



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Find Your Ancestors in Republic of Texas!

Many of us would like to do that and have no idea where to start looking. Teri E. Flack will solve that mystery for us at the April GSKC meeting, Saturday, April 16.

There will be change of venue again this month as the meeting will be held at Luther Hall, which is on Turner St. across from St. John Lutheran Church, 315 Rosewood Ave.

Teri will explain the various Texas land grants and where to find them, as well as other sources for early Texas records.

A 6th generation Texan, Teri has been researching her family history for over 25 years. She incorporates that research into her presentation. She is an active member of several genealogical societies. She is the Treasurer of the Austin Genealogical Society and the chairman of the Texas



State Genealogical Society's Records Preservation and Access Committee. She formerly served on the board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

Teri completed the Advanced Methodology Course at the National Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University and the National Institute for Genealogical Research at the National

Archives in Washington, DC. She's a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Teri retired in May, 2009 after working for the state of Texas for over 26 years – most recently as Special Advisor to the Commissioner of Higher Education and Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education. Previously, she was Director of Governmental Relations and Public Information for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Chief Investigator for the Texas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. Teri holds a B. S. in Education with History major, an MBA, and a graduate Paralegal Certificate from Southwest Texas State University. Teri returned to Texas State University in fall 2010 to pursue a Master's in History with a concentration in Public History.

Volume 5, Issue 4
April 2011

The Family History Place
725 N. Main St. Ste. 3
Boerne, TX 78006

Upcoming Events

April 16, 2011

GSKC Meeting

"Finding Your Ancestors in the Republic of Texas"

St. John Lutheran Church

May 21, 2011

GSKC Meeting

Boerne Convention Center

June 9, 14, 15

Kids Family History Camp

Members Enjoy Extravaganza Booth Success

GSKC's participation in Hill Country Extravaganza at the Kendall County Fairgrounds March 25-26 was a success, according to event chairman Harry Dell. Hundreds of people passed the GSKC booth Friday evening and Saturday. Mini flyers entitled "Who Do You Think You Are" were given to anyone who came near by GSKC volunteers. A computer was available to look up ancestors in the 1930 census for those interested. The chair where the visitors sat was rarely vacant on Saturday. and sometimes people were waiting their turn. Other members participating were Jim & Carol Westermeier; John Vogt; Ron Reisinger; Christina Picioccio; LaVerne Peterson; Kelsey Ray Passafuma; Tom Page; Irene Page; Mary Lou Mergele; Ed Mergele; Nancy McLarry; Mary Lunt; Floyd Lunt; Gladys Kuebel; Mary Alice Dell and Stu Adamslundy.



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Gwen's Gems

By President Gwen Adrian April 2011

Greetings, Dear GSKC Members! Springtime is officially here, and the wildflowers are heroically brightening our world in spite of no rain. With Spring comes the first (annual, I hope) GSKC trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, for a visit to the genealogists' mecca, the Latter-day Saint's Family History Library. Fourteen of our members are going on the trip. I know that there are others who wanted to go but could not, and I am hoping that they will be able to go next year. You may be sure that we will tell you

all about the trip when we return.

GSKC has had wonderful programs at our meetings this year, including a double program by Librarian Bruce Mergele. In March, Bruce spoke of restoring old and treasured books and of the Turtle Creek Cemetery near Kerrville. Two very special programs will complete our springtime series. On April 16th, Teri Flack from Austin will speak on "Finding your ancestors in the Republic of Texas." On page 1 of this newsletter, Mary Alice tells you about Teri's talk. We heard her speak on the topic at the Texas State Genealogical Society meeting in November, and her presentation about early Texas history will be interesting to all – even those who do not have deep Texas roots. On May 21st, our season will be topped off by a presentation by historian, author, GSKC Director, long-time Kendall County resident, and sage, Ed Mergele. Ed will speak about a trip similar to one many of our German ancestors took to Texas from the Rhineland; the talk will be based on his book *Alsace to Texas*. As I understand, the book will be for sale at the presentation.

