



Arlington Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 373, Arlington, TX 76004-0373

[Website-LINK](#) [Facebook-LINK](#)

May 2019 Newsletter

HyperLink list, and more MastHead data continued on page six

AGS Meeting TUESDAY, May, 14th, 2019 6:30 P.M.

Our meetings are held in the [re]Brary Community Rooms at the **George W. Hawkes** Downtown Library, 100 South Center St. Arlington, TX. The Arlington Genealogical Society meets on the second Tuesday monthly from September through June. All visitors are welcome. The meeting room is equipped with Hearing Loop technology, which allows those with telecoil equipped hearing aids to connect to the meeting room sound system.

Meeting Refreshments

Refreshment service begins at 6PM. The Arlington Public Library Staff have volunteered to furnish refreshments for our May meeting.

AGS Program May 2019,

The May program will be about using DNA test results, a very popular topic to family history researchers and genealogists. The program title is, *A DNA How to Workshop for Ancestry, Gedmatch and Family Tree DNA systems*. Since December AGS



member, Hank Hufham, has been offering no-cost, hands-on, practical instruction in how to use DNA research tools. At the May meeting Hank will present the PowerPoint introduction he uses to “kick-off” his workshops.

A Few Words from Your Society President

Last month we had a fun discussion about old cemeteries and how to go about rescuing them from overgrowth, some of the ways to clean headstones, and map out the cemetery.

Our May speaker is fellow AGS member, Hank Hufham, regarding the use of your DNA test results. He will discuss resources to use to better understand the DNA relationship of others who match with your results and how to use that information in your genealogical pursuits.

Our June program will be a brainstorming session to discuss the type of programs you, our members are most interested in, followed by a working session to help fellow members break down brick walls. Please look for an email in the next few days regarding the information needed for the Brick Walls program.

Our Officer Election committee will be presenting a list of candidates who have expressed interest in becoming an officer for next year. There is still time to add your name to the officer candidate slate. Please contact Sylvia Hoad or myself to add your name to the slate. Officer elections will be at our June meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at our next meeting!

Steve Brown

President, Arlington Genealogical Society

The following article was authored by AGS member, Robert "Bob" Flietz. Bob says, "I originally wrote this for my FB page a couple years ago, and touched it up [for publication in our newsletter.]"

A Genealogical BSO

*"O lovely Polly Stewart,
O charming Polly Stewart,
There's ne'er a flower that blooms in May,
That's half so fair as thou art!"*

So what has a song written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1791 to do with my German family genealogy?

On one of the genealogy blogs I recently heard of the "BSO" – bright shiny object – which is some factoid or tidbit of information that looks terribly interesting but is a distraction from more important research tasks. BSOs are tons of fun, but generally consume several hours of research time to no measurable advantage. We've all wasted time on BSOs.

One appeared while reading a biography of poet Burns. It seems the eponymous Polly Stewart, daughter of a friend of Burns, made what the author called "an unfortunate connection with a French prisoner named Fleitz." She left Scotland with him, and that's about all he said about it.

French? Prisoner? Named Fleitz? A little Internet sleuthing revealed that Polly's lover was a Swiss officer serving in Napoleon's army. Somehow, he had found himself a prisoner of war, on parole in Scotland, where he met Polly. In 1813 everyone thought the Napoleonic Wars were over, Lieutenant Fleitz was exchanged and free to go home, and took Polly with him. Interesting tale but not much to go on.

Fast forward about six months. Another genealogy blog mentioned several books available for free on the net, one being a register of Napoleonic era prisoners of war. My BSO came back to mind, I looked into the register and there he was - Oberleutnant Leopold Fleitz. (Here is a lesson for genealogists - keep copies of everything. A week later I could not find that register on the net.)

A few more clicks took me to Google Books and the Internet Archive - both terrific resources, by the way - and two new sources. One was the 1883-84 "Proceedings and Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society," much like a modern genealogical society journal, with an article about the story behind the

poem written for the lovely Polly Stewart. Mary "Polly" Stewart was the daughter of a friend of Burns at Maxwelltown in Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Born about 1775, she was a teenager when the great Burns met her in 1791, but her later life was not very happy. She married twice, the first time to a cousin who "had to leave the country under a cloud, and dared not return," leaving behind Polly and three children. You have to wonder about *that* story. She married again to a wealthy local farmer, had two daughters, but that marriage also failed. By now in her thirties, she was back living with her father by 1808 or so, and this is where the handsome French officer comes into the picture.

