



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Come to the Christmas Party

Volume 2, Issue 9

December, 2008
Boerne, Texas

It's Party Time! The December meeting of GSKC will dispense with a regular business meeting and program; and instead celebrate the approaching holiday season, honor the service of its members, bid farewell to the outgoing officers, and offer an opportunity to fellowship with members of similar societies.

The meeting will be held at St. John's Anglican Church on Sisterdale Road (FM 1394) just north of Boerne, starting at 10 a.m. All past presidents and past service

award winners, and the members of the Boerne Area Historical & Preservation

Society and the Comfort Heritage Foundation have been invited to attend.

The winner of the 2008 Rachel Betz Morgan service award will be announced. The new plaque with the names of all the Morgan awardees will be unveiled. The annual Volunteer of Year award and the Genie award. for outstanding service during the first year of membership will be presented. Hostess Paulette Thompson will tempt us with special goodies.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 6

GSKC Party

10 am,

St John's Anglican Church

Saturday, January 3, 2009

GSKC Meeting

10 a.m. BPL

Saturday February 7, 2009

Schweitzer Seminar

No Computer Genie Meeting in December

Members Vote for New GSKC Logo

GSKC members attending the November meeting voted to change the logo of GSKC to one that would be more colorful and bear the full name of the Society. The new logo will incorporate the previous logo into a map of Texas.

Members also voted to purchase logo sport shirts which could be worn at the February seminar, other genealogical events, by the Library Volunteers, and in the community to promote GSKC. Harry Dell was appointed chairman of the

committee to select the shirts and to select a logo design for member approval. Sybil Jones and Nancy McVay assisted in choosing the shirt and logo.

In order to procure the logo shirts by the January meeting, it was necessary to place the order before the December meeting, so the membership was asked to vote by email regarding approval of the design of the logo. The vote was overwhelming for the new logo.

The committee selected a Royal Blue Sport Shirt with the new logo to be silk screened in red and white. Cost of the shirt is \$20.00

Orders for GSKC logo sport shirts have exceeded the expectations of Chairman Harry Dell, as over half of the members have placed orders. As of press time, he had received orders for 61 shirts. The logo shirts will be distributed at the January 3 GSKC meeting.

Inside this issue:

From the President 2
Bergmann Park 2
November Minutes 3
Schweitzer Seminar 4
Registration From 4

“Two Bits” from the President



I have always enjoyed presenting pay checks and especially bonuses. The December meeting will afford me that opportunity again as I present the awards and certificates (bonuses) to those who have made contributions to GSKC. It is those physical tokens of appreciation, plus a “thank you” given by officers, chairman, and members, that are the volunteer’s payment. Not that people volunteer with the thought of payment, but because they enjoy helping others and the fellowship of other volunteers. They do it because they believe in the purpose of the organization and feel that it makes a contribution to the lives of others.

In case you have not read the purpose of GSKC in our Constitution and By-Laws, I offer it now for you to consider as you renew your membership. “The object of this organization shall be to promote the study of family research, to collect and preserve biographical data and the records of the people of the community and their ancestors, to build and maintain a genealogical library, and to offer programs of genealogical interest to its members and to the general public.”

Well, I have to admit I goofed. I had not realized that the job of the Treasurer was as complicated as it is; Terri had made it

all look simple. I had not given Tom Page, the Nominating Chairman, the information he needed to adequately describe the position. So when Jim Griffes, who had become a member of GSKC this spring and had agreed to be nominated for the 2009 Treasurer, took over the Interim Treasurer role until end of the year replacing Terri James, he did not realize he was going to be faced with a new accounting system, a new computer program, and a deluge of membership renewals, donations in different categories, and seminar registrations. I finally realized how unfair we had been to Jim, and the stress we were placing on him in asking him to cope with all this at the Treasurer’s busiest period of the year. Harry Dell volunteered to take on the task, as he is more familiar with our accounting system and Quicken. The Executive Committee took Harry up on his offer, relieving Jim of this burden. . Thank you Jim for being willing to volunteer your service when asked, and for all your other support. We appreciate you and Harry.

The members of this Society never cease to amaze me! I have never belonged to a group that was as enthusiastic and supportive as this one (as well as being hand-

some, beautiful, and charming)!. The willingness of members to volunteer for projects was displayed again at the last meeting when Christy asked for volunteers to assist at the February seminar. We have a great group of people who have volunteered to assist visitors to the Library. Erle Adrian immediately had members volunteering to take pictures of tombstones in the Boerne Cemetery. Time and time again you all have responded when projects have been announced.

