



THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting: October 24, 2017

I've Got My DNA Results. But How Do I Use Them? by Sara Gredler



Speaker Sara Gredler

DNA is a powerful genealogical tool – keyword being tool! Just like any other genealogy resource, we have to learn how to best use it. DNA has to be used in conjunction with our paper genealogical research. After taking a DNA test, the next moves can be overwhelming. This talk will break down the steps.

Sara Gredler, MS, is a genealogist, architectural historian, and historian with nearly 20 years of genealogical research experience. She is currently the President of the Williamson County (Texas) Genealogical Society and chair of its DNA Special Interest Group. She currently works at an architecture/engineering firm as an architectural historian, historic bridge surveyor, Microsoft Access database guru, and Geographic Information Systems

What's in the October newsletter?

[Welcome new members](#)
[The AGS Wake-up Call](#)
[Cemetery Rules Meeting](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[From the President's
Corner](#)
[AGS Website](#)
[September Meeting
Recap](#)
[Genealogy Conversation
Starters](#)
[Brick Wall](#)
[Save the Date - Fall
Festival](#)
[AGS Education](#)
[Instructors](#)
[AGS on Facebook](#)
[AGS DNA SIG](#)
[AGS Writing SIG](#)
[AGS British Isle SIG](#)
[2017 AGS Calendar](#)
[2017 AGS Class
Schedule](#)
[Local Genealogy
Meetings](#)

Genealogy Conversation Starters

For our October and November meetings we will continue to gather the names of our veterans both past and present. Please bring the names of the veterans in

(GIS) analyst. She holds a MS in Historic Preservation, and BAs in History and Classical Studies, as well as a Certificate in Irish Studies. She has attended GRIP for two years, has spoken at the Texas State Genealogical Society Conference numerous times, at the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree, and in 2017 will be speaking at the National Genealogical Society Conference in Raleigh, NC. Her research focuses are in western New York, New England, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Social Time 6:30 p.m. / Program 7:00 p.m.

Highland Park Baptist Church

[5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731](https://www.google.com/maps/place/5206+Balcones,+Austin,+TX+78731)

Welcome New Members!

Joyce and Wes Campbell

Gloria Hardcastle

The AGS Wake-up Call

By AGS member Nan Kilkeary

Genealogy has changed so much in the last 10 years that many of the resources we either took for granted or had to struggle to find are now coming to us over the internet. The internet changed the world, and it changed genealogy, too. It's our new reality, whether we like it or not.

Digital genealogy has forced changes in genealogical societies, too. Many of them have not survived, or have survived in a very limited format. Membership at many has declined or disappeared altogether.

Our membership has declined, too, over the past two years. And that's a wake-up call your board chose to answer. We've done a lot of work on it.

First, we had to identify and examine the issues that may have led to declining membership. We surveyed our members, got an astounding return, and found some interesting things:

your family tree and write them on the poster boards before the meeting. You can also add the branch of service and/or unit information and dates served.

Save the Date! November Fall Festival and Potluck

The AGS Fall Festival, Tuesday, November 28th, is a tradition that was started a number of years ago and has become a wonderful way to share the bounty and the warmth of the holiday season with many AGS friends. AGS will provide barbecued brisket and turkey, and members are invited to bring a favorite salad, side dish, or dessert. We will provide instructions in next month's newsletter on how to R.S.V.P. so we can purchase the right amount of food. Bring a guest!



AGS 2017 QUARTERLY VOL. 4 DEADLINE NOVEMBER 17

Click [here](#) for submission guidelines.

- About two-thirds of our members aren't concerned with genealogy in Texas. But they all care about genealogy.
- There's a big but . . . our "non-Texas" and native Texas members all want to know how to find resources locally.
- Our members put themselves on the spectrum from nearly intermediate to expert. We don't have many real novices.
- They come to meetings mostly for the education but like to see old friends. Food, not so much.
- Location and time of meetings is an issue for about 25 percent of our members.

They want more research trips (in the planning stages now), and more information about DNA (which is why master DNA genealogist Blaine Bettinger is our seminar speaker next year).

Then we interviewed all the board members and some former officers individually for their input, and combined that with the survey results to come up with a list of issues to explore. We held a strategic planning retreat in July (our second this year), and pared the list down, along with the action items that will help us achieve our goals.

If you were at the September meeting, I gave a presentation on our goals and objectives, and I'd be glad to send it to you if you email me (I'm listed in the membership directory).