Springtime 2011 also brings thoughts of how the wonderful members of GSKC rallied last summer in support of a move to our new Family History Place and made that move possible. Our Society is going strong now with more members than we had at this time last year. All are enjoying the Place – a place for visiting with friends as well as helping people learn more about their ancestors. Our one year lease ends on August 31st, and to develop a more long term plan for the future we will have a meeting of a financial advisory committee at the beginning of May. If you would like to serve on the committee or have recommendations for the committee, please let me know. I am enthusiastic about the future of GSKC and working with the members is a great pleasure. Best wishes always, Gwen Adrian

Necrology

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of long time member Richard Winegar on March 29, 2011. He was born in Omaha, Neb., on Feb. 10, 1938.

He retired to Boerne in 2001. He loved Texas history and was an avid reader and book collector. He was keenly interested in the genealogy of his family and spent several years researching his roots.



and was a sportswriter for the Citizen News for a number of years.

He was a member and deacon of Central Christian Church of San Antonio, where he served in the Stephen Ministry and was a Sunday School teacher. He was also a faithful member of Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) for 15 years; and a member of the Senior Maranatha Choir at First Baptist Church. He served regularly with Meals on Wheels in Boerne and was an avid supporter of the Boerne Village Band. He was an active member of the Rainbow Senior Center at Kronkosky Place.

Richard served 8 years in the US Marine Corp and Reserves, and was a graduate of the University of Houston. His career was in sale. He had 52 years of service in the Southwest Baseball Umpires Association. Richard moved to San Antonio in 1962. He was a co-founder of Columbia Little League, Boy Scoutmaster, member of John Jay High School's booster club

He is survived by his brother, Dr. Robert Frank Winegar II and wife Barbara of Granbury; his four sons, Robert Charles Winegar of Seattle Wash., Richard Frederick Winegar and wife Bianca of San Antonio, Frank Erick Winegar and wife Lynda of Ashburn, Va., and William Edward Winegar and wife Kris of Pattison; and the mother of his four sons, Greta Basil Winegar of San Antonio,



Kelsey Sells Books — Bruce Speaks



Members listen - March Meeting

Minutes of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County

10:00 a.m.. Saturday, March 19, 2011

President Gwen Adrian opened the meeting by welcoming all who were in attendance. She then led the group in the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States and Texas Flags.

Program of the day was presented by Bruce Mergele. He discussed bookbinding options, preservation and repair of books. He the told of the history and subsequent preservation of the Turtle Creek Community Center in Kerr County. The area began as a school in 1885. Bruce gave details of the cemetery beginnings, founders of the area, burials and history of the school construction and uses up through today.

Announcements: (1) Books, not needed in The Place Library are available today at affordable prices. (2) Frances Ware has acid free tissue paper free for the asking. (3) Special thank you to our hostesses, Linda Stephens, Christie Piciocci, and Mary Ellen Wheeler.

Minutes for the Feb. 19, 2011 meeting approved as printed in the March Newsletter with the correction of the spelling of Mr. Treib's name. There was no Treasurers report due to Treasurer Harry Dell's recuperation from surgery.

President Gwen's announced location of upcoming meetings: April 16 – St John Lutheran Church's Luther Hall and May 21 at the Boerne Community Center Room 201.

She announced our invitation as a non profit organization at Kronkrosky Place on April 14 from 5:30 to 7:30. Forty plus organizations have been asked to participate, for sharing information and resources and to support communication and appreciation among various organizations. Two of our members will be there to represent our Society.

Martha Boye is planning to give members VIP treatment when our group arrives on the trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City in April.

Bruce Mergele, Librarian reported that the replacing of shelving in the library is currently waiting arrival of additional hardware.

Mary Alice Dell, FHP Chairman reminded us of the books for sale and said the journals and magazines are free. Our circulating library is now active and will be available to active members. There are 2 bookcases for sale and also some stack chairs.

