



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Librarian to Speak at March 19 Meeting

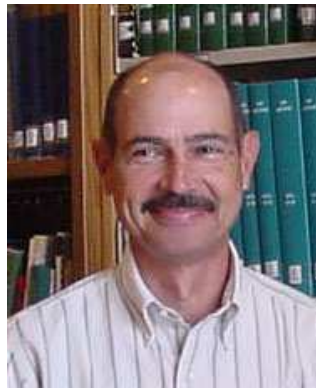
If you have always wished you knew how to repair that favorite book that is coming apart, here is your opportunity.

What to many of us, who have unsuccessfully tried to save a treasured book, is a major challenge is easily accomplished by Bruce Mergele, the GSKC Librarian.

He will reveal the tricks of the trade in his talk at the March 19 meeting at St. John's Anglican Church, 7 Sister Dale Rd.

Mergele will also share another interest of his, The Turtle Creek Cemetery in Kerr County. Come and find out why he finds this particular cemetery fascinating. The meeting starts at 10 am.

Bruce received a Master Degree in Library Science from



Texas Woman's University in Denton, as well as a BA in Anthropology from UTSA. He has served as a Corporate Librarian and Administrative Archivist; and as a Librarian for the Denton Public Library. Bruce is also one of GSKC's first elected Directors and member of the GSKC Board.

Book Sale at Meeting

There will also be a book sale before the meeting and during the break. These items are duplicate copies of books that have been donated to GSKC and which the donors agreed we could sell. In some cases, newer editions were donated and the older ones deaccessioned.

Many of the books are guides to research such as *Genealogy On Line*. Others are informational books such as *The Hidden Half* or *Genealogical Proof Standards*.

Duplicate periodicals, such as German American Journals; and those which have been donated or sent to us which we do not shelve, will also be sold.

Volume 5, Issue 3

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

Upcoming Events

March 19, 2011

GSKC Meeting

Book Repair & the Turtle Creek Cemetery

St. John's Anglican Church

March 25-26

Hill Country Extravaganza
Kendall County Fairground

April 16, 2011

GSKC Meeting

Republic of Texas Research

Board Proposes New Membership Year

Members will be asked to change the Standing Rules during the business meeting of the Society on March 19th. The Board propose changing the membership year to October 1 thru September 30, from the current January 1 to December 31st period.

The Board proposed this change for two reasons. The first is to lessen the burden on the treasurer in December and January at the same time that registrations are also coming in for the annual seminar. "It is difficult for a new treasurer just taking office to process both at the same time", said Harry

Dell who is currently serving his third and final term as Treasurer.

The second reason is to better balance the period that the dues covers. Currently anyone paying dues after the May meeting has membership paid thru the following year. This accommodation was done since there are no summer meetings and asking for dues in the Fall for just four months had been awkward.

"Since our meetings and activities run from Sept. to May, it seemed more sensible to have our membership year start in the Fall too." said President Gwen Adrian.

The Board will also ask the members to approve an increase in the annual dues. The increase proposed is \$30 for individuals (rather than current \$25) and \$45.00 for couples (rather than current \$35.00). The Junior membership would remain the same. Current dues have barely covered the cost of printing and postage for membership applications, journals and directories, and refreshments served at meetings. Members will be asked to approve an increase in First Families application fees from \$15.00 to \$25.00 to help meet costs there.

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Gwen's Gems

By President Gwen Adrian

March 2011

Greetings from the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas and Missouri. Erle and I are hunting for traces of our ancestors again. My fourth great grandparents John Myers McKinney, a noted bear hunter, and his wife Peggy Lee McKinney are the ancestors for whom I am searching. In the mid 1830s, they moved with their family including children spanning 24 years, some married, some toddlers, from Greene County, Missouri to Washington, later to be Madison County, Arkansas. On Sunday, we crossed the Ozark National Forest on Highway 23, a winding road surrounded by tall leafless trees, to the spot where we expected to find the Brashear Cemetery that is on property the McKinney's owned and lived on. Finding no cemetery and no community, we traveled several miles to the town of St. Paul, Arkansas. Here we found a woman who directed us back to Brashear Cemetery. The well kept cemetery was near the White River and located in a cleared area with a few very tall trees standing in and around the cemetery. Finding the graves of my McKinney family was easier than is often the case since these graves are crypts raised off the ground several inches with flat stones. The tops of the crypts are large flat coffin-shaped stones cut from the rock that is found in the surrounding area. No other graves of this type are in the still active cemetery. There are nine graves of this type in the cemetery, three large adult graves and six smaller graves for children. They are unmarked except for a cross that was carved into the top of one grave that is said to be that of Peggy Lee McKinney. The only source we have of the people buried here is the information furnished in a letter by a descendant of the McKinneys who lives in Arkansas. According to that descendant, Peggy, her four-year-old granddaughter called "Little Peggy", and her daughter-in-law Mary all died in 1842, and are buried here with Peggy and John's son Giles and several other children. We know that in 1842, following Peggy's death, John McKinney obtained a land grant in the Peters colony in north Texas. He moved to Texas with two sons a few years later.