Overall, we are focusing on delivering quality content to members and growing our 67-year-old society . . . making it sustainable.

That means we have to differentiate AGS and what it has to offer from the internet, but our programs have to integrate with what our members already have available digitally. We know that we have to energize family history.

Our missions are 1) to help you learn what you need and want, 2) to connect with each other, because we have such incredible knowledge within the Society, and 3) to contribute to the preservation of local genealogy records, a valid endeavor that creates both learning and connecting opportunities.

So: Energizing Family History

AGS Education Instructors

If you are interested in teaching or assisting with a genealogy related class either at a public library or for the next session of LLI (Lifetime Learning Institute), please contact Cari Taplin at education@austintxgensoc.org.

AGS on FaceBook

[Austin Genealogical Society](#) - Posts on this site include information about the AGS monthly programs, the annual AGS Seminar, and AGS classes. **"Liking" this page helps get the message out to more people on Facebook! Please "like" posts when you see them to help market our Society.**

[Austin Genealogical Society Members Helping Members](#) (public group) - Posts on this site include genealogy-related topics such as webinars, websites, and classes not sponsored by AGS. Members of the group may request help with any particular issue they are experiencing with their own research.

[Austin Genealogical Society Writing SIG](#) (closed group) - AGS Members interested in writing a personal or

Learn. Connect. Preserve.

The goals that follow are not just for the next few months, or even just 2018. They are challenging and will take ongoing effort to achieve. And, we need your contributions as member volunteers.

1. **We need a new home.** It need not be permanent, but should be more-or-less permanent. We need a place that we can use more than once a month for both formal or informal meetings, where our members can work and learn together. We'd love to create a library.
2. **We need to partner with other Travis County organizations.** We need good genealogical and research partners in order to expand knowledge and bring good ideas inside. We also just like the idea of helping and working with others.
3. **We need more, better and fresher communications, inside and outside.** Our website ought to be a primary resource, but it is little used, except for Kay Boyd's cemetery data. We have much additional to offer. Some of it is already there, but is relatively inaccessible. We want you to be able to use the website more easily, and we want it to be attractive to potential members. We need to take advantage of what is available technologically to make our communications more compelling.
4. **We want to bring you innovative learning opportunities.** There are lots and lots of new ways to learn, and we want to integrate them with our ongoing programs. We love meetings – especially for the connections – but they are not the only way to tap resources and grow.
5. **We want to establish solid preservation projects.** Right now, we fund local projects. We want projects and connections our members can participate in and learn from that genuinely contribute to the community we live in. A new cemetery project is in the works.
6. **We definitely need members more connected.**
We need you!! Our members – you – are a great resource, but we have few opportunities to share your knowledge. We need you to know that AGS is more than just monthly meetings, and that you can help it deliver even greater benefits. Come help us do this job!

family history are encouraged to join this Facebook group and attend the monthly meetings (see below for details.)

CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR!

The latest schedule for AGS classes, events and meetings is always available on the website [here](#).



AGS DNA SIG

First Tuesday of every month. Next meeting November 7, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Pok-E-Joe's
[2121 Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78727](#)
Three blocks east of Mopac on Parmer Lane

We will review chapter 7, "Incorporating DNA Testing in a Family Study", in *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*. You do not need to have the book, but it is advised. If you have tested your DNA or are thinking about it, join us! See the [AGS website](#) to register and obtain more information.

The book is available from

7. **We need to become more effective and efficient,** and make our processes easier to use. Kind of speaks for itself.

Our incoming board members – when you approve them – were selected because they are committed to the strategic direction outlined here. We're excited about bringing you new opportunities to learn, new projects you can enjoy, and new ways to connect with your fellow genealogy buffs!

If you have ideas or opinions on these subjects, we want to hear them. Just talk to any of our board members. We're all around during the social hour before speakers.

AGS Brick Wall - can you help knock it down?

From AGS Member Erin Garcia

"Any Virginia experts out there? I have an ancestor who died in Albemarle County, VA in 1830. His will is listed in an "Index to Virginia Estates", Willbook 10, Page 105. Is there any way to get a copy of the entire probate file? In Missouri, the probate file generally includes a list of heirs, an inventory and record of sale and receipts for the distribution of the estate. Is this kind of information available in Virginia?"

If you can help, please send a note to newsletter@austintxgensoc.org.

Did you see Erin's post on the "members helping members" Facebook page?

