



# Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

## Genealogy Course Registration Ends Saturday

The last day to take the free Beginning Genealogy Class required before registering for the "The Successful Historian" advance course, will be Saturday, Sep. 17 at the meeting of the Genealogical and Historical Society of Kendall County. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. at the Patrick Heath Public Library.



### Financial Advisory Committee

1st VP Nancy McLarry chats with FAC members Lloyd Shenberger, Chairman Jim Westermeier, John Brazil, Linda Stephens, Cathy Schwarz and Gretchen Barr.

The seven-week course, which is sponsored by the Society, will be taught by GHSKC volunteers Harry and Mary Alice Dell, with Dr. Gerald Ball as the guest speaker on Military Related Records. Other subjects which will be covered include Strategies for Successful Research; Vital Records; Other Court House Records; Using Land Records to Solve Problems; Estate Settlements; Coming to America; Becoming a Citizen; Building a Family Using

Census, 1850 to 1940; Census 1790-1840 and Other Census Records; Visiting Libraries of Concrete and on the Web; Analyzing, Recording, and Writing; DNA and Genealogical Research; and Maps and Migration. Both traditional and Internet research sources are discussed in all subjects. The Dells, who have written and constantly update the course, have been teaching genealogy in the area since 1998.

Experienced family historians who have not taken the required introductory course

and will not be able to attend Saturday's course, but who wish to take a refresher course, may be accepted by demonstrating acceptable knowledge of research fundamentals. The Dells can be contacted at 830-537-5325 or visited at The Family History Place on Wednesday or Saturday afternoons.

Registration forms are available on line at [www.roostweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc](http://www.roostweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc), or at The Family History Place.

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

### Upcoming Events

*"Beginning Genealogy Research"*

GSKC Meeting  
Sept 17, 2011  
Patrick Heath Library

*"The Successful Family Historian"* begins  
Sept 22, 2011

Boerne Convention Center

GSKC's 30th Anniversary  
Celebration  
Oct 15, 2011

TX State Gen. Society  
Conference  
Nov 2-4, 2011

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## Nominating Committee Election & Bylaw Changes Sept 17

A short, but very important, business meeting will be held Saturday at the first Fall meeting of the Society. Five members will be elected as the Nominating Committee for the 2012 officers.

A by-law committee, appointed by President Gwen Adrian, reviewed the By-laws and made recommendations for several amendments. The Executive Board approved their recommendations Sept 6th. Among other things, the proposed amendments call for the addition of two more Directors to the Executive Board, clarifies

the manner in which the By-laws can be amended, and changes who shall be the annual auditor of the GSKC financial records.

### Pay Your Annual Dues Now!

In March, members voted to change the Membership Year from the calendar year to October 1-Sept 30. Renewal forms were sent to all members. Those joining since the May meeting do not need to pay dues again now. Memberships expire Oct 1st for voting purposes and other privileges.



## Gwen's Gems

By President Gwen Adrian

Sept 2011

- Greetings, GSKC Members,

In addition to cooler weather, Fall brings much to enjoy in the upcoming GSKC year. Largely because of the generous financial support of GSKC members, another year's lease has been signed for our wonderful Family History Place. The lease runs from Sept. 1, 2011 to Aug. 31, 2012. Many, many thanks for your contributions. Thanks also go to the wonderful volunteers who donate their time to keep the doors of The Place open and help patrons, including other

GSKC members, learn about their family histories.

In September, Mary Alice and Harry Dell will present another of their advanced genealogy courses starting Sept. 22. A prerequisite for the course is the free beginning genealogy course that they will present at the regular GSKC meeting on Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first GSKC meeting held in the large meeting room in the new Patrick Heath Public Library.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have a very special double celebration. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of GSKC will be commemorated, honoring some of the outstanding participants in the founding and development of the Society. In conjunction with the Anniversary celebration will be the Annual Kendall County First Families Celebration honoring families who founded and settled Kendall County and recognizing their descendants, the 2011 First Families inductees. The dual Celebration will be held at St. Mark Presbyterian Church Family Life Center. More information will be in the next Newsletter, but mark your calendars now.

