



The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

June 2012

Advancing genealogy through wide-ranging research and education and supporting the preservation of the heritage of Austin, Travis County, and Texas.

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[Newsletter](#)
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Monthly AGS Meeting

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

6:30 p.m. — Refreshments & Networking
7:00 — 8:30 p.m. - Business & Program

Program: Find Success with FamilySearch
Presented by: Karen Matheson

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!

With our June program of “Find Success with FamilySearch!” you will learn about the latest and greatest going on with the FamilySearch website. FamilySearch.org is much more than user-submitted databases. In addition to becoming the “go-to” place for free indexes and free digital images of family history records, FamilySearch offers educational opportunities, sharing platforms, and is truly the gateway to gaining access to an even wider array of records that are available on microfilm through their rental program. Karen will demonstrate the scope of the FamilySearch website so that you can truly *Find Success!*



Presenter Karen MATHESON has been doing genealogical and family history research for more than 20 years, and currently works as a professional genealogist. She worked for Lineages, Inc. in Salt Lake City for two years before moving to Texas.

Karen served five years (2004-2009) as the

Director of the Round Rock Family History Center. She is currently serving as the President of the Williamson County Genealogical Society and as Vice

President for the Lone Star Chapter of the APG.

Karen enjoys mentoring, teaching, presenting, and sharing her enthusiasm for family history with others!

AGS Business: From the Minutes of the Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 22nd, prior to the regular Society meeting. The following items were discussed and action taken.

Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer's report for April was accepted as submitted.

Board Member Earle McBRIDE has volunteered to chair the Bylaws Revision Committee. Committee members include Barbara FROCK, Carolyn GRESHAM, John MAROSTICA, and Kay BOYD.

AGS Website

Webmaster Dona KURTZ advised that all of the content from the old website has been moved to the new one. She is now in the process of looking for errors and testing the membership functions. Links for new and renewal memberships should be more simple in the future. (UPDATE from Dona as of June 1st: the new website is in its final stages of revisions, and members should watch their email for an announcement about the grand launch. The goal is to have it done before the next meeting!)

AGS Mini-Seminars

Jane SCHWENDINGER reported that over 99 people attended the Spring Mini-Seminar with Lloyd BOCKSTRUCK in April.

The Fall Mini-Seminar features Mark LOWE and is scheduled for October. This seminar will provide FOUR topics rather than the standard three. (See page [four](#) for additional information.)

AGS Member Survey

Jennifer WHITLEY reported that preparations for the AGS Member Survey are complete. It was decided

that the Survey will open on June 1st and remain open for three weeks. (Note: See more information about the survey on page [three](#).)

Financial Review Committee

Jennifer WHITLEY, newly appointed Chairperson of the Financial Review Committee, reported that she and AGS member Jim SCHWENDINGER were able to meet together and complete the annual review of the Society's financial records for fiscal year 2011. They found the records "to be fundamentally accurate, well-maintained, and logically organized." The Board unanimously expressed its thanks to Jen for chairing the committee and to Jim for stepping in to help accomplish this necessary task. The board also expressed its thanks to Treasurer Teri FLACK for her outstanding job as Treasurer for the past few years.

Please see page [seven](#) for a copy of the summary report and a link to the full report posted on the AGS website.

Saturday Series

The next Saturday Series event will be a Brick Wall Saturday hosted by Jacquie WILSON. (See page [four](#) for additional information on this event.)

Call for Volunteers

The call for volunteers has produced gratifying results. It is an "Open Call" however, so members wanting to help out either "where needed" or in a specific way are encouraged to contact AGS President Sharon FOLEY.



AGS Business

ATTENDANCE REPORT for the AGS meeting on May 22, 2012: approximately 84 members and guests attended the May meeting. The following visitors were present:

Tisha CHRISTOPHER—Hutto

Reginald CHRISTOPHER—Austin

Mary Margaret WELLS—Austin

Nancy KAMPE—Austin

We hope each of you will visit us again soon.



AGS welcomes the following new members since the last report:

Jane CARTWRIGHT—Georgetown

Jane CHENEVERT—Austin

Kathy Nagel ELLIOTT—Austin

Paula HATFIELD—Austin

Glenda S. MARTIN—Round Rock

Charleen “Charlie” MULLENWEG—Pflugerville

We are so glad to have all of you join us and hope to have many opportunities to get to know you!



HOSPITALITY REPORT. Our thanks go out to Glenda BLACK and Carroll PATTERSON who served as greeters at the May meeting.

Our thanks also extend to Sheila SARGENT, who was in charge at the refreshment table, and to Mary Jane ERMIS, Jacquie WILSON, Sue Ann BUNNER, Loyce McCULLOUGH, Carolyn GRESHAM, and Wynnell NOELKE, who brought refreshments.

