



# The *Austin Genealogical Society* Newsletter

## October 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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Janis Trayler, Editor  
[Newsletter](#)  
[@AustinTxGenSoc.org](mailto:@AustinTxGenSoc.org)

## **Monthly AGS Meeting** **Tuesday, October 23, 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: “Who Do You Think You Are?” -  
Austin Style \****  
***Presented by AGS Members***

***Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!***

“Who Do You Think You Are?” has finally come to Austin! Since January of this year, Jane SCHWENDINGER, Sharon FOLEY, Nancy STEVENS, Kay BOYD, and Pat OXLEY have been researching our subject’s family history. They will present their findings as the program for the October regular meeting.

The subject? ... Jim SWIFT, who can’t resist a good story. A journalist for Austin’s KXAN-TV News, Jim has been a popular and award-winning feature reporter for many years. But in this special program, we are turning the tables on him.

Our team will reveal their discoveries live to Jim in the style of the hit show “Who Do You Think You Are?” Join us as this beloved local TV personality hears some of the best stories of his life. We hope you will join us for this unique program!

\*This program is not affiliated in any way with the NBC show produced by Shed Media US and Is or Isn’t Entertainment.

**AGS Business: From the Minutes of the Board Meeting**

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 25th, prior to the regular Society meeting. The following items were discussed and action taken.

**Treasurer's Reports**

The Treasurer's report for August was accepted as corrected.

**Bylaws Revision Committee**

President FOLEY asked Earle McBRIDE, chair of the Bylaws Revision Committee, to provide the board with updates showing previously discussed changes. It was also requested that other significant changes not previously discussed in prior board meetings also be highlighted in his report.

**Nominating Committee Report**

The following individuals have been slated by the Nominating Committee as nominees to the Board of Directors:

Carolyn GRESHAM	Leslie INMAN
Rick HAIR	Anna MAMIYA
Missy HARRIS	Jane SCHWENDINGER

**Election of New Board Members.**

The election of new board members will take place prior to the program presentation at the October meeting. Newly elected board members will take office effective January 1, 2013 and their terms will expire on December 31, 2014.

**Travis County Records Preservation**

Board member Randy Whited has been talking with the Travis County Archivist regarding how AGS can support the digitization of records in the Travis County Archives. He will continue gathering information regarding their needs and time frame and report back to the board. With that information, the board will be able to discern if and how AGS might be able to assist with digitization of records for Travis County. We will also

look into any grants that may be available to assist with the cost of such a project.

**Website**

Dona KURTZ advised that there are still some issues with the new website with respect to online membership registrations. At the point these are finally resolved, she will provide training to board members who have a need for access to the website to make changes and updates.

**Publicity**

Publicity Chair Jennifer WHITLEY reported that AGS did have a vendor table at the recent Texas General Land Office "Save Texas History" Symposium and that our new table drape was quite an eye-catcher and so was Missy HARRIS who welcomed visitors to the table. Also assisting with manning the table were Jen WHITLEY, Leslie INMAN, Teri FLACK, George DIXON, Sue Ann BUNNER and Janis TRAYLER.



*Missy HARRIS welcomes visitors to the AGS table at the Save Texas History Symposium, September 15, 2012.*

Jen is now concentrating on publicity for the Mini-Seminar on October 20th and the next regular meeting featuring a special presentation: "Who Do You Think You Are" - Austin Style.

### AGS Business

**ATTENDANCE REPORT** for the AGS meeting on September 25, 2012: approximately 68 members and guests attended.

We had one visitor, Jeanie CHAVEZ, at the September meeting. We are glad you joined us and hope you will come back again!

AGS welcomes the following new members since the last report:

Carolyn Cox WILLIAMS — Livingston 77351

Bonnie WILSON — Austin 78756

Paul NOACK — Austin 78727

We are so glad to have you join us and hope to have many opportunities to get to know you.



### **HOSPITALITY REPORT.**

Greeters for the August meeting were Shirley MEYER and Martha CARPENTER

Sheila SARGENT was in charge at the refreshment table. Those who provided refreshments were Shirley

MEYER, Carolyn GRESHAM, James HOLLAS, Jean KOTRLA, and Lynn COOKSEY.

