



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Schweitzer Seminar Roaring Success

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Boerne, Texas

Dr. George K. Schweitzer had the audiences at the pre-seminar dinner and 5th Annual Family History seminar Feb 7 roaring with laughter as he conveyed a tremendous amount of information in his witty lecture style. Fifty two people attended the dinner at which Dr. Schweitzer showed on a map where our ancestors may have lived in the Germanic region and which beverage they probably would have drank. He presented three bottles of imported German beverages: beer, schnapps and wine, and a beer stein, to visitor Eleanor Edmondson from Odessa, and members Mary Oster, Nancy McLarry, and Mary Lou Mergele. Erle Adrian provided piano music as Dr. Schweitzer led the diners in a differently worded version of the rousing Austrian national anthem.



Dr. Schweitzer wore a different costume for the German Research lecture on Saturday. During the talk on Civil War research, he excused himself for

a few moments to investigate a "noise" he heard from backstage where his dressing room was located. He returned having changed from a Confederate to a Union uniform as he continued to portray both sides of the story as well as giving research help in finding your veteran ancestor. His costume for the Southeastern States research helped create that atmosphere as he told of the migration and research possibilities in that area. During his last session, he answered numerous questions from the audience on

a wide variety of subjects with research information that was helpful to many other than the person making the query.

Christy Kestler, Chairman of the 2009 Seminar Committee, reported the comments on the many evaluations which were returned at the seminar indicated unanimous approval of the speaker and of the seminar in general. There were many comments praising the volunteers who worked at the seminar. 135 people registered for the seminar. Plans for the 2010 Seminar are underway.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 3

Beginning Genealogy Workshop
2-4 p.m.

Comfort Heritage Center

Saturday, March 7

GSKC Meeting

10.a.m.

Boerne Public Library

Computer Genies

Thursday, March 19

1:30 p.m. BPL

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Hill Country History at March Meeting

Paul Burrier will throw the spotlight on a bit of Texas Hill Country history as he talks about the "Battle of the Nueces" at the March GSKC meeting next Saturday. Paul is a fifth generation Texan, born in Fredericksburg. His ancestors came from the Germanic kingdom of the Palatinate arriving

in America in 1739. He is a graduate of Texas A&M and former Army officer. Since his retirement, Paul has devoted much of his time researching and writing about local Texas history. His current projects are two manuscripts on the Texas Hill Country during the Civil War.

The business meeting will begin at 10 am in the meeting room at the Boerne Public Library. President Don Evans will update members on the latest plans for the new library as they affect GSKC. A new monthly feature, "Genealogy Research Tip of the Month" will be introduced by the Dells.

From the President

I would like to thank all of the fine volunteers from GSKC that helped to make our 2009 Seminar an outstanding success.. My special heartfelt thanks goes to our Vice President and Seminar Chairperson, Christy Kestler. She managed the seminar for the last month by e-mail from San Diego. Christy, you did a great job and we all love you. I do not want to leave out Judy McVay, the food planning and service was great. Harry Dell kept the books and managed the financial side with good sense of humor. Ruth Taylor did an outstanding job as Registrar. Harry and Ruth are even today trying to tie up all of the financial and registration business. And

thanks to Judy McVay's efforts, we all ate well. All of the GSKC volunteers did a super job, I am sorry I don't have the list of everyone who helped to make our 2009 seminar the best one yet. Dr Schweitzer is an amazing individual with a tremendous memory, as he ably demonstrated at the Q&A.



I want to announce a change in our fall meeting schedule. The meeting of the

Texas State Genealogical Society will be held in San Antonio this fall. In the past they have met in late October, but the 2009 meeting is scheduled for the first weekend in November. As a result, your Executive Committee has decided to move the November meeting to the third Saturday, November 21st. This will allow more of the members to participate in the TSGS meeting. I will have more information as we get closer to the meeting date.

I would like to get some feedback from you on topics for future GSKC meetings. Let us know if you know of anyone who has an interesting genealogy story to tell.

Beginning Genealogy Workshops Drawing Crowds

The first Beginning Genealogy Workshop drew a crowd as forty three people new to genealogical research attended the first of two free workshops being sponsored by GSKC, last Thursday evening Feb 26, at the Boerne Community Center. The entire attendance including the workshop committee members, and many Library Volunteers brushing up their skills, was 61 people. Yet another ten newbies that had signed up failed to attend.

Instructors at the evening workshop were Harry and Mary Alice Dell. Alexis Markert and Irene Page served as registrars, and Stu Adamslundy, Paulette Thompson, and Gwen Adrian as hostesses.

Several of the "newbies" became members and all will receive a complimentary copy of this newsletter.

Next Workshop in Comfort

A second identical workshop will be presented Tuesday, March 3, in Comfort from 2 -4 p.m. at the Comfort Heritage Foundation (Old Bank Building) at 7th and High Street. Anyone interested in attending should contact Mary Alice Dell at texgenie@gmail.com or Fran King at kelogajo@yahoo.com.

The workshop will begin with the basics: pedigree charts and family group sheets

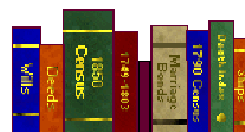
and an understanding of the common terms and methodology used by genealogist. Suggestions for finding information and clues in family papers and photos, and how to interview relatives will be discussed. Organizing information and collecting vital records, both essential to building the family tree efficiently, will be covered. The Dells will show how to recognize the "treasures" from the "trash" on genealogical web sites, and how to locate useful information on the Internet.