Serving at the registration table were Arlene ZIRKEL, Ann COOPER, Jean MAROSTICA, and Cynthia RODRIGUEZ.

Be sure to thank them all if you get the chance!

Member Survey is OPEN!

(Submitted by Survey Master Jennifer WHITLEY)

Have you taken our member survey yet? You should have received an email in late May asking you to complete our online survey which will remain open until June 21.

We’ve designed the survey to help us understand what we value about our AGS membership and what ideas we have for our society’s future programs and projects. It has 20 questions, should take less than 10 minutes to complete, and is entirely anonymous.



So if you haven’t completed it yet, head over to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FX53QW6> and make your voice heard today!

If you have any questions or concerns about the survey or the survey process, feel free to contact Jen WHITLEY at jennifer.whitley@gmail.com.



Quarterly News

Quarterly Editor Randy WHITED recently called for a volunteer to help with the AGS Quarterly. AGS member Lisa SMITH-CURTEAN has responded to that request and has been appointed by President Sharon FOLEY as the new Quarterly Editor. A native Texan from Waco, Lisa also has several ancestors who were pioneers of Travis County, Texas. Lisa currently lives in Oregon but is hoping to return to Texas soon. She has eleven years of research experience and has an extensive family tree on Ancestry.com.

AGS extends our appreciation to Randy for his dedication and hard work to make the AGS Q an award-winning publication over the past few years.

Future submissions for publication in the AGS Quarterly should be submitted to Lisa at L.Smith1974@yahoo.com.

AGS Activities

Tuesday June 26th — Regular AGS meeting

Program: *Find Success with FamilySearch!* presented by Karen MATHESON.



Tuesday, July 24th— Regular AGS meeting

Program: *Preserving Paper & Photos* presented by Claudia ANDERSON



SPECIAL REPORT:

AGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library

By Barbara INNIS, Roving Reporter

Forty-eight researchers from Austin and surrounding towns boarded the early bus to Houston on June 8th, each with the hope of striking it rich at Clayton Library. Some did!

Charlie MULLENWEG's long-term mystery cleared when she found the Alabama marriage record for the first wife of her great grandfather and his obituary. Jennifer WHITLEY discovered the burial location and date of her great, great grandfather, and Martha CARPENTER located naturalization records for her third great granddad. Josephine LITTLEFIELD learned that

her grandparents employed Scott JOPLIN's mother and that he often came over to play the piano!

Most of us shared sentiments of Nancy STEVENS, who said that she mainly uncovered more mysteries! We ended a perfect trip with delicious food onboard among friends and welcomed a huge rainstorm just out of Houston.

Three cheers for Kay BOYD, our leader, for a job well done!

Mark Your Calendars!!

Saturday, October 20, 2012 — AGS Fall Mini-Seminar

It is not too early to mark your calendar for Saturday, October 20, 2012, which is the date of our next exciting Fall Mini-Seminar featuring Mark LOWE. The Fall Mini-Seminar will be somewhat longer, with the addition of a fourth session. We hope you will plan to join us at this special presentation in October!

2012 Saturday Series — Brick Wall Saturday
July 14th, 9:00 a.m. to Noon
LBJ Presidential Library (UT Campus)
2313 Red River Street, Austin, Texas

Jacque WILSON will be conducting **Brickwall Saturday** for us on July 14th. She conducts similar sessions every week at the library in Round Rock so she is an expert in assisting people to break through those walls. I wanted all of you to have this information early enough that you could make plans to attend if you just happen to have a brick wall. She was able to get a great location at the LBJ Library. It's a great way to spend three hours on a sure-to-be-hot July morning.

Email Jacque at jdemsy62@aol.com if you have any questions or concerns.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Sunday, April 28th — Sunday May 5th,
2013

AGS will host a week-long re-
search trip to the

Family History Library in
Salt Lake City

Details coming in September.



Other Genealogical Activities

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission will host another **Genealogy After Dark: Friday, July 13, 2012; 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.**

Location: Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building,
1201 Brazos St.,
Austin



Fee: \$10

- 6:00 Sign-in: Texas Family Heritage Research Center and the Reference and Information Center open for research
- 6:15 Orientation: Requesting and Using Materials in the Texas State Archives (required for anyone planning to use archival materials during the event)
- 6:30 Texas State Archives open for research
- 7:15 Light refreshments are served
- 9:45 Microfilm and photocopy rooms close
Texas State Archives closes
- 10:00 Building is secured

If you have questions, help is available by emailing TSLA at geninfo@tsl.state.tx.us or calling them at 512-463-5455.