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

Scheduled to help at the October meeting are:

Greeters: Carroll PATTERSON, Cynthia ORR, and Wynnell NOELKE

Refreshments: Cynthia ORR, Carroll PATTERSON, and Glenda BLACK



*Volunteers make good things happen! Be sure to thank them all if you get the chance.*

### AGS Activities

**Saturday, October 20th— AGS Mini-Seminar**

**Triumphant Love Lutheran Church**

[9508 Great Hills Trail](#)

**Austin, Texas 78759**

**Doors open: 8:30 a.m.**

**Program: 9:00 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.**

See pages [seven and eight](#) for details

**Tuesday, October 23rd — Regular AGS Meeting**

Program: **“Who Do You Think You Are” - Austin Style** with KXAN reporter/ TV personality Jim SWIFT

**Tuesday, November 27th — Regular AGS Meeting**

**Fall Festival — Dinner**

Program — Allen CHILDS, M.D., will talk about Austin’s most famous street and his book of the same name, *Sixth Street*



### Other Genealogical Activities

The *Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group* meets from **1:00 to 3:00 P.M.** every second **Saturday** of the month at the **Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Drive**, (near Far West Blvd.) Austin, TX 78731.

Click [here](#) to check their website for information regarding the next meeting. Anyone interested in genealogy is welcome to attend. There is no fee.

**Next Meeting: October 13th** — *Useful & Interesting Websites*

Presented by: **Leslie D. INMAN, Ken FETTE, John MAROSTICA and ...YOU!**

Leslie, Ken, and John will have some very *Useful & Interesting Web Sites* to show you, but they invite *you* to show *them* your “special websites.” Tell and show the group the websites that have helped you with your research.

Check the [AustinGenSIG](#) website for updates about the October meeting.

Bring your curiosity, your questions and your laptop. A WIFI connection, extension cords, and lots of tables are available so you can be comfortable.



#### *Austin Legacy Users Group*

This group that uses Legacy software 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.** Anyone who uses Legacy Family Tree software is welcome to attend the meetings to learn and share. Please check the [website](#) for further information, or contact the host, [Roberta Jenkins](#).

There will be no meeting in October due to the AGS Mini-Seminar. The next meeting will be held on **November 17, 2012**, from 1-3 p.m. Please bring your laptops and information to enter into Legacy. Visitors are welcome.



### *Announcing the Austin BIG-SIG*

One of the Member-to-Member Special Topic Tables at the AGS meeting in September was dedicated to research in England. As the evening progressed, the topic also progressed to include other parts of Great Britain. As a result of the interest shown in that topic, the *British Isles Genealogy Special Interest Group (BIG SIG)* is in the preliminary stages of creation. If you have an interest in this topic and would be interested in meeting with others who are also interested in research in the British Isles, please contact Jane SCHWENDINGER at [janesca@earthlink.net](mailto:janesca@earthlink.net) about dates, times, and topics.



#### *Learn About Tombstones*

On **October 13, at 10:00 a.m.**, you are invited to take a walk through **Oakwood Cemetery** with **AGS Member and Professor Emeritus of Geology, Earle F. McBRIDE**. Professor McBRIDE will talk about the materials that make cemetery headstones and monuments. During our visit to the cemetery, we will examine the response of different rocks to the elements and microbial growth and see how both the texture of natural stone and its treatment by stonecutters influence legibility with time.



Oakwood Cemetery is located at **1601 Navasota Street** (south of UT baseball field and east of I-35). There is **no charge** for this event and **free parking** is available in the cemetery.



*(Continued on page 5)*

***Plowshares into Swords  
Hood's Texas Brigade in 1862***

**October 26-27, 2012**

Presented by the reactivated Hood's Texas Brigade Association at the **Texas Military Forces Museum, Camp Mabry, 200 West 35th Street, Austin, Texas 78703**

**Friday evening event:**

5:00 p.m. — Tour of the Museum

6:00 p.m. — Socializing

7:00 p.m. — Dinner

8:00 p.m.— Speaker: Dr. Susannah URAL on "The Best Material on the Continent: The Rise of Hood's Texans in 1862"



**Saturday Seminar:**

8:00 to 9:00 — Registration, Vendors / Exhibitors

9:15 to 11:45 — Various authorities will speak on the Civil War

11:45 to 1:00 — Lunch w/Speaker Q&A

1:30 to 4:00 — More authorities will speak on the Civil War

Click [here](#) for additional information and a registration form. You may also contact Pat PARSONS at [patbake45@yahoo.com](mailto:patbake45@yahoo.com) or by telephone at 830-875-2348.