The second source was a volume of German biographical sketches written in 1843. If my translation of the old-style German typeface is about right, it seems Leopold Fleitz was born in Laufenburg, canton Aargau, Switzerland in 1785, and studied law at the University of Freiburg. In the spirit of the times he instead chose a military career, and in 1807 accepted a commission in a Swiss regiment in the French Army and went off to fight the Redcoats in Spain. He was captured in 1808 at the disastrous Battle of Bailèn (which is near, well, it's not near anything. It's about 70 miles north of Granada in southern Spain) and sent as a prisoner of war to Scotland. Being an officer and gentleman, he pretty much had the freedom of the town. He couldn't leave town, of course, until properly exchanged, which happened in 1813 with the fall of Napoleon. Somehow, he and Polly "hooked up," as it were, and when he went home to Switzerland, he took Polly with him. The five children stayed behind.

Leopold joined one of Louis XVIII's new Swiss units, and in 1816 he was a captain in the 4th Grenadier Regiment, where he remained until 1830. During his service he was awarded the French Legion of Honor and the Swiss Service Medal. Returning to Laufenburg, he commanded a militia battalion and in 1833 was Commandant of the district of Laufenburg. He died in 1841. Unhappy Polly was gradually reduced to poverty, lived in France and in Florence with relatives, ended up in an insane asylum and died in 1847, having survived all her children but with no grandchildren.

So, am I related to Leopold Fleitz? The Aargau region of Switzerland is not too far from Artolsheim in Alsace (France) and Sasbach am Kaiserstuhl, Baden (Germany), from where branches of my Fleitz family come. I have to think there's a

connection, just based on the geography. But I don't know. At the moment he is a BSO, a distraction, on which I've wasted about ten hours researching, translating, and finally writing this note. But it is a good story. I wonder what happened to the Legion of Honor medal? Polly probably hocked it.

AGS Officers

President * * * * * Steven Brown
First VP * * * * * Dorothy Rencurrel
Second VP * * * * * Sylvia Hoad
Secretary * * * * * Kim Dorsey
Treasurer * * * * * Jan Penland
Parliamentarian * * * * * Cherry Williams

AGS Committees

Standing Committees:

Membership * * * * * Quenna Cox, Chair
Collection Development Mary Ann Conrad, Chair
Finance * * * * * Jeanne Rives, Chair
Publicity * * * * * Pete Jacobs, Chair
Web Page Admin * * John D. Anderson
Photographer * * * * * Wally Goodman

Special Committees:

Genealogy Resources * * * Larry Howser, Chair
Nominating * * * * * Sylvia Hoad

Committee News

Nominating, Sylvia Hoad, Chair. The nominating committee was activated during the March members meeting. AGS officer nominating forms are appended to this newsletter as page 7. Nomination forms will also be available at the May and June members meetings. Election of Officers is scheduled for the June members meeting.

Collection Development, Mary Ann Conrad, Chair, asks members to keep in mind that your genealogy reference needs have the ear of Mary Ann's committee. Share your research focus with the committee so they can shop for genealogy research books with your areas of interest in mind.

At the end of 2017 the Committee purchased and donated an extensive selection of genealogy "how to" books which are now available to library patrons. Seven of the books in that purchase were pre-ordered. This book is the very popular, *Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* by Blaine T. Bettinger. His 2019 update has a

release date of 30 July, and when donated to the APL an email notice will be sent to AGS members.

Membership, Quenna Cox, Chair, reminds us our Society dues are calendar year driven. Thus, renewals are due during December, however it is never too late or too early to renew. When you do, please complete and submit an updated membership form and family research names. The new member and membership renewal count at the end of March stood at 70 members. A membership form is appended as the last page to this newsletter, and on our website.

Finance, Jeanne Rives, Chair. The committee met and discussed filing the IRS 990N Form. AGS total gross receipts for 2018 puts the AGS in the form 990N filing category for non-profit entities required to file federal taxes. The filing deadline is 15 May. Steven Brown filed electronically on 23 April, and the IRS form 990N filing acknowledgment has been placed on file.