At the November GSKC meeting, a program on the history of the Texas Rangers will be presented by the President of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation and retired Texas Ranger Joe B. Davis. The GSKC 2011 year will be completed with our Christmas Party on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Many interesting programs and events are also planned for the year 2012. At this time I would like to highlight the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual GSKC trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City planned for May 20<sup>th</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you are interested in going. Twelve rooms for our group have been reserved at the Plaza Hotel located next door to the Family History Library. You may make room reservations by calling (801) 521-0130 and asking for the Genealogical Society of Kendall County Group rate. The rate for a single or double room is \$82/night plus tax. The GSKC group that went last year had a great time and most are planning to return.

Very best wishes to you all. Gwen Adrian

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## The Family History Place - One Year Later

It has been a year this past week since we took possession of the building that was to become known as The Family History Place, the new home of the GSKC. Thanks to the physical effort and generosity of the members, we began collecting furnishings and equipment. Joyce Mull and her husband brought us a truck load of used tables, bookcases and even an antique coat rack; the Mergele family donated the matching desk and credenza and side chairs for the entry area; and numerous others donated computers, printers, a copier, and a multitude of smaller but essential items. We bought 18 chairs (which a gallant crew struggled to assemble one day), folding chairs, and smaller tables, plus the large oval research table.

Perry McLarry removed unwanted doors, built shelves, anchored bookshelves to the wall, and did numerous other tasks readying the Place. Linda Stephens redecorated the restroom. (continued on Page 4)

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## Welcome New Members Joining This Summer

### **Aguirre, Diane**

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### **Minnich, Kathy L. (Eszlinger)**

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## Minutes of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County

May 21, 2011 Boerne Convention Center, Boerne, TX

Vice President Nancy McLarry called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone present and introduced visitors. She then led the group in pledges of allegiance to the flags of the United States and Texas.

Bruce Mergele introduced the speaker, his father, Ed Mergele. Mr. Mergele's presentation was based on his book "Alsace To Texas;" copies of which were available for sale at the meeting with all proceeds donated to the Society.

Vice President McLarry thanked the hostesses for the day: Linda Stephens, Paulette Thompson and Irene Page. Minutes of the April 16 Regular Meeting were approved as printed in the May 2011 Newsletter. Jim Westermeier presented the Treasurer's report in Harry Dell's absence, stating the account balance was \$11, 653.48. He reported members of the Financial Advisory Committee have been meeting and briefly touched on their approach to obtaining funding. Jim is Chairman, with other members: Gretchen Barr, Cathy Schwarz, John Brazil, Lloyd Shenberger, and Linda Stephens.

President Gwen Adrian sent her message requesting responses to the "Leap Letter 2" for Family History Place funding for the next year. She reported that the Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board that reviews acceptable grants for Hotel Occupancy tax funds has recommended to the Boerne City Council that GSKC be granted \$1,000.00 in 2011.

Kendall County First Family applications are due by July 1. Gwen will be calling members who showed interest in assisting and assembling the 2010 applications.

(continued on Page 4.)



***The Genealogical Society of Kendall County  
Newsletter***

Gwen Adrian, President 830-249-2085  
gwensadrian@aol.com)  
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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(Minutes continued from page 3)

Carol Smith, Membership Chair, reported we had 187 members as of May 20, more than we had at this time last year.

Bruce Mergele, Librarian, has estimated valuation for insurance purposes on library contents as about \$80,000.00 to date.

“Family Tree Huggers Camp” .a free genealogy course for Middle and High School age students, will be offered from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Thurs. June 9, Tues. June 14, and Thurs. June 16.

