



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

GSKC 30th Year & First Family Celebration

A combined 12th First Families of Kendall County Reunion and Award Ceremony and the Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County will be held Saturday Oct 15.

The celebration will be held at the St. Mark Presbyterian Church Family Life Center, 208 W. Bandera Rd. The doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the program will start at 11:00 a.m. with a welcome by Kendall County Judge Gaylan Schroeder. Reservations for the light luncheon should be made by calling The Family History Place 830-331-8730.

President Gwen Adrian and Carol Westermeir will present the First Families certificates and a recognition for honoring new Early Settlers to new inductees who

have proven their descendency from a First Families Founder or Settler. The Thirtieth Anniversary of the Genealogical Society will be marked by recognition of GSKC past leaders and a pictorial presentation of the highlights of Society milestones by Mary Alice Dell. This will be followed by The Maranatha Choir musical presentation of American patriotic songs.

Two new Settlers and one new Founder are being honored this year. The new First Families inductees will join the ranks of the 113 descendants who have been recognized in the past.

GSKC members being inducted this year and their ancestors are: Eldon Edge for honoring new Early Settlers William Brown Edge &

Josah Catherine Carter; Denise Norris Locke for new Founder Samuel Boyd Patton; Gary Minnich for previously recognized Founders Ludwig Ranzau and Emilie Schumann; and Betty Moldenhauer Eckert for previously recognized Founders Ignatz Minnich and Barbara Kindler. To become a member of the First Families of Kendall County, a descendant must prove their Founder ancestor was a resident when Kendall County was formed in 1862. To have their ancestor recognized as an Early Settler, they must prove the ancestor lived in the County before December 31st 1900. They must also prove their direct line to the ancestor and the family residency with recorded documents created at the time claimed.

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

Upcoming Events
[See Stories for Details](#)

- First Family Reunion & GSKC 's 30th Anniversary Celebration**
Sat. Oct 15

- TX State Gen. Society Conference**
Houston ,TX
Nov 2-4

- Genie Night Out**
Tin Roof
Tues. Nov. 8

- GSKC Board Election**
Sat. Nov 19

October Named Family History Month



Shown with Mayor Mike Schultz (center) who proclaimed October Family History Month are GSKC Board Members Bruce Mergele, Harry Dell, Gwen Adrian, Mary Alice Dell, Gladys Kuebel, Ed Mergele, and Nancy McLarry. The Proclamation is on display at The Family History Place.

Genie Night Out

The first Genie Night Out, a new fun fund-raising program for GSKC genealogists and their friends, will be held Nov. 8 at the Tin Roof Steakhouse, 470 S. Main St, starting at 7 p.m. This is the first in a series of Nights Out planned at different restaurants to give members a chance to socialize over dinner. The restaurants will donate a percentage of the amount spent by each diner to GSKC.. Reservations must be made in advance with the restaurant or Family History Place. Watch your emails in Nov. for more information.

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Gwen's Gems

By President Gwen Adrian

Oct 2011

- Greetings, GSKC Members,

In addition to Halloween, the spook-filled month of October brings even more festivities to Kendall County and the GSKC – The dual 12th Kendall County First Families Celebration and the Society's 30th Anniversary Commemoration. Kendall County Judge Gaylan Schroeder will initiate the festivities with a welcome to all, followed by recognition of our new First Families inductees and their ancestors and recognition of leaders and milestones of the Society throughout the years. There will be time for reminiscing, fellowship, music, and food. The event is a big family reunion for us all. So please come. Enjoy the fun. The more; the merrier!

As I am sure you can agree, being involved with GSKC brings many blessings and has done so for thirty years now. Some wonderful and capable people started the Society in 1981 and 1982. I recently looked over the GSKC scrapbook for 1981 through 1999 and found it most interesting and informative. After the October 15th celebration, the scrapbook will be available at the Family History Place, and I urge you to look through it. You will find the amusing flyer they created in early 1982 seeking Charter members, the projects they undertook including beneficial record extractions, seminars with outside speakers, interesting programs at the regular meetings, photos of the very beautiful quilts that were donated for an annual raffle, initiation of the Kendall County First Families Project, photos of the people who were so involved and instrumental in founding and growing our Society before many of us were involved. Fortunately, some are still active in the Society today. At the Thirtieth Anniversary commemoration we will express our gratitude and highlight some of their important contributions to our Genealogical Society.

The Society continues to thrive with the same goals, many of the same projects, and new ideas and projects. The Object of the Society is "to promote the study of family research, to collect and preserve biographical data and records of the people of the community and their ancestors, to build and maintain a genealogical library, and to offer programs of genealogical interest to its members and to the general public" (ARTICLE III of By-Laws). We are doing this and that is what we are celebrating! Additional non-specified but equally important benefits of the Society are the friendships that are formed and the joy of working together on meaningful projects.

Now is time to celebrate!! Many, many thanks to all GSKC members, past and present – Gwen Adrian

Why Change the Membership Year?

Some members have asked why did the Board of Directors recommend we change the membership year from Jan 1– Dec 31 to Oct 1– Sept 30. For one simple yet important reason - to lift a burden of work from the shoulders of the Society Treasurer. January had become a nightmare for the Treasurer; and almost impossible for a new person taking that office. January was the month he or she was asked to process 175 or more membership renewals and another 130 to 150 Seminar registrations. January is also the month the Treasurer is asked to help formulate a budget for the year and prepare the previous year's record for auditing. Oh yes, the Treasurer has to write checks for the ongoing operational bills, and reimburse members for advance

Seminar expenditures, and prepare statements for both the Board and regular member meetings. Changing the membership year allows the experienced Treasurer to process the renewals in a less financially demanding time which only has ongoing expenses and perhaps the genealogy course registration to manage.

