



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Beer, Schnapps, or Wine?

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Boerne, Texas

Which did your German ancestors drink? Attend the pre-seminar dinner, Friday, Feb 6 and find out as Dr. George K. Schweitzer tells you how you can discover that interesting bit of information. To attend the dinner, you must also be registered for the seminar on the following day, or be the guest of someone who is registered.



a bite of Continental Breakfast before the 9 o'clock starting time.

Pre-registration for the seminar, which at \$35.00 gives members a \$15.00 discount, as well as the dinner reservations at \$30 each, **must be in the hands** of the Treasurer no later than noon on Monday, Jan. 26th. Non-member pre-registration is \$40.

Seminar registration at the door will be \$50.00 for all. Forms are at the Library or can be downloaded from www.rootseb.ancestry.com/~txgskc.

Nearly 120 people have already pre-registered for the Seminar at which Dr. Schweitzer will discuss German Research, the Civil War, and Genealogical Research in Southeastern

States. He is known nationwide for his informative lectures which he does wearing costumes appropriate to the subject. Doors open at 8:15 a.m. giving seminar goers time for a preliminary look at the bookstore and to have

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 6

Schweitzer Dinner
6:30 p.m.

Boerne Masonic Lodge

Saturday, February 7

Hill Country Seminar
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Boerne Community Center

Computer Genies

Thursday, February 19
1:30 p.m. BPL

GSKC Mourns Past Leader

Past President Edna Felps passed away January 14, leaving an empty place in the hearts of many members. Although she had been ill for many months, her voice was still heard in the affairs of GSKC. Her indomitable spirit was an inspiration to all.



Edna was president from 1999 through 2003, and honored in 2005 with the Rachel Morgan Betz Service Award. During her presidency, the First Families of Kendall County project was launched. She initiated and oversaw the production of the GSKC cook book, *Y' All Cook*, which won third place

in a national cookbook contest. She was a strong supporter of the GSKC Genealogy Course, and Chairman and Co-Chairman of the first two Hill Country seminars.

She was preceded in death by

her husband of 47 years, Guy A. Felps; two brothers and one sister. Her son Darryl Felps and wife, Rita, and two grandsons, Kevin and Jason, survive her.

Members interested in remembering Edna through a gift to GSKC's genealogical library collection may send a check to GSKC, Attention Treasurer, at the address in the masthead on page 4. A book will be purchased and placed in the Library in her honor and her family notified of the gift. If you have a special memory of Edna, send it to Mary Alice Dell, to be included in an article honoring her life in the next Journal.

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GSKC To Give 2008 Donor Recognition

Every member who made a donation to GSKC during 2008 will receive a letter recognizing their gift, said Treasurer Harry Dell. The letter will satisfy the IRS requirements for proof of a charitable donation.

Donations made at registration time as well as memorials or other gifts made during the year will be summarized, and the designation of Donor, Sponsor or Patron will be established when applicable.

A Memorial gift to GSKC is a good way to honor a relative or friend who

has passed away, or perhaps to mark a special occasion, or just because you want to honor a friend. Money donated as a Memorial is used to purchase books for the Library and the name of the person being honored is placed in the book.

Many people donate books to the GSKC genealogical collection, and unless that book is donated as a Memorial, it will have the name of the donor placed in the book. We have one member who has donated over 70 books. If you are donating a book to

GSKC, be sure you bring it to the Genealogy/History Room and fill out the form found on top of the Microfilm Cabinet, so we will have your name and address and that of the person you are honoring so we can tell them, or their family, that they have been honored.

Monetary memorials or other gifts should be sent directly to the Treasurer with an explanation and the necessary names and addresses.

2009 Officer Biography - Vice President Christy Kestler



Christy Hollen Kestler, our new Vice-President is a Texas lady, born and reared in Monahans, a small town near Odessa. Her parents and ancestors, however, were from West Virginia and Georgia. Living so far from relatives was one of the reasons Christy caught the genealogy bug at age 12. Family history research was a way to identify with those relatives, and to connect the stories her parents would tell.

