



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Election of 2008 Officers Nov 3

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Boerne, Texas

The first Saturday in November is election day! Election of the officers who will serve you in 2008 as they guide the activities of GSKC .

The slate for 2008 was presented at the October meeting and consists of the following: President, Mary Alice Dell; Vice-President, Don Evans; Recording Secretary, Gwen Adrian; Corresponding Secretary, Alexis Markert; Treasurer,, Terri James; and Librarian, Lucy Croft. Members will be permitted to make floor nominations for any office.



.Diane Rohrbough, speaker at the October meeting, and Don Evans discuss lineage research after the meeting. Don is currently working on his application for the Sons of the American Revolution. Diane, registrar of the George W. Kendall chapter of DAR, is also a GSKC member.

Upcoming Events

October 25, 2007

Computer Genies
Internet Research

November 3, 2007

GSKC Meeting
Civil War Letters

January 26, 2008

Hill Country Family History
Seminar

Seminar Dinner Plans Announced

Megan Smolenyak will speak at a pre-seminar dinner on Friday evening prior to the all day 4th Annual Hill Country Seminar in January Her dinner topic will be “Remembering our Ancestors”. The event, to be held upstairs at the Boerne Convention Center, will be catered by the Hungry Horse Catering Service and will feature their special bacon-wrapped fillets. Wine will be served during the social hour starting at 6:30 with dinner at 7 p.m. Registration at the seminar is required for dinner attendees. An unregistered spouse of a registered attendee may come to the dinner.

Olsson to Show Civil War Letters

Dr. Sandra Olsson will illustrate the relationship between history and genealogy at the Nov 3 GSKC meeting as she relates her journey to find the Civil War letters of her ancestor. Using letters exchanged among members of a Civil War family, Dr. Olsson will share with us today their perceptions and experiences during the final two years of the conflict.

Her interest in genealogy springs from her background, which includes a B.A. with honors from the University of Wyoming in American Studies.

She began work on her “roots” in the early 90’s and was lucky enough to come across these letters in the process. This is a meeting you won’t want to miss

Keys to The Past

Copies of the last two journals will be available for members to pick up at the November meeting. Please be sure to sign the list when you take your copy so it will not also be mailed to you.

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“Two Bits” from the President

The first week in November members of GSKC have two elections which will have an affect on the genealogical and historical aspects of our community. The first is at the meeting of GSKC on the 3rd. It is one of the few elections for which you are not bombarded with political mail or TV ads. However, since GSKC is important to the survival and growth of family history research and genealogical document preservation in our community, the selection of those who lead the organization is important.

Members Support Differently

Membership support is important to those who are elected to lead a group and it comes in many forms. Support comes in the form of non-participating members, such as those GSKC members who are physically unable to take an active role. Other inactive members have taken on other obligations, but still show their support and continued interest by becoming members. Others join GSKC only to donate generously to support the organization's library and its goals of education and preservation. Some join to learn more about genealogical research and to enjoy the fellowship of persons with a similar hobby, or to receive the Keys to The Past with its published information of earlier residents.

GSKC welcomes all these kinds of members, but also needs those who join and actively become involved in the projects of the organization. The members who get the fullest return on their membership are those who help to plan and carry out projects and programs, who volunteer to help others in the Library, or to help with record preservation or extraction projects. We encourage you to reap all the benefits of membership -including the ballot box.

November 6th Election

The second election is the Special Election on State Propositions. You might ask how that affects genealogy. Passage of proposed amendment Proposition 4 (SJR65), which would permit the Texas Finance Authority to issue up to \$1 billion in general obligation bonds, could have a direct positive impact. The funds, according to the statement on the ballot, would be used “for maintenance, improvement, repair and construction projects, and for the purchase of needed equipment.

Buried in the verbiage is a list of state agencies which would help spend this money, including the Texas Historical Commission. Kendall County Commissioners will be submitting a grant proposal to the Texas Historical Commission in November, for funds to restore and improve the Historic County Courthouse. This grant would restore the courthouse

interior to the appearance of its early years, as well as update the electrical and climate control systems and make other structural improvements.

