



# Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

## GSKC Election Leads National Vote Day

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Boerne, Texas

The upcoming national election is not the only one facing some Kendall County residents as GSKC elects its 2009 officers on Saturday, November 1, three days before we choose local, state and national leaders.

Members can either approve the slate presented by the Nominating Committee chaired by Tom Page, or offer other candidates for consideration. On the Nominating Committee slate is Don Evans, President; Christy Kestler, Vice-President; Gladys Kuebel, Recording Secretary; Alice Klein, Corre-

sponding Secretary; Jim Griffes, Treasurer, and Lucy Croft, Librarian.

### Program for Meeting

*The Genealogy Internet, Today and Tomorrow* will be the subject of the program following the business meeting. Mary Alice Dell will suggest where to find records of your ancestors on the Internet today, and a preview of what is coming on line in the future. She will give hints as to how to search for those difficult to find ancestors,

and how to locate some lesser known sources.

The Fall issue of the GSKC periodical (*Journal Keys to the Past*) will be distributed at the meeting. Vice-President Don Evans has served as Interim Editor assisted by Bryden Moon and Christy Kestler.

The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Meeting Room at the Boerne Public Library. Other members of the Nominating Committee were Judith McVay and Louise Taylor.

### Upcoming Events

#### Saturday, November 1

GSKC Meeting  
10 am, BPL

#### Saturday, November 8

Dick Eastman Seminar  
San Antonio

#### Tuesday, November 18

Computer Genies  
1 pm, BPL

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First Family Certificates winners honored in October were (L to R) Joyce Rust, Adolph Wendler, Franklin Zoeller, Colleen Sanderson, GSKC member Bertie Reynolds, and Cristel Langfeld.

## “Two Bits” from the President

At the time when our nation is struggling with financial concerns, I am happy to report that at least one entity on Main Street, namely GSKC, is in good financial condition. In fact the best ever, thanks to donations of members, and a grant once again from the City of Boerne's Hotel Occupancy Tax fund. This partially underwrites the cost of the annual Family History seminar held each year for the community and which draws participants from other areas. This will be our fourth year to feature an outstanding speaker, perhaps the most popular one of all, Dr. George W. Schweitzer. Last year we were in the black, after three years of financial loss, so the HOT grant is appreciated. Another big drain on our treasury is the annual cost of preservation of old county records and the storing of excess books for which we have no shelf room in the Library.

I am amazed at the work accomplished by a handful of people since last spring. I was in the Library last week when Carl Taylor gave Cathy Swartz a “smart card” full of tombstone pictures. I don't have the latest count of the number of pictures taken, but it must be nearing the 2000 mark. Since that is only half of what is in the cemetery, it is not too late to join the group. Contact Erle Adrian if you are interested in participating in the project.



If you missed the First Family Awards meeting last month and/or the Computer Genie Meeting last week, you did yourself a disservice, as they were both outstanding events. If we had a SRO (Standing Room Only) sign last month, we would have put it out. Every chair in the meeting room, and those borrowed from the staff break room/kitchen, and from our genealogy library were filled. Fifty eight people signed in, but an actual head count at one point was 61. That is not what made it outstanding however. It was the seeing the joy and pride on the faces of the recipients and the animated chatter of the clusters of relatives having a mini-family reunion after the meeting.

## GSKC Wins Award

*Keys to the Present*, GSKC's Monthly Newsletter, won the second place award in the Texas State Society annual newsletter competition Oct 25<sup>th</sup> at Abilene TX. President Mary Alice Dell, pictured at left, accepted the certificate and \$50.00 cash award for GSKC. Her column, *The Family Historian*, which appears monthly in the *Boerne Star*, also won a second place

Some cousins had never met previously.

Harry and I spent the past weekend at Abilene at the Texas State Genealogy Conference. A little over 200 genealogist were in attendance plus several vendors. Tom Jones was the speaker and did an excellent job of giving us new thoughts on how to solve genealogical problems in five sessions. Just when you think you know all the tricks, along comes a lecturer that offers a new view. That's what keeps us going to genealogical seminars. The sixth session was on genealogical ethics, copyright, and the question of when is it okay to publish the genealogical records of the family of someone else and of living people. You want to reveal the fact that your three great grandfather committed suicide in the family history; your cousin does not want that published. No one owns an ancestor, but should you leave that out because a descendant objects? Thought provoking questions about who owns a collection of genealogy records that have been amassed into a family history.

## New Books in the Genealogical Library

*American Passenger Arrival Records* - Michael Tepper

*Choctaw County Chronicles: A History of Choctaw County, Mississippi 1830-1973* - J.P. Coleman

*Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States* - Christina K. Schaefer

*\*Hendrik Gerrit Kiel, Dutch Immigrant to Pennsylvania, A Genealogy* - Frank Wilson Kiel. Donated by Frank Wilson Kiel.

