



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Early Registration Deadline Nears

Volume 3, Issue 1

January, 2009
Boerne, Texas

January 14 is the deadline for members to take advantage of a \$15.00 discount on the registration fee for the Family History Seminar to be held February 7. The cost at the door will be \$50.00 for everyone. Those wishing to attend the pre-registration dinner must also have their registrations in by the January 14 date.



Dr. George K. Schweitzer will speak on three subjects that are of interest to many local genealogists; the Civil War, German Research, and Southeastern United States research. His fourth session is an audience-participation problem solving session that is packed with

research information of interest to all.

Dr. Schweitzer is a nationally renowned genealogical speaker, who gives his lectures in costume. He is also the author of several inex-

pensive handbooks on research in several key states, on German research, and three early wars. Copies of all his handbooks can be viewed in the GSKC Library Collection, and can be purchased from either Dr. Schweitzer or Books and Things at the Seminar.

A registration form was printed in the December Keys to the Present. Additional forms are available at the Library and will be at the January GSKC meeting. For more information contact Ruth Taylor at www.treerooter42@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 3

GSKC Meeting

10 am, BPL

Computer Genies

Thursday, January 15

1 p.m. BPL

Hill Country Seminar

Saturday, February 7

Boerne Community Center

Former First Lady To Visit GSKC

Former First Lady Louisa Adams, as portrayed by Ann Oppenheimer, will visit GSKC's January 3rd meeting. Mrs. Adams, wife of John Quincy Adams, will discuss life in the Capitol in the 1820's and particularly that of the 1812 naval hero Steven Decatur.

Ann Oppenheimer became interested in Steven Decatur and his wife after visiting Lafayette Park, and subsequently read five books on the subject and era. She chose this unique way to tell their story. Ann is

a native of West Plains, TX and as a wife of career Air Force pilot has lived in many parts of the US and overseas. She retired after 25 years as a business manager for a real estate architectural/interior design firm.

Her interest in history and genealogy has led her to be active in many organizations dedicated to those subjects. She is current president of the Captain Augustus Jones Chapter of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812, and 2nd Vice Presi-

dent of the Robert Speer Chapter, Colonial Dames XVII Century. She is State Chairman for the Texas State Daughters of the American Revolution Conference to be held in San Antonio in March 2009. She has held many other positions in DAR in two states, and is a past Regent of the Alamo Chapter in San Antonio. She was registrar for the Albert Sidney Johnson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

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New Officers Begin Their Reign



L. to R. Corresponding Secy. Alexis Markert, Recording Secy. Gladys Kuebel, Librarian Lucy Croft, V. Pres. Christy Kestler, President Don Evans and Treas. Harry Dell.

Don Evans, former GSKC Vice-president, will begin his presidency at the Jan 3rd meeting, along with the other slate of officers members elected in November, and a replacement named by the previous Executive Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of one of the elected officers.

Don, whose biography has appeared in past *Keys to the Present*, also has served as GSKC Treasurer and on various committees in past years.

Don will introduce his committee chairmen and discuss plans for the future. The 2008 annual committee reports and the 2008 Financial Report will also be presented to the Membership, as well as two proposed Bylaw and Standing Rule changes. Newly produced position descriptions, outlining procedures and guidelines that will assist officers and chairmen in their roles, will be distributed.

Christy Kestler, recent winner of the Genie award and Chairman of the

GSKC Logo Shirts Here

The GSKC Logo Sport Shirts will be available at the January 3rd meeting. Sixty three shirts, including one by GSKC Founder Rachel Betz Morgan, were ordered. Chairman Harry Dell will distribute the shirts before and after the meeting to those who placed orders in advance. If you have not already paid, bring your checkbook.

2009 Family History Seminar, will assume the office of vice president. Other electees taking office include two additional new members to the Executive Committee: Recording Secretary Gladys Kuebel and Treasurer Harry Dell. Continuing from the previous elected Executive Committee are Corresponding Secretary Alexis Markert and Librarian Lucy Croft.

Biographies of those who have not appeared in the newsletter in the past will be printed in future *Keys to the Present*.

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You can read this month's Family Historian column. *Telling the Story of Diversity* online at www.boernestar.com/articles/2008/12/18/community/doc494abdcec45fa699037483.txt.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

If you have not renewed your membership which expires December 31st, you still have time to beat that deadline by mailing your check for dues before Dec 30th.

Be sure to include the Renewal Form with your dues and any donations you want to make to the Ancestry.com fund or GSKC general fund.