Courthouse Restoration

The Kendall County Historical Commission is working with Barry Wagner, architect and preservation consultant, in preparing the State Grant Application. Several members of GSKC are members of the Commission:: Don Evans, Fran King, June Kiphart, Dick Magers, Marilyn Vogt, and myself as Secretary-Treasurer.

If the proposition passes and if Kendall County gets the \$1.4 million requested to restore the courthouse, the early records so essential to the genealogy and history of the County can be safely and correctly stored. Once cataloged and filed, they will be more accessible to researchers. Vote in the Special Election Nov 6 and vote yes on Proposition 4.

Membership News

Our sincere sympathies to member Rosemarie Schneider upon the recent death of her father, Adolph W. Bartel.

June Kiphart, GSKC vice president and editor of the Keys to The Past, will be hospitalized for radium treatment and unable to attend our November meeting. Hurry back June.

Members Prepare Seminar Flyers

Teamwork was the only way to describe the efforts of GSKC members as they readied for mailing nearly 500 registration flyers for the 4th Annual Hill Country Family History Seminar to be held January 26. Folding, double sealing, labeling and stamping 500 flyers is a daunting job which took over 10 man hours to accomplish. Shown here are (left to right) Betty Immel, Irene Page, Erle Adrian, Gwen Adrian, Ruth Taylor and Louise Taylor. They were completing the task started last week by Edna Felps and Mary Ellen Wheeler. Thank you all!



GSKC Officer Profile

Alexis Markert, GSKC Corresponding Secretary, was born in Poteau, OK but lived in Michigan during her childhood. She and her older sister went to live with her grandparents in Saginaw shortly after her birth. Five years later, when her Dad remarried, they moved to Bay City, MI. She lived there until her first husband, a Viet Nam veteran, went into the military. Their travels took them to Virginia, Georgia, Berlin, Maryland, and finally San Antonio in 1984, where she lived until 1999 when she moved to Boerne.

Alexis retired from Ft. Sam Houston in 2004, bought a 5th wheel trailer and became a full time RVer in 2005. She has worked part time



as Nursery Coordinator at St. John Lutheran Church since 2001, looking after children under 4 year olds while their parents attend church and church functions. She not only serves GSKC as a member of the Executive Committee, but also is the Membership Chairman collecting membership applications and renewals and compiling the Annual Directory; and is registrar for the Annual Hill Country seminars.

Alexis and Perry are “workkammers” and hope to travel to Utah in 2008, working part time in RV parks. She would like to spend a month or two in the Salt Lake City area in order to visit the Family History Library to do research on her grandparents who were born in Russia of German decent. They arrived in the US in 1912-1913 and settled in Saginaw, MI. As long as she does all this in the summer time, we’re willing to let her go.

If you missed the monthly column of The Family Historian in the Boerne Star, you can read it on line at <http://www.boernestar.com/> Choose Lifestyles link, then Genealogy.

Minutes of the October 6 GSKC Meeting

President Mary Alice Dell welcomed guests and members and asked each person to introduce themselves. The pledges to the American and Texas flags were given. Fifty-one members and guests were in attendance.

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes as printed in the October newsletter. The treasurer’s report was unchanged from the one presented in September. Alexis Markert, Membership Chairman, announced dues for 2008 are the same as for 2007: \$25.00 for Individual and \$35.00 for couple.

Under old business, President Dell discussed the 4th Annual Hill Country Seminar to be held in January 2008 on the use of DNA in genealogical research. Volunteers are needed both for the preparation before the seminar and for the day of the seminar. Sign up sheets detailing the help needed, were made available for members.

Irene Page, chairman of the Nominating Committee, introduced committee members Paulette Thompson and Richard Winegar. She presented the following slate of officers for 2008: President – Mary Alice Dell; Vice-president – Don Evans; Recording Secretary – Gwen Adrian; Corresponding Secretary – Alexis Markert; Treasurer – Terri James; and Librarian- Lucy Croft. Election of officers will be held at the November meeting.

