & Death"

Dallas Public Library
 J. Erik Jonsson Central Library
 1515 Young Street Dallas, TX

dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/event/fall-seminar-featuring-dr-michael-lacopo/



AGS Member Contributions

Downloading a GEDCOM from Ancestry.com

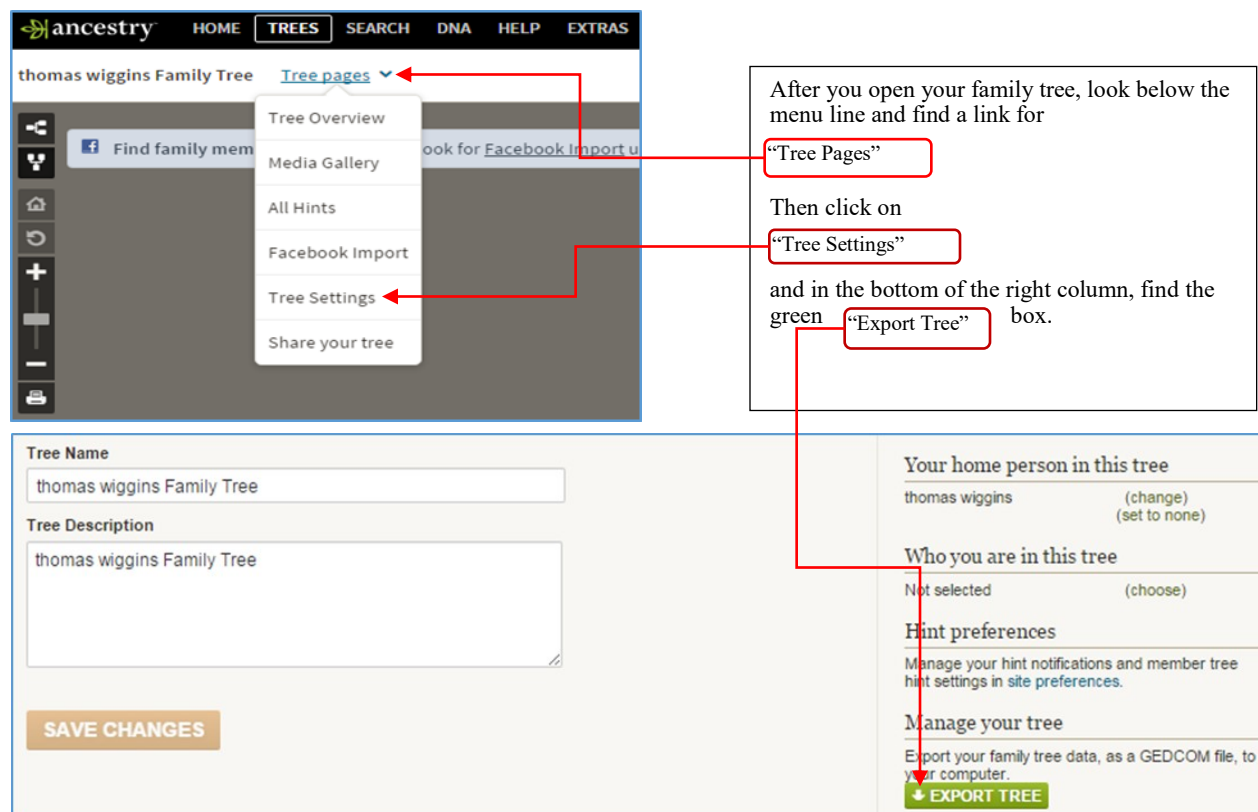
It's easier than you think!

By AGS Member John Marostica

Every once in a while I get asked how to download a GEDCOM file from an Ancestry.com tree.

I try to remember, but since I don't have an Ancestry Tree, and since the Ancestry web site changes from time-to-time, it is hard for me to provide an on-the-spot answer.

So I thought I would document the process and share it with everyone. The process is easy.



The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com interface for a family tree named 'thomas wiggins Family Tree'. A red arrow points to the 'Tree pages' dropdown menu, which includes options like 'Tree Overview', 'Media Gallery', 'All Hints', 'Facebook Import', 'Tree Settings', and 'Share your tree'. Another red arrow points to the 'Tree Settings' option. A third red arrow points to the 'Export Tree' button in the 'Manage your tree' section on the right. The 'Export Tree' button is green and has a downward arrow icon.