***Texas State Genealogical Society  
Annual Conference***

**Saddle Bags to Social Networking —  
Following Ancestors through History**

**November 1-3, 2012  
Riley Conference Center  
4726 Stanley Blvd.  
Fort Worth, Texas 76115**



The featured speaker for this year's TSGS Annual Conference is noted national lecturer Curt B. WITCHER, MLS, FUGA, IGSF. Curt is the Senior Manager for Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, where he manages The Genealogy Center.

This year's conference also provides three days of programs, classes, networking, learning, shopping, and visiting!

Thursday, November 1st, has a double focus. One is to help librarians learn how to improve their genealogy collections and how to help genealogists in their research activities. The other focus is to help local genealogy societies improve and expand on their leadership roles.

Friday, November 2nd, opens with a short plenary session then breaks into numerous sessions on Getting Started, Ethnic, Technology, Methodology, and Resources.

The Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists will be available throughout the Friday sessions to provide free 15-minute consultations. Reservations are required for these 15-minute sessions.

Saturday, November 3rd, provides four sessions with Curt WITCHER on various research topics or a repeat of the four Getting Started sessions also offered on Friday.

Click [here](#) for a full brochure and schedule with registration form. There is certainly something here for everyone!

\* \* \*

EDITOR'S NOTE: AGS member Randy WHITED is presenting multiple sessions on both Thursday and Friday; AGS members Teri FLACK and Karen MATHESON are scheduled as speakers for multiple sessions on Friday.





### ***Certificates for Pioneer Families of Travis County***

Do you have family members who, while they are not as interested in genealogy like you are, are proud of their Texas heritage? If so, you may want to consider an AGS pioneer certificate as a great Christmas or birthday gift for them.

The Austin Genealogical Society issues *Pioneer Families of Travis County Certificates* to individuals who can document that their ancestors were living in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880. Members of the Austin Genealogical Society feel that this is an excellent way to preserve our past and to honor our earlier settlers to Travis County. The information that is submitted provides a valuable resource to others studying the history and genealogy of Travis County.

It is *not* a requirement that an applicant be a current or former resident of Travis County in order to qualify for one of these certificates. To qualify for the certificate, the applicant must:

- Be a direct descendant of an ancestor who lived in Travis County on or before December 31, 1880.
- Submit proof of such descent and pay a fee of \$20.00 to cover the costs of verification of the

application. Acceptable records include birth, death, and marriage certificates; probate, census, and military records; obituaries and Bible records. Other records may also be acceptable depending on their validity.

If you would like to apply for this certificate, complete the AGS Pioneer Certificate Application Form, follow the instructions included with it, and mail the form and your check for \$20.00 to AGS, PO Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010. Be sure to include documentation for each item on the application.

**AGS Pioneer Certificate Application form:** [Word doc](#) | [PDF](#)

For further information or questions about the Pioneer Families of Travis County certificate contact [Kay Boyd](#).



### **Condolences**



Our condolences are extended to the family of AGS board member Jim COOPER on the death of his sister, Tammy FARISS, who died peacefully at home on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, surrounded by her family. Tammy was born January 5, 1943, to Lois Evelyn and H. L. "Red" COOPER in Austin, Texas. She grew up in Austin and attended Maplewood Elementary, University Junior High, and Austin High School.

Tammy will be missed by her friends and family. She will most especially be missed by her husband of fifty years, Don FARISS. She is survived by her father, H. L. "Red" COOPER; her children, Christie Michelle and her husband, Joel MANNERS, and Gary Brent FARISS and his wife, Cathy; her grandchildren, Gabriel and Sean MANNERS and Vincent and Olivia FARISS; her brothers, James COOPER and his wife Ellen, and Terry COOPER and his wife, Cheryl; her sister-in-law, Mary FARISS, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Click [here](#) for the full obituary that was published in Austin American-Statesman on September 22, 2012.

