



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Sharon Wolff to Talk on Brick Walls

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Boerne, Texas

Former Vice President Sharon Wolff will speak on "How to Climb, Hurdle, Burrow Under, or Dismantle your Brick Wall" at the meeting Saturday May 2.



Sharon has been a member of the Society for 9 years, serving as VP in 2003. She was the chairman of the Extrac-tion Committee that copied records from early tax books so GSKC could publish the *Kendall County Tax Records 1880-1890*. She co-chaired the 2007 Third Annual Hill Country Seminar featuring John Phillip Colletta.. Sharon was among the first GSKC Library Volunteers in 2004, and served for over two years.

Sharon is currently serving as a member of the Kendall County Sheriff's Advisory Board, and is President of the Joshua D. Brown chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She served for 4 years on the DRT Library board and for

two years on the Board at the Alamo. She is Regent Elect of her chapter of the George W. Kendall chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Sharon is also a member of the Daughters of 1812, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, United Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of Indian Wars.

Sharon is a Genealogical Consultant for NSDAR and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogist.

Sharon started her research in family history after taking the 2000 Six Week Genealogy Course offered by GSKC. It is amazing where that course has led her.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 2

GSKC Meeting

10.a.m.

Boerne Public Library

Saturday, May 16,

10 am to 8 pm

Living History Festival

Herff-Rozelle Farm

Computer Genies

Thursday, May 21

1:30 p.m. BPL

Member Elected Head of Historical Commission

Mary Alice Dell was elected to a two-year term as Chairman of the Kendall County Historical Commission on April 15 at a meeting held in the new Court House. Russell Busby, of Comfort, was elected Vice chairman and GSKC member, Bryden Moon, was elected Secretary.

Mary Alice has been secretary of the KCHC for the past two years. Other GSKC mem-

bers serving on the KCHC are Don Evans, Frances King, Dick Magers and Marilyn Vogt. The Historical Commission is appointed by County Judge Gaylan Schroeder.

The role of the Commission is to make recommendations and to advise Commissioners Court on matters of historical significance in the county. KCHC's purpose is to preserve, protect,

and promote the history of and heritage of Kendall County and its pioneer families. It encourages the placement of historical markers.

The Commission has been working closely with Barry Wagner, the architect who is planning and overseeing the restoration of the Historic Court House, for the past four years. The restoration is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

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Two Bits from the Editor

by Mary Alice Dell

Since President Don slipped out of town to take a cruise without giving the editor his usual Column, and since this editor hates a vacuum, I am offering these thoughts to fill this space.

One of the issues topmost in the minds of members is the role of the Society in the new library. Christy Kestler and Lucy Croft have twice met with Kelly Skovbjerg to discuss this issue, with Jack Charles in attendance at the second meeting. The information they gained clarifies Kelly's plan for our participation in the new open environment. Based on this input, GSKC is now able to respond to the Director's February Memo stating our position as how we believe we can best provide our services to the public in the new library. Many members feel we should do this as soon as possible.

I have been asked many times in the past nine weeks "why is the Library eliminating the History/Genealogy Room?" by those who are shocked that it is even being considered. I am as puzzled as everyone else. I have reread Kelly's Memo (published in the April Newsletter) several times and read the report of the first conversation Christy and Lucy had with Kelly, but still fail to see how eliminating the Research Room benefits anyone, or is the only way to achieve Kelly's stated goals. The first

achieved goal she states would be to provide "better access to all resources and consistent service". Having resources scattered over a large open area, rather than all in one room, seems to defeat "better access" as far as the genealogy researcher and volunteer assisting that researcher are concerned.

Kelly stated "when only a core group uses and knows the collection, service is less consistent and timely". The core group that uses the GSKC Collection is composed of the people in the community and visitors interested in local and Family History. The Library Volunteers and a few other GSKC members know the Collection as a result of hours of training and working with it. This same training has been offered to BPL staff and volunteers on numerous occasions. Whether the books are in a separate room or in the stacks, the same knowledge is necessary to effectively help researchers. The Library Volunteer's knowledge extends beyond the Collection in helping the researchers, as it includes helping with Internet research. The same help that is available now when a GSKC volunteer is not present, would be available in the new library, so I don't understand how eliminating the research room offers better consistency.