Publicity, Pete Jacobs, Chair. The committee is always on the lookout for new material. Recent published examples are the Steven Brown and the Bob Flietz articles. When you encounter anything of genealogical interest please don't hesitate to send the info my way.

General Genealogy Information

One of Italy's more famous citizens has garnered a lot of news and magazine coverage this Spring. The following is taken from an article at Smithsonian-mag.com. A lock of hair held by a private collector in the United States may be the key to mapping Leonardo da Vinci's DNA. As Alessandro Vezzosi, director of the Ideale Leonardo da Vinci Museum in the artist's hometown of Vinci, and Agnese Sabato, president of the Leonardo da Vinci Heritage Foundation, explain in a statement, "We found, across the Atlantic, a lock of hair historically tagged '*Les Cheveux de Leonardo da Vinci*'" French for "Leonardo da Vinci's hair." Vezzosi adds, "This historical relic ... has long remained hidden in an American collection. It will now be exposed for the first time, along with documents attesting [to] its ancient French provenance."

According to the *Guardian's* Angela Giuffrida, Vezzosi and Sabato will present the singular strand to the public during a [May 2nd] press conference held at Vinci's Leonardiana Library. Timed to

coincide with the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death, which occurred on May 2, 1519, the ceremony will mark the "official start" of scientific investigations into the hair's origins. To read the full article and related content about known descendants of Leonardo, visit [vinci-Link](#).

Some APL Genealogy and Local History room Resources



Use an APL Chromebook, two are available



Use the large format multi-function scanner

Online Genealogy Information

There is a new Facebook Group forming headed by a few very knowledgeable and experienced Genealogists. They are: [Drew Smith](#), the genealogy librarian for the University of South Florida Library in Tampa; [George G. Morgan](#), of Genealogy Guys fame, an internationally recognized genealogy expert, lecturer, and author; [Cyndi Ingle](#), the creator of the award-winning Cyndi's List; and [Blaine T. Bettinger, Ph.D. J.D.](#), an internationally recognized genetic genealogy expert, lecturer, and author. Quoting from a recent Dick Eastman newsletter, "The mission of the Genealogy Squad Facebook group is to provide a positive space for the sharing of appropriate and reliable methods and resources to assist genealogists at all levels. [They] focus on answering questions and solving problems, while demonstrating best practices in all aspects of

genealogical research." More details here [genysquad-LINK](#).

Just today I [your editor] received an email from "Big Name Genealogy Co." with an offer for free "this" and free "that." My first reaction was, how nice, I'll share this offer with the membership via our AGS email list. On closer reading I noticed a simple typo in the subject line. I hovered my cursor over the "this" and "that" links and read URLs that had nothing to do with "Big Name Genealogy Co." I quickly changed my mind about doing a forward and placed a help line call to the "Big Name" support team. Needless to say, MarkC, with the support team, quickly confirmed my suspicions that I was reading a SPAM email. Since that SPAM email was disguised well enough to slip past SPAM filters, MarkC, asked for a forwarded copy to analyze. And then, I quickly erased that "Big Name Genealogy Co." SPAM email. Whew! that was a close call.

AGS Society Programs

Looking toward the rest of 2019 and future AGS programs our President, Steven Brown, is asking members what kind of programs or topics they would like to see scheduled. Steven will hold a brainstorming session during the 11 June meeting to gather your suggestions or ideas for future AGS programs.

AGS Future Programs:

June 2019, the program will be an open discussion session about breaking down your genealogy research "brick walls".

Month in 2019 to be announced, *Become a Mapaholic*, Tresa Tatyrek

AGS April Program Recap

Steven Brown presented an informative presentation about clearing and mapping a historical pioneer cemetery, namely the "Old Shiloh Cemetery" in San Saba County, TX. The cemetery is registered with the Texas Historical Commission. It was heavily overgrown with vegetation, and proved to be quite a challenge to the group of volunteers led by Steven. Steven has family roots in San Saba County, and gravesite information is a valuable resource for researching family history. Steve's talk left the audience with a fresh insight and new appreciation for honoring the final resting places of our ancestors.

Upcoming Genealogy Events in Arlington and the Arlington Public Libraries

The hands on “button pressing” workshop sessions guided by local DNA expert, Hank Hufham, will continue with the next workshop Thursday evening, May 16th.