Founder and Early Settler certificates were presented to the following persons by Mary Taylor and Regina Adam, co-chairmen of the First Family Committee:

Charles Clifford Wendler for his four ancestors: Henry August Wendler, Pauline Auguste Luckenbach, Albert Jacob Luckenbach and Justina Roebson Luckenbach..

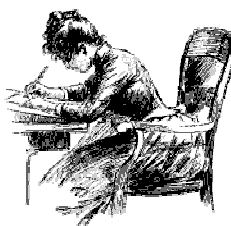
Arlan Joseph Bergmann and **Betsy Bergman Sueltenfuss** for their ancestors Christian Friedrich Bergmann and Johanna Christianna Louise Dressler.

Dorothy Mae Vollbrecht Reinhard for her ancestors Louis P. Vollbrecht and Bertha Luckenbach Vollbrecht.

President Dell announced a break to enjoy the special carrot cake prepared and donated by Paul Thompson of the Cypress Grill, honoring the recipients.

When the meeting resumed, the President expressed the member’s pleasure that Edna Felps, a past president, was able to attend the meeting after several months of illness.

Diane Rohrbough, registrar of the George W. Kendall chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution was then introduced. She spoke on using pedigree charts and collecting proofs to join lineage societies. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



Early Membership Renewal Needed

A membership renewal form appears on the back page of this newsletter for your convenience. We encourage you to return it with your check for the 2008 dues by the 1st of December. Our Membership Chairman, Alexis Markert, has also agreed to be the registrar for the upcoming Smolenyak seminar to be held in January. Registrations for that will be arriving in December and January, so her job will be much easier if the membership dues for 2008 are paid before that time.

Alexis is also responsible for publishing our annual Membership Directory. The accuracy of your listing in that publication depends on your input. The renewal form allows you to state that the information that appeared last year is correct...or to make corrections for the 2008 directory. The 2008 directory will also have the bylaws and standing rules published in it.

The Renewal Form has a section in which you can note any donations, such as for the continuation of Ancestry.com in library or for other projects. The ancestry fee is due in January. We urge you to fill out the form immediately and bring it to the Nov or Dec meeting or mail it today



The Genealogical Society of Kendall County Newsletter

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GSKC Website:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgskc/>

Upcoming November Genealogical Seminars

Michael John Neill will speak at the Nov. 3 seminar of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society at the SAGHS library. For more details visit their web site at www.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2.

Drew Smith and George G. Morgan who co-host the weekly Genealogy Guys Podcast, along with John Sellers will present two days of lectures. *The Road to the Future, a Map to your Family Genealogy*, at the Texas State Genealogy Society Conference at Tyler, Nov 9-10. For information visit www.rootsweb.com/~txsgs.

October and November Computer Genie Programs to Illustrate Internet Websites

Finding information about 20th century relatives and ancestors is often challenging. Harry Dell will illustrate the use of Internet sources in his search for a "lost" Canadian uncle who came to the US in the late 1890's, at the Computer Genie meeting Thursday, Oct 25. Meeting starts at 6:30 at the Boerne Library.

At the November 28th meeting, Mary Alice Dell will explain how DNA project results and pedigrees shown on some of the DNA sites on the Internet can be useful to researchers who have not participated in a testing program. She will also introduce some common terminology for beginners as a basic for better understanding of the topic at the January seminar.

Membership Renewal

Please complete appropriate part of renewal form and return with dues payment.

Items in red are required.

Name(s): _____

Nothing has changed since the 2007 Directory listing _____ **OR**

Please make changes for the 2008 Directory listing as noted below _____

Address: _____

Street _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Email (1): _____ (2) _____

Home Number () _____ **Cell ()** _____

Please indicate Membership classification and/or donation.

Individual \$25.00 _____ **Couple \$35.00** _____ **Student \$15.00** _____

Donors \$25.00-\$50.00 _____ **Sponsors \$51.00 to \$100.00** _____ **Patrons Over \$100.00** _____

Ancestry.com fund \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Genealogical Society of Kendall County

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