



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

GKSC To Visit Comfort April 5

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Boerne, Texas

Ann Stewart, a member of the Comfort Heritage Foundation will speak to members of GSKC at the Heritage Foundation building, 640 High St., Saturday, April 5. "This is a good opportunity for members to view the historical objects on display by the Foundation, and to learn more about its archives", said Don Evans, Vice-president and program chairman. Also speaking will be Ruth Kiel, president of the Heritage Foundation.

Frank and Ruth Kiel have produced a series of self-guided tours in booklet and CD format about historical sites and drives in and around Comfort. They spoke at a recent meeting of the Boerne Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

There will be no business meeting, but a GSKC no host luncheon will be held at the Hen House Restaurant following our visit to the Center. Reservations are being taken by Don Evans for those interested in attending this spring social. Email Don at vmtmmm@gvct.com if you plan to attend the luncheon.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in Comfort. Those interested in



Students Bertie Reynolds, Mary Griffes, Mary Oster, Alice Klein and Gladys Kuebel look over books on display during a break at the Genealogy Course sponsored by GSKC. Classes meet for six consecutive weeks and teach how to do research from court houses to the Internet.

car-pooling from Boerne will leave at 9:30 a.m. from the Phillips Center parking lot (behind the Old Boerne Star Building on Main Street). If you are interested in participating in the car pool by driving, or as a rider, please let Don Evans know.

This is also the weekend of Com-

fort's Spring Trade Days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Comfort Park. This will include Irish storytelling by Jane McDaniel, who has held the U.S. National Irish Storytelling Championship and an ongoing Music Fest will feature singers and bands from the surrounding area.

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 31

Tombstone Project Meeting
2 pm, BPL

Saturday, April 5

GSKC Visits Comfort
See story for details

Thursday, April 17

Computer Genies
Census Workshop

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Computer Genies to Hold Census Workshop

The Computer Genies area launching their new daytime meeting sessions with a Census Workshop on Thursday, April 17 at 1 p.m. in the meeting room at the Boerne Public Library, announced Irene Page, chairman of the Computer Genie group. Attendees are encouraged to bring their WIFI capable laptop

computers for their own use, and to share with those who need hands-on experience in searching the census.

This workshop, designed as a follow-up for students of the 2008 Genealogy Course, will be conducted by Harry and Mary Alice Dell. They will be aided by other

members who are skilled in census searching. Following a presentation on census searching techniques, consultants will aid individuals in locating their ancestors in census records.

The Computer Genies will continue to meet the 3rd Thursday afternoon of each month.

“Two Bits” from the President

What a great diverse group we have taking the genealogy course this year. Not only do we have many alumni returning to refresh their knowledge, but a great many students new to genealogy and new to our genealogy community.

We always enjoy spreading the genealogy germ and watching as newbies become infected. We are as excited as they are as they discover new research skills and new information about their ancestors.

As a result of the Myfamily.com site, which is a combination method of disseminating news and blogging, this class has grown closer than past groups. I think all of us will feel a bit sad when the last class rolls around. We are hopeful that many, if not all, of the students will become permanent members of the GSKC family, even those who live as far away as San Marcos and Fredericksburg.

We salute Erle Adrian who is turning his digital photography hobby into a needed genealogical project. We invite all of you who have a digital camera to join him in photographing the tombstones in the Boerne Cemetery.

Do you have any photographs taken in the Historic Kendall County courthouse after 1909 and before its later remodeling? The KC Historical Commission is looking for interior pictures, particularly ones show-



John Oldham, student, and Harry Dell, GSKC Genealogy Course instructor, chat during break between sessions.

ing the courtroom as a background. Now that the County has been approved for a grant to restore the courthouse to its appearance in 1909, architects are looking for more pictures to show them exactly how it once appeared.

The Commission is also looking for furniture of that era and would really like to find some of the original furniture to place in the restored courthouse. Contact me if you have any pictures or furniture, or know anyone who might have some.