Sunday evening we spent the night in the Faubus Motel, the only motel in the county seat of Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas. The next day was spent visiting the county court house and the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society library. The library is housed in a government building, and they pay no rent. Volunteers keep the library open five days a week from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We enjoyed visiting a genealogical facility similar to ours.

After two days in Branson, Missouri, seeing shows such as The Haygoods (a group of eight siblings who once lived in Boerne), tomorrow we plan to drive to Little Rock, Arkansas. There we will look for information about Erle's elusive ancestors Russell Alexander Boatwright, a teacher, and his wife Lucinda Hendricks Boatwright. The Boatwrights are reported to be buried in Lonoke, Lonoke, Arkansas.

I hope this report of our travels has not bored you. Many of you have enjoyed similar genealogical expeditions viewing the places your ancestors have lived and learning more about their lives. I am grateful to GSKC and its members who have enriched many lives, including ours, by teaching genealogy courses (the Dells), keeping our Place open for researchers, managing the library collection, working on our annual seminar, preparing the GSKC journal *Keys to the Past*, preserving the local history of Kendall County, and many other things. Thank you all very much. Best wishes always, Gwen Adrian

GSKC to Participate in Hill Country Extravaganza

The Board of Directors approved GSKC's participation in Hill Country Extravaganza sponsored by the Greater Boerne Area Chamber of Commerce. The event will be held at the Kendall County Fairgrounds March 25-26.

GSKC will have a booth in the New Dance Hall at which members can showcase some of the activities and services we offer the public. Volunteers will man computers and offer to look up ancestors in the 1930 census. A display of First Families books, applications, and information on that program will be available for the public.

Although the public part of the Extravaganza will be held on Saturday from 9 to 3, a VIP Preview Mixer. *Taste of the Hill Country* for the sponsors will be held Friday evening. Local restaurant members will furnish food for this. Parking will be free, but a \$5.00 dona-

tion is expected.

All members of the Society are eligible to attend this Friday evening Mixer from 5 to 7 p.m.

The event, previously known as the Business Expo, has been expanded to include many attractions of interest to the general public. There will be a petting zoo and other activities of interest to families such as landscaping display, bridal information, an art exhibit, entertainment on three stages, and more on Saturday.

Harry Dell, GSKC's representative to the Chamber, which the Society joined last October, is looking for members interested in helping "man" the booth both times, as greeters and to do computer census look-ups. Please contact him at mahdell@gvtc.com if you are interested in helping. He will bring the computers and a printer or a volunteer may use his own.

Happenings at The Place A Lending Library!

Members of GSKC may now check out some GSKC library books to take home and read at their leisure.

Some books better serve the needs of family historians if they can have more time to use them than is practical in a visit to the Library.

These are handbooks that explain how to research various subjects, explanations on how to write citations for sources, or how to find records of female ancestors. Many of Dr George Schweitzer's handbooks are in the Circulating Library collection.

Biographies are another category that is more useful in a lending library; such as the ones about Jefferson and Adams. Among other titles are *Kendall Of the Picayune* by Fayette Copeland; *Only a Few Bones*, by John Colletta; *In Search of Our Ancestors* by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak; and *Cap't John, a Texas Ranger* by Frankie Glen Davis.

Members may check one book out at a time for two weeks, but may not renew it. These restrictions are necessary because of the small number of books available at this time.



Laura English (left) points to the book case holding the Circulating Collection as Vicki Zapf becomes the first member to take advantage of this new service.

Minutes of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County

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

President Gwen Adrian opened the February regular meeting with a greeting to the ten visitors and 55 members present. She led the group in pledges to the United States and Texas flags. She expressed thanks to our hostesses, Linda Stephens and Midge Glor.

Gwen then introduced Speaker Glenn Triebs, a retired history teacher from Gillespie County. Mr. Triebs presented a colorful, and often humorous, revue of German immigrant groups who came to Texas beginning in 1840. The program was well received by the group.