Mary Alice and Harris Dell will again offer an Advanced Genealogy Course in September. The course will begin Thursday, September 22 and last for 7 consecutive Thursdays. More details will be forthcoming.

Lisa Buchanan announced the Spring *Keys to the Past* journals are ready to be picked up today at the meeting or later at The Family

History Place. Those requested by email have already been sent.. Out of area copies will be mailed.

Linda Stephens and Nancy McLarry are the Chairs for the 2012 Seminar in February and report plans are ongoing. Speaker will be Colleen Fitzpatrick, Forensic Genealogist.

This is the last regular meeting prior to our summer break. Next meeting will be on Sept 17, location to be determined at a later date. The Family History Place will be closed Monday, Memorial Day.

Meeting was adjourned by Vice President Nancy McLarry

Family History Place (Continued from Page 2)

Others volunteers donated their labor and trucks to move archived historical materials and other smaller items from the commercial storage area we had rented for nearly three years in order to preserve them. Two bookcases, the file cabinets, and numerous heavy boxes of books, filling a second storage room when we left the public library, were moved by two husky men hired for that purpose. Others donated time shelving books in the proper order. Volunteer Staff and Genealogists were trained and on October 11, we opened our doors to the public. Since that time we have added over 500 books. We replaced the used bookcases with those more suited to a library, thanks to the donations of members who wished to commemorate family and friends. Member Erle Adrian made and donated two other beautiful bookcases.

As proud as we are of all the volunteers who helped to make The Place ready, we are even more grateful to the group of volunteers who faithfully, week after week, give of their time to help others in our library.

Many naysayers said we would not be able to keep the door opens because volunteers would not always show up when they were supposed to be there. To my knowledge, there has only been one incident in over a year of a failure to show and that was in early days when someone forgot. Our substitution exchange system has worked wonderfully so that volunteers have always been able to find someone to take their place when planned or unexpected absences are necessary.

The place is staffed by 30 volunteers, some serve weekly, some twice a month, and others as substitutes.

There will be an opening for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday afternoons starting in October, as long-time volunteers Ed and Mary Lou Mergele retire from duty. They joined GSKC’s Library Volunteers in 2004 when the group was formed to serve in the Historical-Genealogical room, then at the public library.

All volunteers receive two hours of training before being allowed to serve. Staff volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, and perform miscellaneous other office duties. The Genealogists (and some staff) assist visitors. If you are interested in knowing more about volunteering, contact me at 830.537.5325.

Usage of The Family History Place library is steadily growing as the public learns where we are and of the personalized genealogical assistance we give each visitor, whether it is a member or public visitor.

This past Saturday, volunteers served seven visitors, three of which were members. One woman, from San Antonio, was particularly impressed with the Virginia collection and said we were “Boerne’s best kept secret”.

Mary Alice Dell, 2nd Vice President

## Proposed Changes to the GSKC By-Laws 9 Sep 2011

**Note:** Proposed changes have been approved by the Executive Board and the By-Laws Committee. They are presented in writing at the Regular Meeting on September 17, and will be voted on by the Membership at the Regular Meeting on November 19, Proposed **deletions are in green**, proposed additions are in **blue and underlined**.

### ARTICLE V Officers

**Section 1. Officer.** The elected officers of the Society shall be residents of Kendall County, Texas and nearby counties, and shall include President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and **two four** Directors.

*The Reason for the Increase of the size of the Board from 7 members to 9 members by the addition of two more Directors is that it would allow more members to share their thoughts and expertise with the Board for the benefit of the Society. It would also provide an increased number of people who are familiar with the many activities of the Society so they would be more prepared to step into leadership roles, such as Presidency or Vice Presidencies.*

**Section 3. Nominations.** The Nominating Committee for officers shall consist of a Chairman and four members to be **elected membership at the September meeting. appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board.** The Nominating Committee shall submit at the November meeting at least one nominee for each elective office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the prior consent of the nominee. Voting shall be by secret ballot when more than one candidate has been nominated for an office.