The second goal was "to provide better security for resources through constant staffing and a security system." The

latter is placing tags in books that will trigger an alarm when exiting unless the book has been cleared. If BPL is planning to place these tags in their genealogy books that are intermingled with those belonging to GSKC, why could those not also be protected at the same time? Security was suggested as a reason for GSKC books to be donated to the Library. Security has never been a problem in the current library.

The third goal was "to encourage collaboration among the three groups and Staff". This goal was stated "Alleviate long-standing issues and conflicts among the three groups sharing the current room" in the original Memo Kelly sent. That Memo was changed and re-issued after her meeting with the Executive Committee when no one knew to what she was referring, and she was unable to cite an incident. The only area in which the three groups would interact in the new library would be the Staff work area; whether the Collection is in the stacks or in a Research Room. The BAHPS and Boerne Cemetery Foundation rarely use the Research room. It is the Inner office that is being shared. GSKC Library Volunteers now help patrons research the files of the other two groups and would continue to do so. I still can not understand how depriving researchers and the older community of this room really benefits anyone.

Computer Genies Meeting

Computer Genies will take a break from crumbling brick walls on May 21, and give members an opportunity to show case the beginning of their "family story". Members agreed to start writing their life story a paragraph at a time. Now is the time to share them and encourage others.

Irene Page, chairman invites any one interested in writing their family history to come; and bring whatever you have written thus far. Anyone wishing a list of subjects suggested for writing your memories, email Irene. and she will send you a copy. A demonstration of some new ways to use Google will be shown. Meeting starts at 1:30 p.m.in the BPL Meeting room.

2010 Seminar Volunteers

Now is the time to join the 2010 Seminar Planning Committee. Some decisions and plans start now. Contact Christy Kestler if you are interested either by email or at the May 2 meeting.

Ten Library Volunteers Awarded 5 Year Certificates

Ten members who joined the Library Volunteer project in the Spring of 2004, and have served continuously since that date, were honored at the Spring Luncheon held at John Oldham's home April 19. Honored were Jack Charles, Lucy Croft, Harry and Mary Alice Dell, Mary Lou & Ed Mergele, Irene Page and Paulette Thompson. Absent were Don Evans and Mary Ellen Wheeler. Other volunteers pictured are Teal Anderson, Quinn Farrell, Marion Hull, Christy Kestler, Judith McVay, John Oldham, and Bertie Reynolds. Guests attending were L.K. Croft, Tom Page, Don Reynolds, Kathy Charles, and Madeline Oldham



Minutes of the April 4, 2009 Meeting

The April 4, 2009 meeting of GSKC was called to order by President Don Evans. He announced the minutes of the March meeting had been published in the Newsletter and asked for any corrections. Jim Boyd moved to accept minutes as printed in the *Keys To The Present* Newsletter, motion was seconded by Terri James, and approved.

President Evans reports that new library plans are still under discussion. There will be a meeting at the Community Center on Mon. April 13 at 6 PM at which time the architect for the building will present exterior plans, answer questions and receive input on the exterior. Members were encouraged to attend.

Jim Boyd brought up the subject of tracking monies that was given to the Library by the Dietert Estate several years ago. No one present knew the details and the matter was to be studied and a report made back to the members.

Treasurer, Harry Dell reported March income of \$210.39, expenses \$696.20, and financial net worth of \$12,775.05. A copy of the 2009 proposed budget, which has not been approved by the membership will be e-mailed to members to review. Discussion and voting on the 2009 Budget will be at the May meeting.

Jack Charles reported volunteer's hours as follows: Jan. 146, Feb. 203, and Mar. 214, totaling 564 hours for the first quarter of 2009. These numbers will be forwarded to Kelly Skovberg. He stated that there are 12 paid staff in the Library. GSKC now has 28 Library volunteers. Discussion with Kelly regarding the future plans for the interior of the library is ongoing. Alexis Markert reports GSKC presently boasts membership of 135.