Cemetery rules meetings set

From the Austin American Statesman Community News [link](#)

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department will host two public meetings to review the proposed draft of the cemetery rules and to discuss any comments or concerns residents may have.

Meetings will be at 2 p.m. Oct. 23 at the George Washington Carver Museum, 1165 Angelina St.; and at 6

[Amazon](#) for \$36 paperback or \$9.99 for the Kindle edition. If you are a member of NGS, it is available for \$30.06, or \$36.06 for non-members.

If you plan to attend, please register at the link below.

[More information](#)



AGS Writing SIG
Second Thursday of every month - no meeting in December
Thursday, November 9,
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Cafe Express
[3418 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, Texas 78705](#)

The purpose of the Writing SIG is to support each other in writing our family histories. We meet once a month and have dinner together while we discuss genealogical topics and share our latest work. Our successes thus far: a self-published book, several blog entries, several memoirs, and a regular article published in the newsletter! Come and get inspired with the rest of us! Open to members of AGS.

[More Information](#)

p.m. Oct. 26 at the Parks and Recreation Department Annex, 919 W. 28½ St.

After input from the community meetings, the rules will be posted at the office of the city clerk for a public comment period before a recommendation is made to the cemetery administrator for adoption.

The department manages five municipal cemeteries: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, Plummers Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Annex Cemetery. Staff has developed a draft of cemetery rules with the help of the community. The rules were reviewed internally and by the city of Austin Law Department prior to their presentation to the public.

[More Information](#)

Upcoming Events and Resources

17th Annual Genealogy Lock-In
Supported by the Texas Czech Genealogical Society (TCGS)
October 20, 2017
11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
West Waco Library and Genealogy Center
5301 Bosque Blvd., Suite 275, Waco, Texas

State-wide other libraries/societies, 26 plus to date (see: <http://bit.ly/2ukKrpU>), will be celebrating with their own events and activities as part of the Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT). This state-wide initiative to connect libraries / societies and provide educational and research opportunities for the public is spearheaded by the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library. The GNT will provide a series of eight live streamed programs with up-to-date topics accessible at participating libraries and genealogical societies.

Free registration. For more information contact: Bill Buckner 254.750.5995

[Lock-in Flyer](#)
[More Information](#)



AGS British Isles Genealogy SIG

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

AGS 2017 Calendar

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday (no meeting in December),
Networking: 6:30 PM /
Program: 7:00 PM
Highland Park Baptist Church, [5206 Balcones](#), [Austin, TX 78731](#)

24-October I've Got My DNA Results. But How Do I Use Them? by Sara Gredler

28-November Fall Fest, *The Archives Wars* by James Harkins

AGS Website

Did you forget your login or password to the Members Only section?
Problems renewing a membership?



Walk Through Time

October 28, 2017

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Historic Oakwood Cemetery

1601 Navasota Street

FREE, donations accepted

Walk Through Time and hear stories about people who died an untimely death or lived through a misadventure. Names like Henna, Caswell and Nalle. The Walking Tours last about 45 minutes and start every 15 minutes. Our costumed actors tell stories from the past. Wear closed walking shoes. For more information contact info@sachome.org.

[More information](#)



Oral History Workshop

Sunday, October 29th

1 pm - 4 pm

**Austin History Center, Holt Gallery / Reception Room
810 Guadalupe St, Austin**

Free - RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED (limited to 50 attendees)

The Austin History Center Association's Oral History Committee will host a free training session on collecting oral history, facilitated by Lila Rakoczy, Texas Historical Commission's Military Oral History Coordinator.

The workshop is designed for people to learn how to conduct, record, and transcribe all types of oral histories, including hands-on training with digital and video recording

Contact: [webmaster@
austintxgensoc.org](mailto:webmaster@austintxgensoc.org)

AGS 2017 Class Schedule

*Information about our
classes is available [here](#).
All classes are free.*

**Saturday, October 28,
10:30a-Noon**

**DNA for Beginners -
Randy Whited**

North Village Branch
Library

[2505 Steck Ave, Austin,
TX 78757](#)

*Registration is required
for this class to insure
there are enough
handouts. Registration will
open on September 28.*

This class will go over
some of the basics
needed to get started with
DNA testing for
genealogical purposes.

**Saturday, December 9,
10:30a-Noon**

**How to Teach a
Genealogy Class –
Panel and Workshop**

North Village Branch
Library

[2505 Steck Ave, Austin,
TX 78757](#)

*Registration is required
for this class to insure
there are enough
handouts. Registration will
open on November 9.*

This will be a panel
discussion and workshop
for anyone interested in
learning how to teach

equipment.