*The reason for the change is to maintain continuity in the Society.*

### ARTICLE VI Duties of Officers

**Section 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall oversee the operation and maintenance of the Society Library and **chair be a member of** the Library Committee.

*Reason. The proposed change here is to allow the President and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President more flexibility. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President may still be the Chair of the Library Committee, but it is not a requirement for the position. The change also corrects an inconsistency in the By-Laws, since as stated in Article XI. Committees. Section 1. Standing committees. "Chairmen of the standing committees, as designated in the Standing Rules of the Society, shall be appointed by the President and shall serve for that calendar year." The Library Committee is a Standing Committee.*

**Section 4. Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep a book of proceedings of the Society, which shall include the minutes of each meeting; the record of attendance, financial reports, and **any written** reports of committees. The Secretary's Book shall also have copies of the most current Bylaws and Standing Rules of the organization, and any amendments to them; documents pertaining to the tax exempt status of the organization; and the Articles of Incorporation. The Secretary shall make this **current** book available to members at all regular meetings.

**Section 6. Two Four** directors shall be elected to serve on the Executive Board with no pre-assigned duties.

### ARTICLES VIII Meetings

**Section 4. Business Meetings. The business of the Society will be conducted at each Regular Meeting except October. The annual Kendall County First Families Celebration will be held at the October meeting.**

*Reason. This change was needed to clarify the defined method of amending the By-Laws. Article XIII. Amendments states that "These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of all members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided **all changes have been presented in writing at the previous meeting.** Changing the latter to "**all changes have been presented in writing at the previous Business Meeting**" clarifies that the changes presented in September may be voted on in November.*



#### ARTICLE IX Balloting by Mail

Section 1. Balloting Prerequisite. Balloting by postal mail or by electronic means may be used in order that the entire membership may vote on issues deemed of great importance by the Executive Board or by majority vote of the members at a meeting, **, or upon the written request of ten members.**

*The **reason** is that ten members of the Society can request a Special Meeting to discuss an issue (Article VIII. Meetings. Section 2). Balloting by mail is expensive and time consuming. The By-Laws committee recommended that the above phrase be deleted, and if a small number of members request voting by mail on a given issue, they should approach it through the Special Meeting route.*

#### ARTICLE XII Finances

Section 5. Auditing Committee of Financial Records. The financial records of the Treasurer shall be audited annually and upon any change of Treasurer. **An Auditing Committee, consisting of three members who did not serve on the previous board, shall be appointed by the Executive Board at the January meeting. The duty of the Auditing Committee shall be to audit the Treasurer's accounts of the past fiscal year and submit a report of the results of the audit at the March meeting. An Auditing Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board upon the change of a Treasurer and a report made within two months of that change. An auditor who is not a member of the Society will be selected by the Executive Board in January to audit the Treasurer's accounts of the past fiscal year and to submit a report of the results of the audit at the March meeting. Upon any intra-term change of a Treasurer, the Executive Board shall appoint an Auditing Committee consisting of three Society members that are not on the Executive Board to audit the Society's books. A report of the audit should be made to the Society within two months of that change.**

*The proposed change here is to have the Treasurer's accounts audited by an independent Auditor who is not a member of the Society instead of a committee of three Society members. The **Reason** for the change is that since we are now applying for external grants for the support of the Society, the funding organizations may require, or more highly regard, audits by external auditors.*

#### ARTICLE XII Finances

Section 6. Contracts. Committee Chairs and other Society members can request that written contracts binding the Society to perform financially or otherwise be signed by any two of the President, Treasurer, and another Board member.

**Reason.** *The proposed addition is so Committee Chair persons and other members have the option to request that written contracts binding the Society to perform financially or otherwise be signed by Board members. This can assure the responsible Chair that they will not assume any individual liability if a contract is defaulted upon.*

#### ARTICLE XIII Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided that all changes have been presented in writing at the previous business meeting of the Society.