The fiscal year and the term of offices remains the same from January 1 to December 31. Officers and Directors elected in November take office in January.

Pay Your Annual Dues Now!

In March, members voted to change the Membership Year from the calendar year to October 1-Sept 30. Those joining since the May meeting do not need to pay dues again now. Be sure your dues are current to take advantage of a discount price for the 2012 Seminar; and to be included in the 2012 Membership Directory. Renewal forms were sent to all members and are available at The Place.



Welcome New Members

Britt, Susan (Otten)

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New Membership Chair



Christina Picioccio has been appointed the new Membership Committee Chairman for the remainder of 2011 replacing Carol Smith. She will be working with Treasurer Harry Dell in processing renewals and new member applications and edit the 2012 Membership Directory later this year.

Minutes of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County

Sept, 2011 Patrick Heath Public Library, Boerne, TX

1st Vice President Nancy McLarry called the meeting to order, welcoming 51 guests and members. She then led the group in pledges of allegiance to the flags of the United States and Texas. Minutes of the May 21, 2011 meeting were approved as printed in the September Newsletter.



Harry Dell presented the Treasurer's Report giving account balances, expenditures and income since the May 17 meeting (copies attached). He thanked those who responded to Leap Letter 2 with funds and pledges to enable the Society to meet necessary expenses and reminded pledges to honor their commitments..

Vice President McLarry stated the next meeting will be the October 15 First Families' Celebration combined with the Thirtieth Anniversary of our Society. The location will be at St. Mark Presbyterian Church Family Life Center on Bandera Road. Doors will open at 10:30 AM and program to begin at 11:00 AM.

The following five members were nominated and elected by acclamation to serve as the 20102 Board nominating committee: John Oldham, Ed Mergele, Jim Westermeier, Carol Smith, and Janice Brazil. Janice will serve as Chairman.

Linda Stephens distributed copies of the proposed changes to Society By-Laws. She urged members to read them carefully as recommendations are to be voted on at the November Regular Meeting. Serving on the By-Laws committee were Linda Stephens, Stu Adamslundy, Bruce Mergele, Nancy McLarry, and Gwen Adrian.

The advanced genealogy course taught by Harry and Mary Alice Dell is scheduled weekly from Thursday September 22 through November 10, with Thursday November 3 as "Spring Break" at the Boerne Convention and Community Center.

Nancy thanked hostesses Barbara St. George, Chairman, Carol Smith, Co-Chair, Mary Moczygema, and Paulette Thompson.

Harry presented The Beginning Family History program required to take the course.

Vice President McLarry then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Gladys Kuebel, Secretary



**The Genealogical Society of Kendall County
Newsletter**

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Nancy McLarry, 1st Vice President
Mary Alice Dell, 2nd Vice President
Gladys Kuebel, Secretary
Harry Dell, Treasurer
Bruce Mergele, Director
Ed Mergele, Director

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Boerne, TX 78006 830-331-8730

Texas State Conference and Seminars

The Texas State Genealogical Society annual conference in Houston Nov 3-5 has an alluring package of attractions this year beginning with a Pre-Conference offering of a visit to the Clayton Library and a workshop by Paula Stuart-Warner on *Writing Your Family History*. Friday has four sessions with three choices of workshops each session, plus the evening awards banquet. GSKC has entries in several categories, including our first attempt for a Student award. Saturday is an all day seminar by Paula Stuart-Warner speaking on *Finding & Using Manuscripts, Railroad History & Records, Southern Deeds, and WPA Era: What it Creates for Genealogists*. Money saving pre-registration closes Oct. 15. Registration forms are available at The Family History Place or register on line at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs.

GSKC's Tenth Advanced Genealogy Course Off To A Good Start

Forty students enrolled in the latest of the advanced genealogy courses, *The Successful Family Historian*, sponsored by GSKC and written and taught by Mary Alice and Harry Dell. It brings to the total number of individuals that have taken the course to 316, many of which have taken it more than once since 1998. Harry sends a newsletter to alumni members about every three weeks with tips on research, new websites, and latest genealogical happenings.



Jean Gourley, Kathryn Grassie, Stephanie Haga, Brenda Harrier, Betty Immel, George Kolb, Gladys Kuebel, Cheryl Lester, Denise Locke, Judith McVay, Angela O'Bara, Beverly Passafuma, LaVerne Peterson, Christian Picioccio, Brenda Seidensticker, Carol Smith, Barbara St. George, Marilyn Talbot, Carl and Louise Taylor, Ruth and Norman Taylor, Beverly Uricchio, Barbara Vance, Kathleen Ward, Frances Ware, and Sandra Zowarka.



Jerry Ball, Ph.D, is the Guest Lecturer this year speaking on Military Records. He and Carl Taylor

are Homework Monitors who receive the answers to the homework and answer each student with helpful comments. Class Administrators respon-

sible for procuring materials and putting together the student notebooks are Carl and Louise Taylor; Registrar is Lisa Buchanan, and Refreshment Hostess is Gladys Kuebel assisted by Barbara St. George.

Those taking the course this year are Kathryn Adam-Hurst, Judee Archer, Donna Asher, Jerry Ball, Janice Brazil, Susan Britt, Lisa Buchanan, Ann Cain, Joy Chittim, Joellen deBerg, Georganna Dillon, Betty Eckert, Carolyn Fowler, Mary