Christy Kestler announced that the Computer Genies meeting this month will be at 1:30 PM on April 16. Harry Dell and Christy Kestler will be assisting with "Brick Walls".

Erle Adrian's report on the Boerne cemetery photo project indicated that 1924 tombstone pictures are presently on the website. A few sections are still available for volunteer photographers to adopt. Jim Boyd volunteered to photograph the remaining sections.

Cathy Schwarz stated the cemetery project is no longer on the separate website that GSKC was paying for, but has been returned to the Kendall County Genweb site.

A Living History Festival will be held on May 16, at the historic Herff-Rozelle Farm on Old San Antonio Road. There will be storytelling, photos, and displays celebrating the cultural heritage of our community. Don asked for a volunteer to chair a committee so that GSKC could have a booth. There was no response. (Continued on Page 4)



The Genealogical Society of Kendall County Newsletter

Don Evans, President (vmtmmm@gvtc.com)
Christy Kestler, Vice President
Gladys Kuebel, Recording Secretary
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Mary Alice Dell, Editor (made135@gvtc.com)
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Membership Directory Update

Additions

Linda Bowman
114 Hunter Way
Kerrville TX 78028-7368
(830) 257-2449
linbow1@windstream.com)

Diane & Frank Rohrbough
124 Spring Valley Cove
Boerne TX 78006 -7832
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texansrus@gvtc.com

Corrections

George Kolb
Correct email address to
georgek@ctesc.net

Gladys Kuebel: Correct the first page to 830-816-5216
The Home Phone is correct in the member listing.

April 4 Minutes continued from Page 3)

Don announced that Kate Skinner-Klee and Mary Taylor have recommended GSKC present to the Library Foundation the donations recently made by members to the Library Building Fund at this time, and publicize the contribution in the local papers. Jack Charles suggested waiting on this until the next meeting when GSKC has completed talks with Kelly, as several members have expressed regret that they had made a donation and may want it returned.

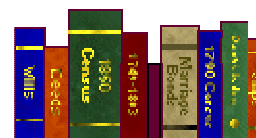
Judy McVay reminded GSKC volunteers planning to attend the Library Volunteer annual luncheon that they need to RSVP immediately. Mary Alice announced spring Library Volunteer training session will be on Tues. April 7 at the Masonic Lodge.

Ron Reisinger brought up the lack of repairs on computers and other equipment in the Library. Christy noted that the repairs must only be done by City of Boerne repairmen and they have to service all city machines. She reminded members that the ancestry library version is available on all computers in the library and researchers could use those in the main library.

Harry reminded members that he still has some sizes of the blue logo shirts and that more can be ordered at a slightly higher cost.

Program for the day was presented by Vice President, Christy Kestler, on the subject of interactive family history sites such as MyFamily. She introduced the GSKC Researchers site used by the 2008 Genealogy Course members and stated it would now be open to all GSKC members. Anyone interested should contact the present administrator, Mary Alice Dell, who will send an invitation to join to that member. Meeting was adjourned by President Don Evans.

New Books On Our Shelves



Survey and Headstone Listings of the Cemeteries of Northwestern Wise County, Texas by Sue Tackel & LaDaria Keith [GEN 976.4532 Tack TEX WISE] Loaned to GSKC by Sharon Pratt.

Survey and Headstone Listings of the Cemeteries of Southwestern Wise County, Texas by Sue Tackel & LaDarla Keith [GEN 976.4532 TEX WISE] Loaned to GSKC by Sharon Pratt.

Survey and Headstone Listings of the Cemeteries of Northeastern Wise County, Texas by Sue Tackel & LaDarla Keith [GEN 976.4532 TEX WISE] Loaned to GSKC by Sharon Pratt.

Y'All Cook: Woodstove to Microwave, Celebrating Our Heritage with a Collection of Recipes Passed Down Through Generations compiled by the Genealogy Society of Kendall County [GEN 976.4886 Yall TEX KENDALL] Memorial to Edna Felps