We are looking forward to learning about the Comfort Heritage Foundation collection next weekend. Comfort is a unique community and an important part of Kendall County's past and present.

Genealogy Course in Fourth Week

Forty-eight students enrolled in the 2008 GSKC Course, *Genealogy - Today and Tomorrow*, taught by Harry and Mary Alice Dell and now in the fourth week of study. Some are returning alumni from a previous course, but the majority is new to genealogy or are more experienced researchers seeking additional information, but new to the GSKC course.

As members of the class, each student also became a member of the GSKC Researchers, a MyFamily.com web site established for the purpose of communication between students and teachers. Here, homework is posted, as

well as new web site discoveries and research technique data. Each student posts their own picture and personal information they wish to share. They can even participate in genealogy polls and make comments on subjects introduced by others.

Homework, ranging from making a pedigree chart to transcribing an old handwritten deed to finding ancestors who have military service are keeping the students busy between classes.

Not all students live locally as some come from Kerrville, Centerpoint, Fredericksburg, San Marcos and other outlying areas.

Schweitzer to Speak at Seminar

Dr. George K. Schweitzer has accepted GSKC's offer to speak at the 5th Annual Hill Country Family History Seminar, scheduled for Feb 7, 2009 according to Christy Kestler, 2009 Chairman. Many GSKC members are familiar with Dr. Schweitzer through his video tapes viewed at past GSKC meetings, or have attended his lectures in other areas.

Dr. Schweitzer is also the author of an excellent series of handbooks on doing research in individual states, Germany and the Civil, Revolutionary wars and the War of 1812. The complete set is in the GSKC library.

Dr. Schweitzer will also speak at a dinner held the evening before for seminar attendees and their spouses.

Tombstone Pix Shooters to Meet

Members interested in participating in the Boerne Cemetery tombstone digital photographing project are invited to the first meeting of this group on Monday, March 31 at 2 p.m. in the meeting room of the Boerne Public Library. "We will be discussing how to photograph a tombstone, the procedures for assigning sections, the collection and organization of the completed photographs, and possible use of GPS" said Erle Adrian, chairman of the project. Cathy Swartz, the Kendall County GenWeb webmaster, will be present to answer questions about coordinating the photos with the cemetery index now on the website.

Missing a Copy of the Journal?

We have extra copies of the 2006 Fall/Winter Keys to the Past, the semi-annual GSKC genealogical publication, and the 2007 Spring/Summer edition. If you did not get a copy and would just like to have one, please email Mary Alice Dell madel35@gvtc.com and she will mail one to you.

Don Evans is collecting materials for the combined Fall 2007 / Spring 2008 edition. It should be ready for distribution at the May GSKC meeting. If you have material to submit for this edition, contact Don now.

GSKC Loses Long Time Member as Frankie Glenn Passes Away



Frankie Davis Barr Glenn, age 83, long time member of GSKC, passed away Thursday, March 13, 2008. She was a recipient of four First Family Founders certificates for her Kendall County ancestors Wm G. Sansom and his wife, Mary Short, and Carl Wenzel and his wife Caroline Meier. Frankie was a proud member of the George W. Kendall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, having proven three Revolutionary War patriots. She was working on her papers to become a member of Colonial Dames. She was also a member of the Daugh-

ters of the Republic of Texas.

Frankie was born and raised in Boerne, the daughter of Frank and Amelia Davis. In 1942, she married James L. Barr and moved to New York where she sang and played her guitar at the Naval Base Hospital in World War II for servicemen. She returned to Texas and in 1949 married Dan C. Glenn, her husband of 55 years. Dan, also a GSKC member, passed away in May 2005.