*A History of Stonewall County (TX)* - Stonewall Historical Commission

*A History of Crockett County (TX)* -The Crockett County Historical Society

*Holway-Rich Heritage: A History and Genealogy of Two Cape Cod Families* - Richard Thomas Holway

*\*An Index to the Will Books and Intestate Records of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania 1729-1850* - Eleanore Jane Fulton. Donated by Mary Lou Mergele.

*\*The Family Tree Resource Book for Genealogists* - Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. Donated by Sharon Pratt.

*\*Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution, Volumes I & II* - Howard Gilmer Jesse. Donated by Sons of the American Revolution, Boerne Chapter.

*\*Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia 1647-1800* - Blanche Adams Chapman.. Donated by Mary Lou Mergele.

*Female Index to Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England by James Savage*, compiled by Patty Barthell Myers.

\* Indicates books with known donors. Many books are donated anonymously.

## Dick Eastman to Speak at San Antonio Seminar

Dick Eastman, editor of a popular blog, Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, will be the speaker at the Annual Fall Seminar sponsored by the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society.

The Seminar will be held Saturday, November 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the John Calvin Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at 8102 Midcrown at Walzem in San Antonio.

Eastman's subjects will be *The Latest Technology for Genealogists*, *Genealogy Searches on Google*, *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, and *Photographing Old or Delicate Documents and Pictures*. Cost of the seminar is \$45 and can be paid at the door. Lunch is included.

**No Business Meeting in October so....  
No Minutes**

## Interim Treasurer Named

Jim Griffes has been appointed by the Executive Committee, in accordance with the Bylaws, to finish the term of the elected treasurer, Terri James. Jim is a candidate for Treasurer for 2009.

Jim, along with his wife Mary, joined GSKC last spring and were students of the 2008 Genealogy Course. He may be new to GSKC, and new to Boerne, but not to being a treasurer, as he has served in that capacity for other groups.

# Computer Genies To Crumble More Brick Walls

The October meeting of the Computer Genies was pronounced a success by the group, according to Chairman Irene Page. Both Judy McVay and Dick Lockwood were given new handholds in scaling their Brick Walls. Records found on their lines gave both members new leads to pursue as the 19 attendees watched Harry and Mary Alice Dell dance their cursors across the Internet.

The November meeting of the Computer Genies will be held at 1:00 pm on Thursday the 20th, in the Meeting Room of the Boerne Library. The program will be "Second Attack on Brick Walls". Serving as the "experts" for this meeting will be Christy Kestler and Judy McVay. The meeting is open to anyone who has an interest in using a computer in the pursuit of genealogical research.

Each month two people are chosen, by a drawing, to have their brick walls as the targets of the Experts and the group. The November "A" person will be Carl Taylor and the "B" will be Kate Skinner-Klee. An alternative, Jim Boyd, was also chosen.



Chairman Irene Page poses with Judy McVay and Dick Lockwood after successful search for ways to extend their research for ancestors.

Members who have laptops are encouraged to bring their computers and follow along with the experts, or explore other sites that might be helpful. Anyone planning to bring a computer, should contact Irene ahead of the meeting so that tables can be set up to accommodate the computers, and should come early. All necessary

connections will be their responsibility.

Irene reminded members of the ongoing project -- writing your family history by doing a little bit each day. Information is being collected on ways and costs of manuscript printing.



**The Genealogical Society of Kendall  
County Newsletter**

Mary Alice Dell, President - madel35@gvtc.com  
Don Evans, Vice President  
Gwen Adrian, Recording Secretary  
Alexis Markert, Corresponding Secretary  
Jim Griffes, Treasurer  
Lucy Croft, Librarian

P.O. Box 623  
Boerne, TX 78006  
830-537-5325

GSKC Website: [www.rootsweb.com/~txgskc/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgskc/)

**Membership Renewal Time**

The membership year ends December 31st. So now is the time to complete the form below, write that check, and hand it to Membership Chairman Alexis Market (shown at right). Or you can mail it to her at the address listed on form. This is a good time to become a Donor, Sponsor, or Patron of the GSKC. You can also show your support in keeping free access to Ancestry in the Library.



**Membership Renewal 2009**

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

The listing in the 2008 Directory was correct and nothing has changed \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Change my listing for the 2009 Directory as indicated below

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email (1): \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how monies are to be allocated:

**Membership classification**

Individual \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations**

Donors \$25.00-\$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsors \$51.00 to \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Patrons Over \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestry.com in Library Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Genealogical Society of Kendall County

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