APL Summertime Genealogy Programs

The Arlington Public Library at the Downtown location is presenting three special genealogy programs over the summer season. They are: in June, *Genealogy - Hitting Paydirt in Manuscript Collections*, to be presented by Ari Wilkins on Tuesday, June 25th; in July, *I’ve Got—Or I’m Getting—My DNA Report: Now What Do I Do?*, to be presented by Patti Gillespie on Tuesday, July 29th; and, in August, *Hands on Genealogy Database Training*, to be presented by Mark Dellenbaugh on Tuesday, August 6th. Check the online Library calendar pages for details, [aplcsl-LINK](#).

APL Fall 2019

APL Genealogy and Local History Librarian, Mark Dellenbaugh, announced a return to monthly genealogy research classes instead of the Saturday workshops. Those classes will be scheduled monthly in the evening on the fourth Tuesday of September, October and November. The September class, *Genealogy Research – Tools and Strategies*, will introduce the APL databases and the print collection plus an overview of research approaches.

Family History Seminar

The Arlington and Burleson Stakes co-hosted a family history seminar Saturday, April 13th. Seminar coordinator, David Crumpton, was pleased with the turnout to hear local presenters and selected pre-recorded sessions. The Arlington Public Library and the AGS co-sponsored an information table. Thank You! to AGS members Larry Houser, Steven Brown, Hank Hufham and Quenna Cox for volunteering at the information table.

Genealogy Events in our Local Area

UTA Special Collections:

* Opened the 1st week of May, and running through mid-August, *The Story of the Century: 100 Years of The Shorthorn*. A look back at the history of UTA's campus newspaper, *The Shorthorn*.

Cedar Hill Genealogy Society:

*Meets monthly in the Cedar Hill Library, 225 Cedar Street, Cedar Hill, TX, 6:30 PM. The May program, on Thursday, May 09th, 2019, will be, *Navigating Wills and Probates on Ancestry, An Ancestry.com webinar*, featuring Anne Gillespie Mitchell.

Fort Worth Genealogy Society:

* General meeting on Tuesday, May 28th, 6:30pm to 7:45pm, Ft Worth Central Library in the Tandy Lecture Hall. The May program has yet to be announced.

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society:

*Monthly meeting on Thursday, June 6th, 6:30pm in the Grand Prairie Memorial Library, featuring Suzanne Fritz, speaking on - *Finding Native American Ancestors: Recommended Resources and Research Tips*.

Grapevine Name Droppers:

*Informal meeting on May 14th, 10:30 am to 12 noon, in the Grapevine Public Library programs room featuring, Tresa Tatyrek, and her presentation is, *Writing Your Own Obituary*.

Mid Cities Genealogical Society:

*General meeting, Thursday, June 6th, 6:30 pm at a new location during the Library remodel. The Euless Municipal Courtroom, 1102 W Euless Blvd. (Hwy. 10), in Euless. The June program has yet to be announced.

Dallas Genealogical Society:

*The 2019 Summer Seminar will take place August 3rd from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm. Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist, is the featured speaker.

*The next General meeting will be in September at the Dallas Public Library.

*Eight DGS Special Interest Groups meet monthly or quarterly.

Arlington Historical Society

Dave Lieber, the Dallas Morning News consumer affairs columnist, will be speaking. He's a funny guy, and at *Arlington on Tap* he'll be focusing on his transition to becoming something like a yankee cowboy. On May 14th, 6 to 8PM, hear it at Legal Draft, 500 E. Front St. [ahs-LINK](#) .

From **THE ARLINGTON JOURNAL**
Arlington's home town newspaper for 98 years
[1897-1995]. The year is 1930, in this "local news"
republished feature with selected articles copied
from Will Keller's book, *THE ARLINGTON
JOURNAL*, with permission, APL call # GEN REF
TX.5 K 1925 – 1933 v.3.

Friday, September 5, The old residents of this community regretted very much to see one of the oldest land marks of this community burn down on last Thursday morning about the early hour of one o'clock, that being the "Old Randol Mill," which has stood on the south bank of the Trinity River just a short way west of the Hurst crossing. The old Mill was first built in Fort Worth some fifty years ago, where it stood a few short years then moved to the location where it burned. The mill was in active use as a flour mill until about ten years ago and then was used only for grinding corn up until the death of the owner, Mr. R. A. Randol, about six years ago. The old waterwheel may still be seen on the water's edge, but the remainder of the machinery is a mass of burned and twisted iron. Some parts of the machinery were sold and moved about two years ago. The gin division of the mill has not been in operation since the war [WWI].