Over the years, Frankie was an active member of several community organizations, including both the Bandera and Borne Chambers of Commerce, where she received a Volunteer of the Year award. She

was instrumental in changing the bookkeeping system for the Rainbow Senior Center, and taught the AARP Defensive Driving Course for many years. Frankie authored three books: *Capt'n John, Reminiscences, and Frontier Forces*. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brothers George, Arthur and William Davis, and sister, Viola. She is survived by son, James R. Barr and three daughters, Donna Brown, Dorothy Schneider and Dicy Ormiston and their families.



Minutes of the March 2008 GSKC Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M. in the meeting room of the Boerne Public Library by President Mary Alice Dell. President Dell led the group in the Pledge to the United States flag followed by the Pledge to the Texas flag. Guests and new members were introduced including Ann Klein by her sister Gladys Kuebel, Judy McVay, Bertie Reynolds, John Oldham, Dee Lehman, Jim and Mary Griffes, all new members of the GSKC. Guests introduced were Laura English and John Barthel.

The minutes of the February, 2008 meeting were approved as published in the March Newsletter. Treasurer Terri James reported the checking account had a balance of \$4,188.20 and \$3,500.00 has been transferred to a certificate of deposit. The savings account now has a balance of \$5,661.21.

President Dell reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee February 14. Christy Kestler was confirmed as the 2009 Seminar Committee with the Tom Page as Assistant Chairman. Due to the illness and resignation of June Kiphart as editor, publication of the *Keys to Past* has been delayed. The Executive Committee will oversee the combined Fall 2007/ Spring 2008 issue with Don Evans as temporary editor. Bryden Moon has prepared an article for the journal on First Family members. Mary Alice asked all members to submit their pedigrees to Don Evans for publication in the journal, pointing out that

these will be indexed in PERSI, as are all articles in the journal, and will have a nationwide audience.

Tombstone Project.



Mary Alice announced a new project has been proposed to photograph, with digital cameras, the tombstones in the Boerne cemetery. Mary Alice and Erle Adrian, who has expressed interest in this project, will call a meeting in the near future for those members who are interested in discussing the idea. New member Alice Klein expressed an interest in helping.

Don Evans will serve as temporary treasurer for a few weeks in Terri James's absence, and Mary Alice will take over the Membership Chairman duties while Alexis Markert is away. Lucy Croft will serve as Corresponding Secretary. The Executive Committee discussed a new procedure for sending thank you notes to donors.

The Computer Genies met Feb 28 with 15 members present and heard about blogs and networking. Kari Geiger, Historian, reported the current scrapbook that was started in 2004 is now complete through 2007. She is working on 2008 events in a new one.

Don Evans reported further on the progress of the journal. He mentioned he is seeking permission to print an interesting article on Kendall County that was found in another journal. He invited others who see an interesting article to let him know about it. Don urged members to send in queries, and Harry Dell stated that queries printed in the journal will be indexed in PERSI.

Committee Reports. Jack Charles introduced new Library Volunteer Christy Kestler. He encouraged others to become a volunteer and announced a new roster and schedule will soon be distributed. The annual LV luncheon will be on March 30 at the Adrian home. Bertie Reynolds asked if there were odd times she could volunteer without having a regular schedule, and Jack explained the volunteer system of training and work hours.

Christy Kestler, Seminar Committee Chairman, reported Dr. George Schweitzer has been invited to speak at the 2009 seminar scheduled for February 6 and 7. He will be sending a contract for us to consider. She said a vendors chairman is needed. Tom Page is Assistant Chairman. Ruth Taylor will be the Registrar and Sybil Jones is heading the Goody Bag Committee. Other members of the Seminar committee are Ed and Mary Lou Mergele, Irene Page, Paulette Thompson, Don Evans, Lucy Croft, Alexis Markert, and Harry and Mary Alice Dell.

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The Genealogical Society of Kendall County Newsletter

Mary Alice Dell, President - madel35@gvtc.com
 Don Evans, Vice President
 Gwen Adrian, Recording Secretary
 Alexis Markert, Corresponding Secretary
 Terri James, Treasurer
 Lucy Croft, Librarian

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Old Business. There was no old business.