# **2012 Fall Mini-Seminar**

**AGS Welcomes ...**

**J. MARK LOWE**



**Saturday, October 20, 2012**

**Triumphant Love Lutheran Church**

[9508 Great Hills Trail](#)

**Austin, Texas 78759**

**Doors open: 8:30 a.m.**

**Program: 9:00 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.**



**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN—SEE NEXT PAGE**

Mark's topics will be:

- **My Ancestor, the Farmer: Shaping a Profile for Your Rural Ancestor** — Farming is a proud and honorable occupation. Develop a rich profile of your farming ancestor and community using available resources.
- **Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan** — Learn a simple technique for breaking down difficult research problems into manageable segments. Learn to get more research done while remaining focused.
- **Planning Around That Brick Wall** — By reviewing our research, and taking a fresh planning approach, take new opportunities to solve those family problems. Use the very evidence that stops you in your tracks to spring over the walls.
- **Over the Mountain, Across the Plains... Using Electronic Records to Trace Our Ancestors** — Your ancestors moved westward, now follow them as they move back east. Knowing where to look for valuable records will reward you with insights and research plans.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

### ***Registration Information***

Registration for this 4-session seminar is **only \$20 for AGS members** (if registered and paid in advance) and **\$25 for non-members**. All registrations **at the door will be \$25**. Click [here](#) for **online registration or a registration form to complete and mail in**. Online registration will close on Thursday, October 18. Payments by check must be received by Friday, October 19.

Light snacks and beverages will be provided. There will also be a break for lunch, **but lunch is on your own and will not be provided.**

### ***About the Speaker ...***

J. Mark LOWE, CG, FUGA is a full-time professional genealogist, author, and lecturer. Mark shares personal experiences that help beginning and experienced researchers gain new skills and insights for research. He specializes in Kentucky and Tennessee resources and researches primarily in original records and manuscripts throughout the South.

Mark lives in Robertson County, Tennessee, which is in northern Middle Tennessee along the Kentucky border. With family history in both states, a knowledge of the interaction of citizens along borders helps Mark resolve difficult issues using often overlooked records.

He also serves as a Course Coordinator for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) and Research in the South for IGHR at Samford University, and Director of the Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance), learning sessions and hands-on research focusing on original documents and manuscripts at regional archives. Mark has worked on several genealogical television series including *African American Lives 2*, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, and *UnXplained Events*.

Mark has published in the Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly (APGQ), National Genealogical Society Quarterly (NGSQ), the Genealogical Speakers' Guild SPEAK!, The Longhunter (So. Ky. Genealogical Society), The Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society Quarterly, and other local society publications. His own publications include Robertson County Tennessee Marriage Book 2, 1859-1873. He has served as the President of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), President for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and Vice President of the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG). He is the current Vice-President of the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society. Mark is a Certified Genealogist, a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Society, and was awarded the Graham T. Smallwood award by the Association of Professional Genealogists.

***We hope you will join us for this very special event!***



### **Editor's Corner**

If you missed last month's regular meeting, you missed a great opportunity to pick a lot of brains about a variety of topics. I'm sure we'll do "member-to-member" again, but this was a great opportunity. To those who were there, thank you for attending and we hope you gained some useful information.

You won't want to miss our "live" presentation of "Who Do You Think You Are?" featuring AGS members who have researched the family of KXAN's Jim SWIFT. This promises to be a most unusual program!

Our next meeting will also be the election of six members to the AGS Board of Directors. It's yet another good reason to attend this meeting.

The Mini-Seminar on the 20th of this month with Mark Lowe is going to be a super day. Mark is one of the most well-known and highly respected speakers in the nation. He is also very entertaining in his presentations. And getting to hear him talk on four separate topics is a phenomenally good deal. We hope you will make every effort to attend this event.

We'll soon be thinking about Christmas and our gift lists. You may want to consider a pioneer certificate. See page six about AGS certificates for Travis County, but *many* other states and counties also have certificates that would be appropriate for you and your family. These certificates can document their migration as families moved from east to west.

Until next time,

Happy Trackin',  
[Janis](#)

Click the icon to  
follow us on Facebook ...



Or let us hear from you  
with a [Tweet!](#)

### **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" 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

"Member-to-Member" Special Topic Tables  
presented by AGS members

**Tuesday, October 23rd**

**"Who Do You Think You Are" LIVE—featuring  
Jim SWIFT, well-known Austin KXAN-TV re-  
porter and personality as researched and pre-  
sented 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***

<b>Term Ending 2012:</b>	<b>Term Ending 2013:</b>
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 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Janis TRAYLER
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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.*

Published monthly except December  
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[newsletter@AustinTxGenSoc.org](mailto:newsletter@AustinTxGenSoc.org)

**Austin Genealogical Society**  
**P. O. Box 10010**  
**Austin, TX 78766-1010**

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

Monthly Meetings on 4<sup>th</sup> 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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