The grass surrounding the mill was still wet from the light shower on last Wednesday afternoon, therefore the old store house some hundred yards away was left standing and was filled with newly baled straw. The old mill building was so well built of [hardwood] there was fire for forty-eight consecutive hours. Wrought iron square nails were used for the frame oak building, thus insuring more firmness. The origin of the fire is yet unknown.

Friday, October 3, At a meeting of the directors of the Jockey Club yesterday it is said it was definitely decided to have another big horse race meet at Arlington Downs beginning Nov. 1, and lasting ten days until Nov. 11. Further particulars of this meet are not available at this time but the people of Arlington are confident it will be put on in a big way because when Col. Waggoner and his sons go into an undertaking it is always put over. The meet here last year drew a large crowd from all section of the United States as well as the best horses in the country that competed for large purses hung up by the Waggoners.

Closing Note

The AGS Newsletter welcomes individual contributions. Your comments, suggestions and contributions are sincerely appreciated. The editor, Pete Jacobs.

Hyperlink List

Web site hyperlinks listed in this newsletter may not appear as active links in some software apps that have this feature disabled due to increased cybersecurity protocols. If a link is not active you will need to copy it from the list below, and paste it into the web address field of your browser.

Internet hyperlinks that appear in this newsletter are abbreviated, such as . . . [website-LINK](#). The following is a full text listing of each abbreviated hyperlink.

1st Page:

[website-LINK](#), <http://arlingtongenealogytx.org/>
[facebook-LINK](#),
<https://www.facebook.com/arlingtongenealogytx/>

2nd Page: None

3rd Page: None

4th Page:

[vinci-Link](#), <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/dna-analysis-could-prove-if-lock-hair-belonged-leonardo-da-vinci-180972067/#J6GI0OP1Qej3IOfx.99>
[genysquad-LINK](#),

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogysquad>

5th Page:

[apcal-LINK](#),
<https://arlingtonlibrary.evanced.info/signup/Calendar>
[ahs-LINK](#), <http://www.historicalarlington.org/index.html>

6th Page:

[mailto:AGS-Link](#),
<mailto:contactus@arlingtongenealogytx.org>
And as listed above.

MASTHEAD DATA continued from page 1

The Arlington Genealogical Society (AGS) was established on October 27, 1970 and incorporated on May 18, 1971. AGS is a federal and state approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation relying wholly on member volunteers at all levels within the corporation.

Your charitable donations to the AGS are tax deductible as allowed by law. The AGS Tax ID # or EIN is 90-0890150.

The AGS Newsletter is published monthly [except July and August] by the AGS, and distribution is by digital means to each AGS dues paying member's email address.

Postal inquiries to: P. O. Box 373, Arlington, TX 76004-0373

Email inquiries: [mailto:AGS-Link](#)

The current and prior AGS Newsletters are also available on the Society website. [website-LINK](#)
AGS on Social Media. [facebook-LINK](#)

An appended page follows: AGS Membership Application form.

AGS Nominating Committee

A nomination for AGS President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian [circle one].

Your nominee must be an AGS member in good standing.

Nominee Name:

I nominate this person for the following reason(s): [Optional]

I have talked with this person and have his or her permission to make this nomination. ___ Yes ___ No

This nomination submitted by AGS Member:
(print) _____

Please return this form to an AGS Nominating Committee member, Sylvia Hoad, or Steven Brown prior to or during the 14 May, 2019, meeting, or no later than the final call for nominations at the 11 June, 2019, meeting.



Arlington Genealogical Society

Membership Form

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Renewal New Member Date: _____

Individual: \$15 _____ Family: \$20 _____

Please make check payable to Arlington Genealogical Society

Mail form with payment to:
 AGS PO Box 373, Arlington, Texas 76004-0373

Surnames you are researching:

| Surname | State | County | Surname | State | County |
|---------|-------|--------|---------|-------|--------|
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The Arlington Genealogical Society meets the second Tuesday of months September through June at 6:30 PM in the new George W. Hawkes downtown Library in one of the community meeting rooms.