After the refreshment break, minutes of the January 15 meeting were accepted as printed in the February 2011 *Keys to the Present* Newsletter.

Harry Dell presented the Treasurers Report and 2011 Budget. Ed Mergele reported the 2010 audit was made by Ed Mergele, Louise Taylor, and Betty Boyd and the accounting approved. The committee made some recommendations for the future. The Treasurer reported: Four new bookcases are on order and volunteers will be needed to assist in the assembly and relocating books to the new cases. The 2011 Seminar netted \$2,200.00. Membership as of 2-18-11 was 170 with several new applications turned in today. The future Blue Shirt project will include more feminine styles in addition to the current style. Treasurer Dell explained expected 2011 expenses and said \$12,500.00 will be needed through grants, 2012 Seminar, and donations to meet expenses which include over \$2000 for Ancestry fees due later in the year. Gladys Kuebel moved to accept the Treasurers Report and Budget as presented, Cathy Schwarz seconded. Motion passed.



President Gwen states the venue for April and May will most likely be Luther Hall and/or Boerne Community Center. She discussed the trip to Utah in April and stated there will be a session to prepare for research there.

Linda Stephens thanked all who assisted with the 2011 Seminar, both before and during, and everyone who came. She especially thanked Nancy McLarry, Stu Adamslundy, and Carol Smith who were instrumental in the success of the seminar.

Membership Chair Carol Smith presented the new directories. She reminded members to review the contents including the calendar of events, By Laws, Standing Rules, and names of members with contact information.

Library Volunteer Chairman, Jack Charles reported there are 29 Family History Place volunteers. There are 9 shifts weekly, 4 morning and 5 in the afternoons. He expressed the need for more volunteers for both staff and genealogist positions. Days and times are flexible.

Mary Alice and Harry Dell will teach a Seven-week Genealogy Course beginning Sept 22. The mandatory introductory session will be given as the program at the Sept meeting, and is open to members and the public even if not taking the course.

Bruce Mergele will be the speaker at the March 19 to be held at St. John's Anglican Church. Meeting was the adjourned by President Adrian.



**The Genealogical Society of Kendall County
Newsletter**

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Gladys Kuebel, Secretary
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Bruce Mergele, Director
Ed Mergele, Director

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Welcome New Members

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Directory Additions & Changes

Corrections

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Late Renewals

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Recent Books Received by Family History Place Library

- Recollections of Boerne and Kendall County -- Family Histories, Gray, Edith A.
- Handy guide to English genealogical records , Preece, Floren Stocks
- Pennsylvania area key, Clint, Florence
- Heads of families at the first census of the United States 1790 Vermont
- Trans-Allegheny pioneers, Hale, John P. WV
- Virginia/West Virginia genealogical data from Revolutionary War pension and bounty land warrant records, Wardell, Patrick
- Boerne, settlement on the Cibolo, Morgenthaler, Jefferson.
- They came in ships, Colletta, John Philip.
- History of the German settlements in Texas 1831- 1861, Biesele, Rudolph Leopold
- Guide to naturalization records of the United States Schaefer, Christina Kassabian.
- In search of your British & Irish roots, Baxter, Angus.
- Evidence, Mills, Elizabeth Shown.
- Cyndi's list, Howells, Cyndi.
- Your guide to the federal census for genealogists, researchers and family historians, Hinckley, Kathleen W.
- The hidden half of the family, Schaefer, Christina K.
- North Carolina genealogical research, Schweitzer, George
- Handbook of genealogical sources, Schweitzer, George
- Georgia genealogical research, Schweitzer, George
- South Carolina genealogical research, Schweitzer,
- Civil War genealogy, Schweitzer, George
- German Genealogical Research, Schweitzer, George
- Ohio genealogical research, Schweitzer, George
- Sam's teach yourself today e-genealogy, Lamb, Terri Stephens.
- Only a few bones, Colletta, John Philip,
- Capt'n John, story of a Texas Ranger, Glenn, Frankie Davis,
- The boy captives, Hunter, J. Marvin
- Guadalupe River Valley, travel guide, drive the Texas Hill Country by way of Rte. 27 and Center Point River Rd

Bookcases for Sale

Looking for some bookcases?. Two of the ones being replaced are more suited to home use than a library, and will be sold as soon as the new ones are installed. The new ones are due to arrive on March 15. Four stackable metal chairs, and a wooden chair will also be offered for sale. For more details contact Mary Alice Dell at madel35@gvtc.com.