FREE

**The 2009 Membership Directory
will be available at the Meeting
Saturday, March 7.**

"You can't tell the players without
a program!"

New Books On Our Shelves



Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America by Annette Kunsel-man Burgert. [GEN 974.8 Burg PA] Loaned to GSKC by Sharon Pratt.

Genealogies of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Volumes I-IV [GEN 975.5 Gene VA] Loaned to GSKC by Sharon Pratt.

Marriages and Deaths from the Maryland Gazette, 1727-1839 compiled by Robert Barnes. [GEN 975.2 Barn MD] Donated by Sharon Pratt.

Maryland Records: Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church, Volumes I & II by Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh. [GEN 975.2 Brum MD] Loaned to GSKC by Sharon Pratt.

Early Settlers: Paul Toepperwein & Kathinka Adam Toepperwein [GEN 929.2 First Families Toepperwein] Compiled by Regina Adam & Mary Taylor

Founding Families: Henry August Wendler & Pauline Luckenbach Wendler [GEN 929.2 First Families Wendler] Compiled by Regina Adam & Mary Taylor

[More new books are coming. Books appear in the Newsletter when they have been cataloged and placed on the shelves or in the New Books bookcase under the Sign-in Record.]



Computer Genie Welcomes New Researchers to Meeting

“ We welcome the new people who attend the Beginning Genealogy Workshops to come to the next meeting of the Computer Genies”, invited Irene Page, chairman. The groups will meet Thursday, March 19, at the Boerne Library starting at 1:30 p.m.

In addition to information on interesting web sites, the group will once again assist two people in overcoming their brick wall by using information found on the Internet. Attendees are urged to bring their laptops in order to follow along using the sites suggested by the research volunteers and by other attendees. If you decide to bring your computer, you must email Chairman Irene Page (itpage@gvtc.com) in advance, so that adequate tables can be set up to accommodate all the computers. Free Wifi access is available. Come early to get set up before the meeting starts.



Dr. Schweitzer displays German Wine He Gave Away



Bertie Reynolds and Quinn Farrell Check in Seminar Dinner Guests



Dr. Schweitzer entertains Past President Mary Alice Dell with witty story as President Don Evans and his wife Marie look on. Seminar Chairman Christy Kestler (below) beams her pleasure at the success of the dinner.



The Genealogical Society of Kendall County Newsletter

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Christy Kestler, Vice President
Gladys Kuebel, Recording Secretary
Alexis Markert, Corresponding Secretary
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Mary Alice Dell, Editor (made135@gvtc.com)
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Upcoming Genealogical Seminar

Thomas W. Jones, editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, at Round Rock, Saturday March 21

Five Proven Techniques for Finding Your Ancestor's European Ancestors

The Jones Jinx - Tracing Common Surnames

Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor

How to Avoid Being Duped by the Internet

First Methodist Church, 1004 N. Mays St. - Seminar 8:45 am - 4 p.m.

\$45.00 registration fee at door includes lunch.

2009 Officer Profile - Treasurer Harry Dell



Harry Dell, GSKC's Treasurer, has manipulated numbers and detailed information for years, in addition to being a genealogy research guru. He was born in Durango, Colorado, but moved away while a toddler, and spent most of his childhood in Illinois. He graduated from Southern Illinois University, and served for a short period as an officer in the US Air Force.

Most of his working career was for Douglas Aircraft, which became McDonnell-Douglas and after his retirement, Boeing Aircraft. During his career there, he was involved with building DC-7s and DC-8s before transferring to the company's space division. He spent four years at Cape

Canaveral at the Space Center as an assistant project manager on the Saturn booster rocket that put the first man on the moon, and on the development of the Space Shuttle.

When he retired from McDonnell Douglas, he joined Mary Alice in their ReMax Real Estate business. The Dells retired in 1992 and traveled as fulltime RVers until they purchased a home in the Hill Country in Oct. 1994. In January 1995, they joined GSKC and became library volunteers.

The Dells have taught genealogy to nearly 300 people that have taken their courses here in Kendall County since then, and many others as they speak at meetings of other organizations. They were asked to give an all-day seminar for the attendees at the 2007 Texas State Conference for the Sons of the American Revolution, after an earlier successful seminar on a cruise for the Mexican Chapter of SAR and members of the state and national boards.

Harry writes a semi-monthly newsletter with genealogical information which he emails to nearly 200 of their past students. He is the current vice-president of the Boerne Chapter of SAR. His latest genealogical achievement has been acceptance as a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

New Library Volunteers

Three more members of GSKC have become Library Volunteers this month: Teal Anderson, Jerry Ball and Bertie Reynolds. Not only does a member make a regular commitment of time when they decide to volunteer to help people visiting the Library, they are also agreeing to taking a two-hour library orientation, plus annual on-going training sessions.

The volunteer must become familiar with a variety of resources in the library ranging from Family Files to data bases about former residents posted on the GSKC and Kendall County GenWeb Sites. They must know how to find genealogical material in the Texas book collection as well as that of other states.

Since they help the public use the Library's Historical Files, including the building files they must be familiar with them. A volunteer must know how to use the popular ancestry.com site which GSKC pays to have available free in the Library. All the volunteers are alumni of GSKC's Six Week Genealogy Course and quite capable of helping library patrons who are looking for guidance on starting their family history and looking for ancestor records on the Internet.