



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

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Boerne, Texas

May Meeting Moved to Masonic Lodge

GSKC will meet Saturday, May 3 at the Kendall Masonic Lodge, 897 E. Blanco, just past the Boerne post office, starting at 10 a.m.

Architectural firms competing for the right to build the new library will be occupying our normal meeting room as they are being interviewed for that position.

David Bowles, historian and author, will speak on the subject *You've Done the Genealogy, Now What?* Bowles is the author of *Spring House*, which is based on his thirty years research of his family genealogy. The second of his three books in the series, *Westward Sagas*, is *Adam's Daughters*, which will be published in 2008. In his books, he enhances his family story by developing fictional scenes and dialogues to fill in the gaps in history. The *Westward Saga* will take his family from colonial days to their settlement in



David Bowles and friend

the West.

Bowles has spoken to a wide range of genealogical and historical organizations. He particularly enjoys his work with young people in encouraging them to relate their personal family history to historical events. He is a member of Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Republic of Texas,

and numerous historical and genealogical groups.

Silent Auction

Members will have another opportunity to add to their genealogical libraries as a Silent Auction of duplicate genealogy and history books and CDs will be offered for sale, so bring your checkbook. Journals from other societies that we can not keep because of inadequate space will be distributed to anyone who wishes one. If you have some you would like to pass along to others, this is the time and place to do so.

Keys to the Past

The 2007 Fall/Winter and 2008 Spring/Summer combined issue of the *Keys to The Past* will be available for distribution at the meeting., according to Don Evans, editor *pro tem*. If you cannot attend, please ask a friend to pick up your copy to save the cost of mailing it.

Upcoming Events

Saturday May 3

GSKC Meeting
10 a.m. Masonic Lodge

Thursday, May 15

Computer Genies
1:30 p.m. BPL

No GSKC Summer Meetings

First Fall Meeting
Saturday, Sept 9

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GSKC Photographers Invade Cemetery

Don't be surprised to see familiar faces lurking in the Boerne Cemetery on these spring mornings with cameras in hand. The GSKC Boerne Cemetery Tombstone Project, with the goal of taking digital images of all 4000 plus tombstones, is underway.

Members chose which sections

they wished to adopt to begin the project from maps of the cemetery. As soon as the photographer takes a group of pictures, they are emailed to Cathy Schwarz who matches them with the names and cemetery locations already posted on the Kendall County GenWeb site. Now, viewers can see a picture

of the tombstone marking their relatives' grave.

Participating in the project are Chairman Erle & Gwen Adrian, Christy Kestler, Carl & Louise Taylor, Regina Adam, Judy McVay, Julie Mickits, Martha Boye, Nancy McLarry, Don & Marie Evans and Harry & Mary Alice Dell.

“Two Bits” from the President

What an amazing group of people are the members of GSKC! I have never belonged to any other organization in which so many members have been so actively involved in as many different ways as this group has been in April. We have 114 members and according to my calculations at least 59 of them took part in one or more GSKC activities ranging from attending the genealogy course to traveling to the Comfort Heritage Society for our April meeting. They participated in the Computer Genie Census Workshop, helped visitors researching their ancestors in our Library, aided First Family applicants, and took tombstone pictures in the Boerne Cemetery. They cataloged books, answered research queries, inventoried our Library, prepared food for and attended the Library Volunteer luncheon, and produced our Keys to the Past journal.

Of particular joy to Harry and I has been the Class of the 2008 Genealogy Course, as they enthusiastically tackled the homework we assigned, and struggled with learning how to participate in the My-Family website blog. I don't know if it was the wonderful goodies Irene Page served each evening, or just the personalities of students, as strangers quickly became friends. I think we all were sad when the last session rolled around.

Harry and I were surprised, a bit embarrassed, and touched by the gift they gave us.

Don Evans, editor *pro tem*, with the much appreciated technical assistance of Christy Kestler, has done a great job of publishing the Journal. Regina Adam, Mary Taylor and Bryden Moon made a huge contribution by preparing the First Family section. The position of editor is open and we invite anyone who thinks they might have an interest, to work with us on the Fall/Winter edition. Be sure to attend the May meeting to get your copy of the journal.