Details of the Hill Country Extravaganza were explained and invitation issued to the Taste of Boerne for anyone who wants to attend on Friday night. GSKC will have a booth manned by members on Friday evening and Saturday. Erle Adrian and Ed Mergele presented facts concerning costs per annual audit.

Standing Rules changes were proposed to read as follows, with changes underlined.

II. Membership Dues

A. The annual dues, payable by October first, shall be as follows: Individual \$30.00; Couple \$45.00; Junior \$15.00; and Business \$100.00.

B. A member whose dues remain unpaid after December 1st shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Membership may be renewed upon payment of annual dues.

IV. The Genealogical Library

D. A Circulating Library of genealogical and historical books may be established only for the use of members in good standing. The Library Committee will select the books and establish the rules for members to check-out a book.

IX. Standing Committees

B. First Families Committee:

5. An application fee of \$25.00 shall be paid by each applicant for a First Families designation certificate.

X. Publications

A. The Society shall publish an annual Membership Directory in December, a Newsletter before each regular monthly meeting, and a semi-annual periodical, Keys to the Past. Each household is entitled to one copy of each publication during their period of membership.

Ron Reisinger moved to accept changes to Standing Rules as presented. Stu Adamslundy seconded, members voted to accept the changes.

Program for April 16: speaker will be Terri Flack on *Finding Your Ancestors in the Republic of Texas*. Speaker for May 21 will be GSKC Historian and Director, Ed Mergele on the Trip to Texas From The Rhineland. The meeting was adjourned.





**The Genealogical Society of Kendall County
Newsletter**

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Directory Additions & Changes - Welcome New Members

Corrections

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Late Renewals

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Using The Family History Place Library

Since we have so many new members, some of which are just beginning their family history adventure, it seems appropriate to explain why we have a genealogical library; what can be found there that is not available on the Internet, and the most efficient way to use The Family History Place library.

Whether our members are Native Texans or recent imports, most of their ancestors came from or through Eastern or Southern states if they have been in this country for more than a century. For that reason, most of our books are from southern states and east of the Mississippi; exceptions are Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri which lie west of the river. New England states, Pennsylvania, and Maryland are well represented, as many of our members have roots there. Although we do not have a large foreign collection, there are many books of records of people who immigrated from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany. There are books on royal ties to Americans and from lineage societies. Harry Dell found his link to royal lines in a book in our library.

Most patrons of reference libraries are accustomed to using the Dewey shelving system to find books. We use a modified version that makes browsing the shelves much easier; as do most major genealogical libraries. For example, we shelve the books that have genealogical records of people living within a particular state in a section for that state. The books within that state's section are shelved alphabetically by author.

If a state has a great many books, such as our Texas and Virginia collections, the books that contain records of people living in many different counties within that state, are shelved first by author's names. Following that statewide group of books, we shelve the books alphabetically by the counties within that state's section. For example in Texas, books such as the 1840 census of Texas would be first, followed by books of individual counties such as Austin, Bandera, Bexar etc. Our own Kendall County is shelved in a separate bookcase and not with other Texas counties. Not all 234 Texas Counties are represented; neighboring counties and eastern Texas counties dominate the county collection.

Most users prefer to browse, particularly in a small library. However, there is a danger of overlooking books that have information on the area you are interested in, but are shelved in a different location. Browse, by all means, but also consult the online catalog if you want to do a thorough job of searching our library. The catalog can be found on the Society web page (see Masthead above for URL). A link *Browse Catalog* appears on left hand side. Input the name of the state in which you are interested.

All books with a reference to that word will be listed. By clicking on the title, a second page will appear giving more details about the book.

The Call Number of the book will indicate the area in which it can be found by giving the category, or state name, and possibly a county. Note the abbreviation of the author's name. Ignore the Dewey code in the state sections.

In searching the catalog, you may find a listing for a book that has a call number that is a CD. Some of our books are reproduced on searchable CD's.

Less than 5% of the genealogical records available can be found on the Internet. Libraries are one of the places you can find other records that have been extracted from court-houses etc. You may be surprised at what you can find in YOUR Family History Place library. Many others have found the answer to their genea-