After you open your family tree, look below the menu line and find a link for "Tree Pages"

Then click on "Tree Settings"

and in the bottom of the right column, find the green "Export Tree" box.

Be sure to name your file and add a description, if you wish, and save the changes to a file name and location that you can remember. Better yet, write down the name of the drive, directory and file name, i.e. C:\User\Genealogy\xxxx.ged).

Once the GEDCOM file is created, the **EXPORT TREE** changes to **DOWNLOAD YOUR GEDCOM FILE**

Click it to download the file to save it to your computer.

And that is all there is to it!

Book Recommendation: *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis* by Timothy Egan
From AGS Member Sheila Sargent

Edward Curtis owned a photography studio in Seattle in the 1890's. He became interested in leading groups that climbed Mt. Rainier in Washington to take photos. Through this activity he met John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt and George Bird Grinnell, who was an expert on Plains Indians. Through Mr. Grinnell, Curtis traveled to Indian reservations to learn about their culture and to take photographs. If you are interested in Native American history and photographs you may enjoy this biography.

AGS Member M.C. Forister Books

Last edition, we reported that AGS member M.C. Forister had completed five books. She actually has completed six books!

- *The Isensee Family and Their Descendants, 1799-2001*
- *The Beciker Family and Their Descendants, 1760-2001*
- *Johann Carl Ludwig Jauer and His Descendants, 2002*
- *Oliver H.P. Tabor and His Descendants, 2006*
- *Andrew W. Caperton and Janet T. Schrivner, Their Ancestors and Their Descendants, 2011*
- *Ignaz Graf and His Descendants, 2015*

Interested parties may contact mcforister@netzero.net.

Hospitality Report from the September AGS Meeting

Topic: World War I: One Hundred Years of Records

Presented by: Debbie Pearson from Fort Worth Genealogical Society

From Hospitality Chair Missy Harris: "I want to thank everyone who 'heard the call' from Kay Boyd and myself about World War I memorabilia to be shared at the meeting. Everyone enjoyed seeing the treasures as well as finding resources, framing and display possibilities, etc. It is so wonderful that these items have been saved, treasured and, now, shared with AGS. Thank you!"

World War I Memorabilia Items were provided by: Kay Boyd, Rob Alspaugh, Richard Robertson, Jennifer Schwenker, Susan Tyler, and Edna Youngblood.

Attendance: 67 members and visitors

Visitors:

- Rob Alspaugh, Round Rock
- Bill Campell, Austin
- Glenda Lassiter, Austin
- Klem Schmidt, Austin

Thank you to those who supported the September meeting!

Greeter: Teresa Devine.

Nametag Table: Jean Marostica, Gary Pemberton, Adeliza Tiffany and Arlene Zirkel.

Refreshments: Marcia Arn, Inez Eppright, Jan Pelosi, and Robin Raben brought refreshments. Nancy Stevens was in charge of the refreshment table.

Audio/Visual: John Marostica

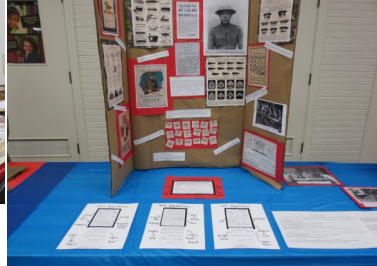
For the October Meeting:

Refreshments will be provided by Board Members: Missy Harris, Anne Mamiya, Karin Nelson, and Kathy Pemberton.

If you would like to help out by serving as a greeter at the October meeting, please contact Kay Boyd at mkddb1405@gmail.com.



Debbie Pearson from the Ft. Worth Genealogical Society



Members brought items from their personal WWI collections to share before the lecture.

L-R: Carol Mason, Lise Kirner Doss and John Tyler.

Member Appreciation

Mary Peña

By Robin Raben

Mary Peña is a new member of AGS. She and I met after an AGS meeting in the parking lot where she shared several of her family trees and photos (from the trunk of her car!) and we exchanged email to fill in the rest of the story.

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

A: In September 2014, I went to the Williamson County Genealogical Society and met Jean Shroyer. Jean suggested I come to an AGS meeting and I did.

Q: When did you join?

A: A couple of months ago, I'm still wearing a new member ribbon on my name tag. LOL!!!

Q: How did you get into genealogy?

A: My mother, Aurora Calzada Peña, passed away in 2012, the last one of my parents and grandparents. Last year, I started thinking about my family and wondered where my ancestors came from and how we came to the area I grew up in.