This event is **limited to 30 participants** and the registration **deadline is July 6th**. Click [here](#) for the registration form.



6th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Two Special All-Day Workshops; and

Friday & Saturday, July 20 & 21, 2012

Eight speakers offering 24 sessions

Angelina College Campus 3500 South First Street (Hwy 59 South) – two miles south of Loop 187 In Lufkin, Texas, the hub of the East Texas region, located in the beautiful Piney Woods of East Texas



2012 Annual Conference for the Federation of Genealogical Societies

Wednesday, August 29—Saturday, September 1, 2012 in Birmingham, Alabama

Genealogists from around the country and around the world, those who are members of genealogical societies and those who are not, are ALL INVITED to attend the 2012 Annual Conference for



the Federation of Genealogical Societies. This year's conference, set for August 29 – September 1, 2012, is being held in Birmingham, Alabama, and is co-hosted by the Alabama Genealogical Society. The theme is **"Indians, Squatters, Settlers, and Soldiers in the 'Old Southwest'."**

This year's conference offers genealogists an outstanding venue and setting for a superb genealogical education and research experience.

Nearly 160 educational presentations by leading genealogical experts are available at the FGS 2012 conference in Birmingham—all designed for the beginning to expert genealogist! We are sure you will agree that the presentations being offered cover a wide array of topics and interests.

For more information and registration information, check the FGS conference website by clicking the logo or using <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference>.

AGS FamilySearch Indexing

Do you participate in the indexing opportunities offered by FamilySearch.org? Whether your efforts are for the AGS group or are done on an individual basis, you will want to review the arbitrator's findings. To do this, you'll find a tab on the lower right section above the "My Personal Goal" line that is identified as "Arbitration Results." Clicking that tab will bring up a number reflecting your percentage of accuracy. You will also find a radio button that says "Review

Batches." Clicking that button will take you to the FamilySearch.org website where you will login and see a list of the batches you have submitted and the "Agreement %."

Reviewing the batches with low scores can give you information on where problems may exist in how you index. It also allows you to ask for a review of a record you believe *you* indexed correctly and was mistakenly corrected by the arbitrator.

Bits & Pieces

From Jane SCHWENDINGER (via Facebook): If you are going to a research facility and you do not have a portable scanner, you can download Genius Scan (FREE) to your iPhone. You just take a picture of a page or document, crop it, and save it. Then you email it to whomever you wish. You select PDF or JPEG format. You may also post it on Facebook, Twitter, or store it with your photos on your phone. Quite a wonderful app!



From Brian DENSMORE via Sweden Message board: "Saw this on the Norway list. - Archives.com Partners With the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to Publish Millions of Church Records. Comprehensive Historical Database of Lutheran Congregants Will Be Available Online at [http://](http://www.archives.com/blog/press/archivescom-to-publish-millions-of-church-records.html)

www.archives.com/blog/press/archivescom-to-publish-millions-of-church-records.html. This may help a few people with brick walls.



From Kay BOYD: Have you tried <http://www.linkpendium.com> for your genealogy searches? Go to the state, county or surname for many links.



From Bobbie MIDDLEBROOKE via the AGS Mailing List: The Department of Veterans Affairs has streamlined the process for families of deceased Veterans to receive a medallion which can be affixed to grave markers at private cemeteries and indicates the Veteran status of the deceased. The website is <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2316>.

Condolences

Our condolences extend to AGS member Gary PEMBERTON and his family on the death of his mother, Lillian PEMBERTON, age 91, of Pflugerville who passed away May 5, 2012.

Born to Fred and Pauline (VORWERK) RUST on a farm near Coupland, Texas, she lived her entire life in Travis County. Her husband, Albert PEMBERTON, preceded her in death in 1992. She was a loving mother of two children, both of whom survive her: son, Gary

and wife Kathy PEMBERTON of New Braunfels and daughter, Sherian ATWOOD of Hutto. Other survivors include 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, all of Williamson County, a sister, Evelyn SCHMIDT, of Lockhart and a brother, Wilburn RUST, of Austin. A brother, Vernon RUST, and a sister, Ruby HELTON, preceded her in death.

From the Austin American-Statesman, May 8, 2012.

**Summary Report by the Financial Review Committee
of the Financial Records of the Austin Genealogical Society for Fiscal Year 2011**

Introduction

As required by society bylaws, the Financial Review Committee, made up of Jennifer Whitley and James Schwendinger, met on May 8 and 10, 2012, to examine the financial records of the Austin Genealogical Society for fiscal year 2011.