To be officially registered, please send an email with your phone number and indicating your interest to Allison Supancic at asupancic@austinhistory.net. We will only take a single reservation for the person emailing in. Please make sure you receive a confirmation email from Allison. We will make final confirmation emails/phone calls in the days leading up to the training. We will keep a waiting list once we have reached 50 reservations. Please be 100% sure in your intent to attend. Thank you! For more information, call 512-627-8170 (AGS member Phoebe Allen).

The AHC Association is particularly interested in finding new members for the Oral History Committee who would enjoy interviewing Austinites and/or transcribing interviews.

[More Information](#)



Saving Texas History - You Can Help!

Texas General Land Office

Conservation Effort for 1836 Alamo Battle Cannons

GoFundMe campaign launched to raise funds for cannon preservation

[More Information](#)



AGE Computer Lab

FAMILY TREE MAKER LIVES

their own genealogy class. The panel includes Teri Flack, Sara Gredler and Cari Taplin, C.G. There will be a short lecture, a panel discussion with local genealogical speakers, and then a workshop period to help attendees develop their ideas for teaching a class or get tips on public speaking.

Do You Have a Brick Wall? A Genealogical Question?

Feel free to send it in for the newsletter to [newsletter@
austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org) or post it to our Facebook page, "Austin Genealogical Society Members helping Members."

Local Genealogy Meetings and Resources

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](#). Click [here](#) for website.

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](#). Click [here](#) for website.

Texas State Library is 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 [here](#). Click [here](#) for website.

And it's great! The MacKiev Company has given us a very nice product, so come learn with us at AGE Computer Lab!

Family Tree Maker 2017 from The MacKiev Company is installed on all ten of our state-of-the-art computers – offering you a great place to begin or improve your genealogy database skills.

Now is a great time to plan to join us in 2018!. From Family Tree Maker, to Ancestry.com to Familysearch.org and bunches of genealogy sources and techniques, our volunteers offer a super friendly environment to enhance the world of your genealogy. For more information: <http://www.agecomputer.org/clubs/Clubs2017.php> or contact Dianne Holley: dianne@cmemories.us

From the President's Corner



Anne Mamiya, AGS President
president@austintxgensoc.org

Last month at our general meeting, **Debbe Tipping** from the Nominating Committee announced the slate of nominees for the 2018-2019 term of the Board of Directors. One person has since declined their nomination. The five nominees are: **Erin Garcia, Jean Marostica, Robin Raben, Angela Doetsch**, and **Millijon Crowell**. I would like to thank the nominating committee for their hard work in finding great candidates and the nominees for their willingness to serve on the AGS Board of Directors! The name of the sixth nominee will be communicated to the membership through email.

We will be holding our general election at this month's meeting on Oct. 24. We will open the floor for any additional nominations and then hold our election. Please make sure to attend the meeting to meet the new

Williamson County Genealogical Society

meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the [Round Rock Public Library, 216 E Main Street, Round Rock](#). Social time at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Click [here](#) for website.

Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources

Click [here](#) for website.

Got something for the newsletter?

Submissions are welcome - due the first day of the month for each submission.

[newsletter@
austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org)

There s a fine
line between a
packrat and a
serious family
historian.

members of the board and give them your congratulations and support!

Nan Kilkeary, 1st Vice-President, presented an update from the strategic planning session the board held in July to our members at the September meeting. This plan will continue to evolve and help guide the new board going into 2018.

There are four members who will be departing the board at the end of their term in December: myself, **Marcia Arn**, **Teresa Devine**, and **Cari Taplin**. We will be using the last couple months of this year to transition our duties once the new board is in place after the election.

I look forward to seeing everyone in October!

September Meeting Recap

Topic: More than Daughters: Using the DAR's Genealogical Research System (GRS)

Speaker: Teresa Devine

September Meeting Attendance: 43

Visitor: Susan Gettman

Thank you to the following volunteers for their help at the September meeting: Shelly Augustin, Anne Mamiya, Susan Taylor, Teresa Devine, Rob Richardson, John Marostica, Kathy and Gary Pemberton.

Sign-Ups for October Meeting

Set Up – Shelley Augustin and Robin Rabin

Snacks – Erin Garcia, Lise Doss, Sheila Sargent, Chris Bond

Clean Up – Anne Mamiya, Susan Shaw

Greeter – Earle McBride



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