Q: Who was most instrumental in helping you get started?

A: When I met Jean Shroyer, she volunteered to help me get started. I'm sure she saw that I was very much a newbie. I tease her that I'm picking her brain. LOL!!! I also contacted my Aunt Connie Calzada Ramirez, my mom's sister, to ask her questions and she shared some of the news clippings and pictures she had of our family. I didn't know she had these and I used them to start filling in the information on pedigree sheets which led me to research more relatives.

Q: What advice would you give about genealogy?

A: The earlier you start your genealogy the better. Get in touch with your relatives and talk to them so that you can get copies of family pictures and information. If you wait too long, many of them will be deceased. Keep in contact

A Little About Mary

Mary was born in Port Lavaca, Calhoun County, Texas. She has 4 sisters, and she is second in the line. She has one daughter and two grandchildren.

with the relatives that are interested and share with them about some of the things you have discovered. I have found it interesting and rewarding since I began.

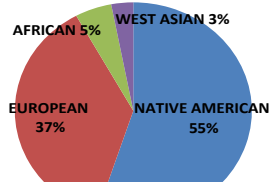


A Rich Heritage

Mary is working on validating some of her family's stories. Her paternal grandfather, John B. Peña, had told her that they had Apache ancestors. Her paternal grandmother, Adela Mireles Peña had told her that they had Comanche ancestors. Her mother has claims that her parents, Constantino Calzada and Sara Islas Calzada, were from Mexico and had Aztec, Spanish and French ancestors.

Mary has crests of the Mireles family's royal Spanish ancestry (see photo at right).

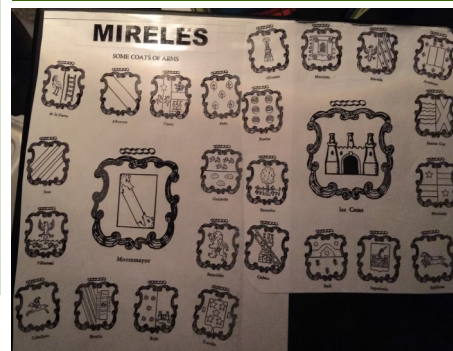
Mary wanted to find out how many of these stories are true, thus her genealogical habit began!



Mary's DNA Makeup

A Love for Genealogy runs in the Family

Mary knew she had a cousin named Yolanda Gonzales that was a librarian for many years in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. As a child, Mary would see Yolanda and her mother when they visited her Peña grandparents. Mary found out last year that her cousin Yolanda passed away in 2012. Mary looked up the obituary online and learned that Yolanda was very well known in Brownsville and throughout other areas because she helped others with genealogy research! Yolanda is mentioned in several books. Yolanda's family donated her genealogy collection and books to The Stillman Museum in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas where they are housed in a locked room. Gene Fernandez is the Curator of her collection, and he is willing to make an appointment for anyone that wants to look at Yolanda's collection for their own research.



Mireles family crests from Mary's Spanish ancestors.

A Scout for a Texas Ranger

My great-great-grandfather, Lino Saldana was a scout for Texas Ranger McNelly, in Cameron County.¹ Lino was Irish. Lino is mentioned in several books written about McNelly and the Rangers. *The Texas Ranger Dispatch*² is an example: "And what of Sandoval's friend, Lino Saldana? His name appears in the account of the two of them, along with William Burke, being arrested for the lynching of the raiders, but it does not appear on McNelly's muster rolls."

1 The Brownsville Herald (Brownsville, Texas, July 12, 1875).

2 The Texas Ranger Dispatch, Issue 32, 2011, Page 25.

Historical Port O'Connor Cemetery

The Port O'Connor Cemetery in Port O'Connor, Calhoun County, Texas, was going to have a dedication because the cemetery was being designated as a Historical Cemetery. My paternal great-grandfather, Juan Peña, was going to be named on the plaque because his is the oldest headstone in that cemetery. My daughter, Alicia R. Garza Matthews, and granddaughter, Ava Matthews, and several of my cousins are in the picture of the plaque along with Mrs. Mary Bell Meitzen, the historian that wrote and submitted the paperwork for this dedication. (The Dolphin Talk, Port O'Connor/Seadrift News, 4/22/2015, page 2.)



The Peña family at the Port O'Connor Cemetery plaque which includes their great-grandfather's name.

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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