Christy attended the University of Texas at Austin in the late 1960's and early 1970's, but marriage and then the birth of two daughters interrupted her education. Years later, she earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at St. Mary's Uni-

versity, San Antonio. Christy worked as a clerk and secretary for the State and at the UT Health Science Center before training as a computer programmer. That training enabled her to work first as a programmer/analyst for EDS, and later as a programmer/analyst, project manager, and systems programmer at USAA.

She retired in January 2006 and enjoys having more time to be with her husband of 40 years, their 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law, and 3 grandchildren. Of course, it also means more time for family history research and sewing. "Life is GOOD", says Christy.

We have to agree as GSKC has greatly

benefited from all her previous experience and acknowledged her contribution to the Society by awarding her the Genie Award in December 2008 for outstanding service her first year of membership. In addition to accepting the role of Vice President, Christy is Chairman of the 2009 Seminar.

Christy also received a President's Service Award from the Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society last fall for her assistance to them in managing records.

Christy is pictured below with members of the 2008 Seminar Committee at an early planning meeting.



Computer Genie to Crumble More Brick Walls

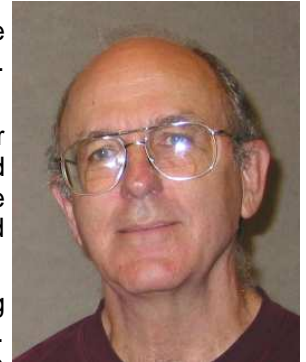


Ron Reisinger

The "Third Brick Wall Attack" meeting of the Computer Genies will be held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, February 19 at the Boerne Library. Please note the earlier starting time.

Dick Lockwood and Ron Reisinger will be the Research Volunteers for this meeting; and will lead the members in aiding Ann Davenport and Gwen Adrian in locating new information about their ancestors on the Internet. Don Evans was chosen as the alternate person to be assisted in the event either is not able to attend the meeting.

Members are urged to bring their laptops in order to follow along using the sites suggested by the research volunteers and by other attendees. Email Chairman Irene Page (itpage@gvtc.com) in advance if you are bringing your computer so tables can be set up to accommodate all.



Dick Lockwood

Minutes of the January 3, 2009 *By Gladys Kuebel, Recording Secretary*

Meeting was called to order by Society President, Don Evans. Attendees recited the pledges of allegiance to the United States and the Texas flag. Guests Ed and Ann Oppenheimer were introduced to members. New members introduced were Celia Bidwell and Yolanda Martin. Judy McVay's granddaughter, Bridget Blankenship, and Sheri Dunn were also guests.

Minutes of the previous regular meeting in November published in the Keys to the Present Newsletter were approved without correction. Harry Dell, Treasurer, provided printed treasurer report copies for members. Checking account balance \$6,656.09 and CD's total \$5,729.84 as of December 31, 2008. Harry has been working with an auditor and hopes the audit report will be final by February 1. Alexis Markert moved to accept the report as presented, motion seconded by Gwen Adrian, and accepted by a unanimous vote.

Harry Dell also distributed the new GSKC logo shirts ordered by members. He ordered 75 shirts of which 62 have already been bought by members.

A report on the upcoming seminar was given by Christy Kestler. She reported that the plans were in motion for February 7, and volunteers would be called on. Ruth Taylor reported that there were 78 registered attendees for the seminar and 20 for the dinner. Early registration ends January 24. Lucy Croft, Library Committee, passed around a list of new books added to the library. Alexis Markert reported there were 89 memberships paid as of January 2, and reminded everyone to pay their dues. Mary Taylor reported the First Family Committee has not received any applications for 2009 and encouraged members to seek them out.

Irene Page reminded everyone of the Computer Genies meeting to be held on January 15 at 1 PM. The speaker will be Ann Welder from the BPL staff.