New Business. President Dell read the recommendation of the Executive Committee to amend the wording of Section III (a) of the Standing Rules to clarify its meaning by removing the dash and inserting the word "to" so the Section now reads: *Classification levels for those who donate monies to the Society shall be as follows: Donor - \$25.00 to \$50.00; Sponsor - \$50.00 to*

\$100.00; Patron - \$100.00 or more. Jack Charles moved to accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Christy Kestler. The motion passed. The amendment will appear in the next publication of the Standing Rules.

The membership directory, assembled by Christy and printed by her husband, Abb Kestler, was distributed to members at the meeting. The remainder will be mailed to members who were not in attendance.

Don Evans announced the next meeting will be April 5 in Comfort at the Heritage Foundation. The speaker will be Ann Stewart from Comfort who will speak on local history. The speaker for the May meeting will be David Bowles whose subject will be: *You've Done the Genealogy—Now What?*

Mary Alice announced the speakers for the Williamson County Genealogical Society Seminar to be held on March 15, in Round Rock, and for the San Antonio Genealogical Society meeting on the same day. After the break, Harry and Mary Alice Dell presented

Local Websites change URL Addresses

Many of the US GenWeb projects have moved off of the rootsweb website as a result of a new policy adopted by Generations, the owners of Ancestry, Rootsweb, Family Tree Maker, and other genealogy related endeavors. Cathy Swartz, Kendall County GenWeb webmaster, has followed the lead of the Texas Gen Web. The new URL is <http://www.txgenweb.org/tkendall/>.

The website of GSKC remains, at least for now, with rootsweb which sponsors the site at no charge. However, the url has changed and now reads <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc/>. Both the Kendall Gen Web and GSKC site can be accessed by going to the Boerne Public Library home page and clicking on the link to the History/Genealogy room. Links on the page will take you to either of these sites, as well as other worthwhile sites.

a program *Introduction to Genealogical Research*, attended by members, members of the upcoming genealogy course, and other guests. Forty six people signed the attendance roster.

Respectfully submitted by Erle Adrian,
 Acting Secretary March 2, 2008



February 2008 Acquisitions

Abbeville District, South Carolina Newspaper Notices of Land Cases and Sales 1836-1872 by Lowry Ware

Abstracts of Old Ninety-six and Abbeville District Wills and Bonds by Willie Pauline Young.

Arkansas Marriage Notices, 1819-1845 by James L. Morgan

Attala County, Mississippi Pioneers by Betty Couch Wilshire

Births, 1720-1792 from Bristol Parish by John Boddie

***Births, Deaths and Sponsors, 1717-1778**

Are you reading the *The Family Historian* column in the Boerne Star? It is published the 3rd Friday, and also available for a month in the online edition at <http://www.boernestar.com/articles/2008/03/28/news/life/life21.txt>

from the Albemarle Parish Register of Surry and Sussex Counties Virginia by John Boddie Memorial honoring Edgar Schwarz, Jr.

Catalogue of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of the colony of Connecticut by R.R. Hinman

A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestants Immigrants to South Carolina,

1763-1773 by Janie Revill

Documents, Chiefly Unpublished, Huguenot Emigration to Virginia by R.A. Brock

A Directory of British Peerages by Frances L. Leeson

Early Georgia Wills and Settlements of Estates by Sarah Q. Smith

Early Marriage Records of Pennsylvania Churches by Richard Williams

Early Massachusetts Marriages Prior to 1800 by Frederic

Early St. Clair County, Alabama Records by C.P. McGuire

Early Virginia Immigrants, 1623-1666 by George Greer

East Tennessee History, Volume B by Sam McDowell

Epitaph and Icon, A Field Guide to the Burying Grounds of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket by Diana Hume George and Malcolm A. Nelson

(To Be Continued next month)