And don't forget to add your contribution to the special New Library Building fund that GSKC is collecting. Our

goal is to have 100% member participation in that fund, even if it is only one dollar.

If you have changed an email or regular mailing address, telephone number, or name, please note that on the Renewal Form.

A copy of the Renewal Form appears on page four of this newsletter.

Condolences

Our condolences to member Joyce Behr of Comfort upon the passing of her husband Ottmar Erich Behr Jr. on December 5, 2008. They had celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in June. Joyce is a Betz Award recipient, and was Editor of the Journal for several years



Elizabeth Hudson Named Betz Winner at Christmas Social

Over fifty members and guests watched as Elizabeth Hudson was awarded the Rachel Morgan Betz Service award by President Mary Alice Dell at a Christmas Social and Award Ceremony in December. Elizabeth Hudson, who had served as past president of GSKC three times was honored for her outstanding service.

The annual Volunteer of the Year award was given to Irene Page for her continuing contributions to GSKC as the Hospitality Committee Welcomer at meetings and at seminars; as a Library Volunteer, as 2008 Computer Genie chairman, administrative co-chairman of the 2008 Genealogy Course, and for dozens of other jobs she does.

The Genie Award, which is not an annual award but only given when a new member has performed outstanding service to GSKC during his or her first year of membership, was presented to Christy Kestler. Christy not only volunteered to serve as Chairman of the 2009 Family History Seminar, but became a Library Volunteer, edited and printed the 2008 Membership Directory, provided technical assistance in publishing the 2009 *Keys to the Past* journals, and began a master Membership List which includes all past members as well as present members of GSKC. She, like Irene, has also participated in and contrib-



L. to R. Irene Page, Volunteer of the Year; Elizabeth Hudson, Rachel Morgan Betz Award recipient and Christy Kestler, Genie award winner were honored at Christmas Social.

uted to the Society in many other ways.

A plaque, which honors the GSKC founder Rachel Morgan Betz, was unveiled with the names of past Service Award winners. The plaque will be placed in the Genealogy/History Room at the Boerne Public Library. Previous winners of the award present at the meeting were Cathy Schwarz, Mary Taylor, Regina Adam, and Kate Skinner-Klee. Joyce Behr and Edna Felps were unable to attend.

Six members were honored with certificates for 25 years or more of continuous membership in GSKC. Three

of the six, Elizabeth Hudson, Kate Skinner-Klee and Rachel Morgan Betz were also Charter Members; Joyce Behr, Marjorie Morries, and Richard Magers joined GSKC shortly thereafter.

Elizabeth Hudson and Kate Skinner-Klee were also recognized as Past Presidents, along with Jean Willard, Nancy James and Jim Boyd, the first male elected as president in 2005.

Several members of the Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society and the Comfort Heritage Foundation were special guests at the Christmas Social.



Left: Harry Dell and Ruth & Frank Kiel of Comfort Heritage Foundation. Center: GSKC Past Presidents Nancy James and Jean Willard. Right: Judith McVay, President Mary Alice Dell and former Betz recipient Kate Skinner-Klee.



**The Genealogical Society of Kendall
County Newsletter**

Don Evans, President (vmtmmm@gvtc.com)
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Gladys Kuebel, Recording Secretary
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Computer Genies Meeting January 15

Computer Genies will have the opportunity to learn some new computer usage tips at the January meeting to be held in the meeting room at the Boerne Public Library at 1 p.m., according to Irene Page, Computer Genie chairman. Ann Welder, a member of the Boerne Library Staff and one of the instructors for the Library's Computer Classes will be the guest speaker at the meeting.

The Genies will also discuss the best way a member can present information about a brick wall to a problem solver.

Membership Renewal 2009

Please complete appropriate part of renewal form and return with dues payment. If a couple member ship please list both names.

Name(s): _____

The listing in the 2008 Directory was correct and nothing has changed _____

OR

Change my listing for the 2009 Directory as indicated below

Address: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email (1): _____ (2) _____

Home Number (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Maiden Name _____

Please indicate how monies are to be allocated:

Membership Dues:

Individual \$25.00 - Couple \$35.00 - Student \$15.00

Donations

Donors \$25.00 to \$50.00 - Sponsors \$50.00 to \$100.00 - Patrons Over \$100.00

Ancestry.com in Library Fund \$ _____

New Library Building Fund \$ _____

Totals Donations \$ _____ Dues \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Genealogical Society of Kendall County

Mail To: Treasurer, P.O. Box 623, Boerne, TX 78006-0623.