Did you know that the Main Library has genealogy books that can be checked out?. Please make use of this service, so they will realize how much we appreciate their having the books there for us.

GSKC Visit to Comfort

Twenty two people attended the April GSKC meeting at the Comfort Heritage Foundation to hear Ruth and Frank Kiel discuss Comfort's history and projects. Most of the attendees plus the Kiels continued their fellowship at a luncheon at the Hen House.

Our visit to Comfort was enlightening. We were tremendously impressed with the genealogical research opportunity there for anyone with Comfort ancestors.

The Foundations members have been and are continuing to do a great job in collecting and preserving community records.

We have been remiss in not visiting the Comfort Library since their make-over a few years ago. We only had time to do a quick walk through before we were due to meet the group for lunch, but saw enough to know that it is an amazing library for a community of that size. They rival the Boerne Library in their Texana collection and have nearly as many public use computers...and if comparing the size of the two communities and the physical size of their libraries, they are way ahead.

Harry and I drove out to the Brownsboro Cemetery with the Kiels after lunch. We were impressed with the amount of work that Frank and Ruth have done to identify people buried there; and to clean up and repair the old grave markers in this early Kendall County Cemetery.

Want a Copy of April 18 Boerne Star?

Ann and Bill Davenport bought 25 copies of the newspaper that had the Genealogy Class pictures in it, so fellow students that didn't take the paper could have a copy. Stop by the Genealogy Library and pick up a copy on Wednesday afternoon if you didn't get one earlier

Library Volunteers Enjoy Annual Spring Luncheon



(Left) Chairman Jack Charles and President Mary Alice Dell judge entries in the LV Challenge contest, which Regina Adam won with a perfect paper.

(Right) Christy Kestler, the latest GSKC member to become a Library Volunteer chats with husband, Abb Kestler and LV Marion Hull. Luncheon was held at the home of Erle and Gwen Adrian on March 30.



Thirty Nine Students Receive GSKC Achievement Certificates

Thirty-nine of the forty-seven students who registered for the 2008 Genealogy Course received certificates of completion at a graduation ceremony on April 10.



Betty Immel returned for her fourth genealogy refresher course and earned gold.

Thirteen certificates were adorned with a gold seal honoring outstanding achievement for completion of the weekly homework assignments and class attendance.

The six week course, *Genealogical Research—Today and Tomorrow*, covered topics such as research strategies, analyzing records, and finding documents in traditional ways and on the Internet. Students got a chance to discover a new use for the Internet as they used the Myfamily blog website set up just for the class.



Harry Dell congratulates Jerry Ball

Homework assignments were posted there as well as photos, interesting new websites, and other genealogy topics. They even had polls in which to express their opinions.

The *GSKC Researchers* site will continue to be used by students to post their brick walls for problem solving help by fellow students, and to post their research discoveries, news and pictures.

Those receiving gold seal certificates were Gwen Adrian, Jerry Ball, John Barthel, Billy and Ann Davenport, David Dunn, Don and Marie Evans, Betty Immel, Christy Kestler, John Oldham, and Jim and Carol Westermeier.



Carol Westermeier and her husband, Jim (pictured below) won the gold seal and plan to become Library Volunteers.



Others receiving certificates were Stu Adamslundy, Erle Adrian, Teal Anderson, C. J. Burgin, Marilyn Burgin, Kate Dalton, Jean Dickman, Quinn Farrell, James Griffes, Mary Griffes, Alice Klein, Gladys Kuebel, Dee Lehmann, Jane McAlister, Nancy Mc Larry, Judith McVay, Julie Mickits, Mary Oster, Tom Page and Irene Page, LaVerne Peterson, Bertie Reynolds,



Bill Davenport earned the golden seal.

Carl Taylor, Louise Taylor, Luther Vanlandingham, and Mary Ellen Wheeler.

Two follow-up workshops were held after the course ended. The first was a Census Search workshop to which members brought laptop computers to use and share with others as they learned tricks to use in finding their ancestors in census indexes. Twenty attended the workshop which was conducted by Mary Alice and Harry Dell as part of the April Computer Genie meeting. Shirley Joiner, Mary Taylor and Sharon Wolff attended to assist in connecting computers to WIFI and in helping attendees find their ancestors in census records.