Scope of Review

The committee examined the annual budget, financial statements, Wells Fargo checking-account bank statements and reconciliations, receipts (cash, check, and PayPal), disbursements (check and debit card), required filings with government agencies (Texas Sales and Use Tax Return, IRS Form 990-N, and IRS Forms 1099-Miscellaneous), and supporting documentation.

Overall Findings

The committee finds the 2011 financial records to be fundamentally accurate, well-maintained, and logically organized. The committee finds that the treasurer has consistently met the requirements of Article V, Section 6, of the AGS Bylaws.

Exceptions & Recommendations

The committee made ten recommendations in response to discrepancies observed or enhancements suggested.

- Checks over \$1,000 should consistently have two approved signatures who are board members or revise the by-laws to address the exception
- Possession and use of debit cards should be clarified with a written policy
- Future reviews should include examination of the PayPal account records – included in this cycle
- Future reviews should include examination of the three additional AGS bank accounts
- Future reviews should include examination of data systems security and records retention – included in this cycle
- Cash receipts should be recorded in a duplicate receipt book
- New board members should be briefed on financial controls and processes at the outset of the year
- Reimbursement forms should consistently note whether item was budgeted or board-approved
- The budget should include monthly detail to reflect timing of income and expenses thus providing variance analysis
- Future reviews should include documentation of the current members with account access

A more detailed response is provided in the full Financial Review Report, available at http://www.austintxgensoc.org/members/handouts/Financial_Review_2012.pdf. If you have any questions regarding the findings, scope, or methodology of this review, please contact Committee Chair Jennifer Whitley at communications@austintxgensoc.org or Jim Schwendinger at jrschwen@earthlink.net.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Jennifer Whitley, Financial Review Chairperson

May 18, 2012
Date

/s/
James Schwendinger, Financial Review Committee Member

May 18, 2012
Date

Editor's Corner

If you haven't taken the Member Survey yet, please take a few minutes to do that. If yours is a family membership, two people can take the survey.

Stay tuned for the announcement about the new website. It should be ready very soon now. Until then, the information below still applies.

One of the benefits most appreciated by many members are the Quarterly issues published by AGS. Due to a lack of contributions, we will be at least one short this year. Please reread the Quarterly News article on page three and consider submitting some of your research; and remember, it doesn't have to be perfect!

Until next time...

Happy Trackin',
Janis



Follow us on Facebook ...

Or let us hear from
you with a Tweet!



AGS WEBSITE INFORMATION

The login and password for the Members' Only section of the [AGS website](#):

login: ags2011 password: aU5t!n

You can have the website "remember" the information so that you do not have to enter it every time.

This information will change after the website update has been completed. Members who have joined or renewed their membership for 2012 will receive an email blast with the updated logon and new password. It will also be in this space of the Newsletter after the change.

AGS Regular Meetings **2012 Program Schedule**

Tuesday, January 24th

"Genealogical Chaining of Artifacts" presented by
Cindy FOREMAN

Tuesday, February 28th

"Get Your Lineage in Line" presented by Sylvia
NIMMO

Tuesday, March 27th

"How Do I Organize All This *Stuff?*" presented by
AGS Member Panel

Tuesday, April 24th

"Researching the 1940 Census" presented by Randy
WHITED

Tuesday, May 22nd

"I Bet You Didn't Know That" presented by AGS
members Jane SCHWENDINGER and Sharon
FOLEY

Tuesday, June 26th

**"Find Success with FamilySearch" presented by
Karen MATHESON**

Tuesday, July 24th

"Preserving Paper and Photos" presented by
Claudia ANDERSON

Tuesday, August 28th

"Trailing Old West History" presented by Mike
COX

Tuesday, September 25th

"Social History of the Confederate States"
presented by Jackie JONES

Tuesday, October 23rd

"Who Do You Think You Are" LIVE—featuring a
well-known Austin personality as researched and
presented by a group of AGS members

Tuesday, November 27th

Fall Festival—Special Program on "Austin's *Sixth
Street*" presented by Dr. Allen CHILDS

2012 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2012:	Term Ending 2013:
Karin BRANAMAN	Jim COOPER
Earle McBRIDE	Teri FLACK
Sharon FOLEY	Dona KURTZ
Missy HARRIS	Randy WHITED
Jane SCHWENDINGER	Jennifer WHITLEY
Janis TRAYLER	Jacquie WILSON

2012 Officers

President	Sharon FOLEY
1 st Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2 nd Vice President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
Recording Secretary	Jacquie D. WILSON
Treasurer	Teri FLACK

*We are here to serve the members of the Society.
If you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns,
please feel free to share those with us.*

Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
(except December)
Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

Visitors Are Always Welcome!

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***Promoting genealogy through research,
education, and preservation.***