Jack Charles reported that 23 Library Volunteers had served 1,553 hours in 2008. Volunteers are needed to fill vacant spots on the schedule. Volunteers were reminded to notify Jack if unable to make their assigned times.

The Executive Committees for 2008 and 2009 met on December 12, 2008 to discuss Procedures for each officer position, recommend a change to the By Laws and recommend additions to the Standing Rules: Procedures for the President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Historian were approved. Procedures for other officers and standing committees are in work.

Proposed By Law Change – First Reading. Article V Section 3. In the event of a vacancy in any office *or office-elect* except the Presidency, the sitting Executive Committee shall fill the office and the officer so appointed shall fulfill the duties of the office *until the completion of the term.*

Motion to accept by Lucy Croft, seconded by Christy Kestler. Members voted to approve the change. Kate reminded members that since this is a change to the By Laws, the proposed change must be read the second time and voted on at the March meeting.

(Continued on Page 4)



Don Evans and Ann Oppenheimer



**The Genealogical Society of Kendall
County Newsletter**

Don Evans, President (vmtmmm@gvtc.com)
Christy Kestler, Vice President
Gladys Kuebel, Recording Secretary
Alexis Markert, Corresponding Secretary
Harry Dell, Treasurer
Lucy Croft, Librarian

P.O. Box 623
Boerne, TX 78006
Don Evans 830-537-5004

Mary Alice Dell, Newsletter (madel35@gvtc.com)
GSKC web site www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc

Inquisitive Minds Wanted

If you are the kind of person that likes to discover new information and tell others about it, there is an opening for you on GSKC Journal committee. You don't have to be a great writer, only willing to ferret out information and record it. Chairman Mary Alice Dell has already put together a committee of seven people interested in producing the semi-annual Journal, but two or three more are needed to complete the staff. Various team members will be responsible for tasks from collecting one or two articles a year, to overseeing the technical production, to mailing the completed journal. A planning meeting for the May Journal will be held in February. If you are interested contact Mary Alice.

(Minutes continued from Page 3)

Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules. To be revised as indicated in Italics

II. Dues. *Annual dues paid after September 1, will apply for the remainder of that year and the following year. The member is entitled to copies of all the "Keys to the Past" published during that period.*

X. Publications.

a. A journal, entitled *Keys to the Past*, shall be published by the Society twice a year, ***in May and in November.*** **The purpose of publishing** a Journal is to disseminate genealogical and historical information pertaining to residents of the Kendall County area as well as articles of general genealogical interest and current Society events and information.

To be added to Standing Rules:

VII. **First Family Program.** An application fee of \$15.00 shall be paid by each applicant for a First Family designation certificate.

IX. Standing Committees. (To be inserted in alphabetically with current list)

Journal Committee shall collect information, edit, and publish a semi-annual periodical, *Keys to the Past*, containing genealogical information and historical events pertaining to earlier residents of Kendall County; Society events, and other articles of interest to genealogists.

Newsletter Committee shall publish a newsletter prior to each meeting, notifying members of the next meeting; and of other past, present or future events of the Society.

Web Site Committee shall maintain a website listing the officers of the Society, how to contact the President, notices of meetings and other events, and such other information deemed of interest to the genealogical community...

X. Publications.

e. The Society shall publish a Procedures Manual with detailed description of the responsibilities of each officer, chairman and committee member; and procedures and guidelines for carrying out those responsibilities. The Executive Committee shall approve the contents of this manual and review it annually in December for possible changes and additions.

After two of the Standing Rules had been moved, seconded, and voted upon, Carl Taylor moved that the entire list of proposed Standing Rules be accepted in its entirety. David Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Standing Rules do not require a second reading so became effective upon this vote.

The 2008 Annual Committee Reports were distributed to members present. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Announcements:

There will be no regular meeting in February because of our Seminar. The Directory of all Members will be available at the March Meeting.

A program about Patriot Stephen Decatur was presented by Ann Oppenheimer in an 1820 period costume.