Judy McVay, who just missed qualifying for the gold, is also joining the LV group.

The second workshop was for computer beginners, and those interested in learning to use a genealogy software program. Twenty one attended that on April 24.

The Genealogical Society of Kendall County Newsletter

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 Gwen Adrian, Recording Secretary
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Comfort Heritage Foundation

The next meeting of the Comfort Heritage Foundation will be held May 12 at 7:30 pm. at the Old Bank Building, at which time board members for the coming year and winners of the annual awards will be selected. Visitors are welcome, according to Ruth Kiel, president of the Foundation.

She also announced the Foundation has received the Texas State Historical Cemetery marker for the Brownsboro Cemetery, and is planning a dedication ceremony for the near future. The restoration of the cemetery is almost complete, with a new fence installed and the tombstones repaired and straightened.



February 2008 New Books continued

The Genealogical Advertiser edited by Lucy Hall Greelaw

A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Puritans, Vols. 1-4 by James Savage

Genealogical Records of Arkansas, Vol. 1, Parts 1 and 2 by James L. Morgan

Genealogies of Virginia Families from the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography

In Search of Canadian Roots by Angus Baxter

Index to Georgia Wills by Jeannette Austin

Index to Vital Records of Barnstable, Mass. Compiled by Leonard H. Smith, Jr.

Indexes to the County Wills of South Carolina

***Jamestowne Ancestors 1607-1699** by Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis. Memorial honoring Edgar Schwarz, Jr.

Kentucky Marriages 1797-1865 by G. Glenn Clift

The Knowledge of Mankind; The Vermont Journal & the Universal Advisor, 1783-1786

***Lawmen on the Texas Frontier** by Candice DuCoin (Donated by the author)

A List of Pensioners of the War of 1812 by Byron N. Clark

Lynn and Surroundings by Clarence W. Hobbs] **Marriages and Deaths 1763 to 1820; Abstracted from Extant Georgia Newspapers** by Mary Bondurant Warren.

Marriages and Deaths 1820 to 1830; Abstracted from Extant Georgia Newspapers by Mary Bondurant Warren

Marriages and Divorces of Arkansas, 1808-1830 by James L. Morgan

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns of Halifax County, Virginia, 1753-1800

compiled by Catherine L. Knorr

Marriage Notices from Washington County, New York Newspapers, 1799-1880

by Mary S. Jackson and Edward F. Jackson

Marriages of Some Virginia Residents 1607-1800, Vol. 2 by Dorothy F. Wulfeck

Materials Towards a History of the Baptists, Vol. 2 by Morgan Edwards

Native American Directory, Vital Records of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and Wisconsin by Lorraine (Rainwaters) Henry.

New England Cemeteries; A Collector's Guide by Andres Kull.

New Hampshire Marriage Licenses and Intentions 1709-1961 by Pauline J. Oesterlin

North and South Carolina Marriage Records by William M. Clemons

Nova Scotia Immigrants to 1867, Vol. 1 by Leonard H. Smith, Jr. and Norma H. Smith

The Old United Empire Loyalists List Pioneers of Davidson County, Tennessee by Edythe J. Whitley

Provincetown Massachusetts Cemetery Inscriptions compiled by Lurana Higgins Cook.

The Quiet Adventurers in North America by Marion G. Turk

Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam and New York; Marriages from 11 December 1639 to 26 August 1801 by Samuel S. Purple.

Rockingham County North Carolina Deed Abstracts 1785-1800 compiled by Irene B. Webster

Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants by Gary Boyd Roberts

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania by Phillip A. Rice

Scotch-Irish Migration to South Carolina by Jeanette Stephenson

Scots on the Chesapeake 1607-1830 compiled by David Dobson

Second Supplement to Torrey's New England by Melinda L. Sanborn

7500 Marriages from Ninety-six and Abbeville District by Larry Pursley

600 Revolutionary Soldiers Living in Georgia by Martha Houston

Soldiers of the Revolutionary War Buried in Vermont by Walter H. Crockett

Some Cemetery Records of Abbeville County, South Carolina

(To be continued in September edition)