Your ongoing response in making contributions to special projects such as making Ancestry.com available in our Library has enabled that to be a reality. Your donations to our GSKC Library Building Fund will enable us to make a GSKC donation to the Boerne Foundation’s New Library fund with 100% member participation. It is important to show that our organization is supportive of the efforts to build a new library in which we will play a role.

The latest astounding response has been to the idea of a GSKC logo shirt with over half of the membership ordering shirts.

Thank you, one and all. You have made my term as President a joy!



Bryden Moon Hosts Bergman Park Dedication

GSKC member Bryden Moon was Master of Ceremonies at the recent dedication of Bergmann Park at the WaterStone community near Bergheim, as more than 140 persons gathered on a bluff overlooking the Guadalupe River to honor the early Kendall County pioneer family. The residents of WaterStone had renamed their North Park to Bergmann Park, and dedicated it with a plaque to honor Christian Friedrich and Johanna Christianna Louise Dressler Bergmann, who had settled the land in 1857 upon which their community is built.

The dedication ceremony, researched and written by family historian Bryden Moon, a resident of WaterStone, had some unique parts. Following his readings from the diary of C.F. Bergmann regarding the voyage to America and their early settlement in San Antonio, four members of the Bergmann family read excerpts from letters written by C. F. to relatives still in the old country. The letters ranged in time from 1854, through the Civil War and into the 1880’s.



Minutes of the November 1 2008 Meeting

The GSKC met on Saturday, November 1, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the Kendall County Library meeting room. President Mary Alice Dell presided and led the group in the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States and Texas. Visitors introduced were Stephen Bishop who is a new member and Nancy Miller who actually joined in February. No minutes were read since no business was conducted at the October 4, 2008, First Family Meeting.

President's Report: Mary Alice introduced the new GSKC treasurer Jim Griffes. She also announced that the GSKC Newsletter – "Keys to the Present" – had received a second place award of \$50 at the Texas State Genealogical Society's annual conference. GSKC also received a grant of \$900 from the City of Boerne Hotel Occupancy Tax money for the annual seminar.

Computer Genie Report: Irene Page reported that 19 attended October's meeting. Computer Genies meet on the third Thursdays of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the library meeting room. The two goals of the group are to (1) write about our family histories and (2) to break down brick walls with the help of local experts. At the next meeting, the local experts will be Christy Kestler and Judith McVay who will help with brick walls in the genealogies of Carl Taylor and Kate Skinner-Klee.

First Families. Regina Adam reported that fourteen certificates were awarded to six descendants of founders and settlers at the October First Family Meeting. One of the descendants made a \$200 donation to GSKC.

Journal. Don Evans, interim "Keys to the Past" journal editor, thanked Christy and Mary Alice for their help in preparing the Fall 2008 issue of the journal that was distributed at the present meeting. He said the journal always was looking for articles and asked for a volunteer for a new journal editor.

Library. Lucy announced that a few new books have come in and, because of space limitations, necessitated moving some books, especially Connecticut journals, to storage. Betty Edmonds took her books on Maryland and West Virginia home for awhile. The removed books are no longer in the library catalog. Harry Dell mentioned that journals may be searched on PERSI to see what might be in them.

Library Volunteers. Jack Charles said we have 28 library volunteers and two library Consultants, Cathy Schwarz and Kate Skinner-Klee. He said a few additional volunteers are needed for Monday morning and some Friday mornings.

Membership. Alexis Markert said that dues for 2009 are now due, and, please, fill out the membership renewal form when you pay them.



2009 Hill Country Seminar. Christy Kestler announced that Dr. George Schweitzer will be the speaker for the February 7 seminar

at the Boerne Community Center. Tom Page and Alexis Markert agreed to distribute flyers to local Boerne area businesses. There will be a banquet the night before at the Masonic Lodge, and greeters and someone to help set up tables are needed. On Saturday, Judy McVay will be in charge of food service and needs three people to help. Betty Immel, Marie Evans, Lucy Croft, and Bertie Reynolds volunteered to help with food service. Irene Page and Paulette Thompson will register people on Saturday. Others will help hand out goody bags. LaVerne Peterson and Gwen Adrian volunteered to sell Dr. Schweitzer's books. Abb Kestler and Erle Adrian will be photographers for the Friday dinner and Saturday seminar.

Tombstone photographs. Erle Adrian reported that 1,880 tombstone photographs are now online. He thanked Cathy Schwarz for her outstanding contributions in handling the photographs sent to her and putting them on the website boernecemetery.com. Several sections are still in need of photographers. New member Stephen Bishop and Jim Griffes each volunteered to take a section.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers for 2009. Tom Page, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the proposed slate of officers:

President, Don Evans; Vice President, Christy Kestler; Treasurer, Jim Griffes; Recording Secretary, Gladys Kuebel; Corresponding Secretary, Alexis Markert; and Librarian, Lucy Croft. Kate Skinner-Klee made a motion that the slate be accepted by acclamation; Harry Dell seconded the motion; and the motion passed with all voting for it.

Lucy Croft suggested that the GSKC should try to have 100% of our members contribute to the new library building fund. Kate mentioned that the amount was not as important as the per cent participation. Kate moved that GSKC have 100% of members contribute; Tom Page, seconded; the motion passed with none opposed. All members were encouraged to attend the November 20, 2008, library meeting with the architects at the Boerne Community Center to voice support for genealogy library needs.

GSKC Shirts. Harry Dell suggested that GSKC consider offering a sport shirt with a new logo to identify members which could be worn at the 2009 seminar. Other clubs such as the Texas State Genealogical club and West Texas and East Texas genealogical clubs have such shirts. Christy made a motion that three people meet to design a logo for a club T-shirt. Mary Ellen Wheeler seconded the motion. Discussion included using the shape of Texas in the logo; Mary Taylor encouraged including the current logo with the shape of Kendall County that has been associated with the club for years; and Jack Charles suggested ordering golf shirts instead of T-shirts. All voted for the motion. Sybil Jones agreed to serve on the committee with Harry. Mary Alice indicated that Nancy McLarry has expressed interest in the project and would be asked to be the third member of the committee.

Christmas Party. The December meeting will be a Christmas party with no business meeting and will be at the St. John's Anglican Church on Saturday, December 6. Three 2008 awards, the Rachel Morgan Betz Award, the Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Genie Award, will be presented at the meeting and the Rachel Morgan Betz Plaque will be introduced. All previous award winners, past presidents,

(Continued on Page 4)



**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
Harry Dell, Treasurer
Lucy Croft, Librarian

P.O. Box 623
Boerne, TX 78006
830-537-5325
GSKC Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc

(Nov 1 Minutes continued from page 3)

and Charter members will be invited. Mary Alice suggested that the Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society also be invited. Christy moved, Jim Griffes seconded, Motion carried. The library staff will also be invited.

Research Committee. Elizabeth and Kate handle genealogical queries received by out-of-area researchers. The GSKC Standing Rules currently suggest a \$5 charge for doing research. Kate suggested that the Rules be changed to state that there is no charge, but donations are always gratefully received.

Mary Alice thanked Paulette for preparing the refreshments. She also mentioned the Seminar of the San Antonio Genealogical Society on Saturday, November 8, at the First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. Dick Eastman is the speaker. The business meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Register Now for the 5th Annual Hill County Family History Seminar and Dinner

Dr. George W. Schweitzer, nationally renowned genealogist, will speak at the four sessions on Feb 7 at the Boerne Convention Center. He will give three talks on the Civil War, German Genealogical Research, and Genealogy in the Southeastern United States. This will be followed by one of his famous Problem Solving

sessions where he answers questions by the audience.

Dr. Schweitzer will also appear at the Pre-Seminar Dinner held on Friday, Feb 6 at the Kendall Masonic Lodge. Seminar registrants and one guest each are eligible to attend. Space is limited for the dinner and advance registration is required.

Registration fee includes morning and afternoon snacks and lunch. Books and Things will offer a large selection of genealogical books for purchase.

Doors open at 8:15 p.m. and the seminar starts at 9 a.m..

Flyers will be available at the December meeting and in the Boerne Library.

>>>>>> ----- Cut on this line ----- <<<<<<

Please print clearly. Complete a separate form for each seminar attendee. Early registrants will have name and ancestors printed in syllabus. Price saving pre-registration before Saturday, January 24, 2009 is \$35 for members, \$40 for non-member. Seminar registration at the door is \$50.00 for all.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Three surnames, with location, you are researching for publication in syllabus. (Example for format: Newsom – NC)

Early Registration, including lunch: \$40.00 non members. (GSKC Members \$35.00) \$ _____

No. of dinner reservations @ \$30.00 each ____ (Check if vegetarian____) Total enclosed \$ _____

Mail form and check to: **Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Attn: GSKC Seminar Registrar, PO Box 623, Boerne, TX 78006-0623.**