



Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

Special Summer Edition

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

Summer Highlights

Kids Camp

The Tree Hugger Family History Camp was short on quantity but so high on quality of the attendees, that we were well satisfied. Both girls were enthusiastic and were infected with the genealogy bug. Allison Wolff, who will be an 8th grader this year, has already volunteered 6 hours in the Family History Place and began digitizing our past journals.

Beginning Genealogy

Thirteen people attended the Beginning Genealogy Workshop held in July at new Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

Bookcase Dedication

You kept the secret! Cathy Schwarz was truly surprised that members had purchased a bookcase



dedicated to her for her years of service cataloging books. Nearly 40 people attended the ceremony that also dedicated seven other bookcases (See pictures on page two.)

Upcoming Events

Sept 17 First Fall Meeting
Meeting will be held at the new Patrick Health Library. Program will be the *Beginning Genealogy Workshop*.

Sep 22 Genealogy Course
The 7-week course begins. Registration Form with details is attached to this Newsletter. The Beginning Workshop and pre-registration is required. Space is limited.

Membership Renewal

The membership year now starts Oct 1, so dues are payable in September. A new renewal form will be sent to you. Members joining since May are paid for coming year.

Upcoming Events

September 17, 2011

GSKC Meeting

Beginning Genealogy Workshop

Patrick Heath Library

September 22, 2011

First Class

The Successful Family

Historian

Advance Genealogy Class

Looking For Summer Reading Fun ?

Try the Society's Circulating Library. Although, you may not be able to check out a book that gives the history of the county where your ancestor lived, there are books here that will increase your research skills or just plain entertain you.

Have you ever had a uncanny coincidence happen as you were researching an ancestor? *In Search of Our Ancestors* by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, tells 101 fascinating stories of serendipity in family history research.

Like mysteries? John Colletta's *Only a Few Bones* is an account of the author's search to solve an old tragedy and its aftermath. If you are interested in learning more about finding immigration records, you might also want to check out Colletta's *They Came in Ships* or *The Ships Passenger List, Port of Galveston, Texas*.

Interested in German research? Try Rudolph Biese's *History of German Settlements in Texas*; or Dr. George Schweitzer's *German Genealogical Research*. It even contains a letter written in German that you can send asking for information.

Chasing your Indian heritage? Check out *A Research Guide to Five Civilized Tribes*. Or if you just like Indian stories, how about *The Boy Captives* by Marvin Hunter. Continued Page 2.

The Genealogical Society of Kendall County Newsletter

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Bookcase Dedication Ceremony June 23, 2011



(l. to r) Jim and Betty Boyd honored Johann Stendebach. The Page Family honored Tom and Irene. Shown with them are Katie and Irene Robbins, son Tom, and Betty Steubling and Taylor Craig. Bob Goldsbrough and Midge Glor stand before bookcase honoring them.



(l. to r) The Mergele family honored Ed and Mary Lou Mergele. Shown in the picture with them are Steve Mergele Jr, Debbie and Steve Sr. Rosemarie Schneider & Janet Packard honored parents Adolph & Myrtle Bartel.. Paulette and her sons and families dedicated a bookcase in memory of Paul Thompson. Shown are David, Paulette, Mike and wife Carol, Paul and daughter, Rachel. Not pictured is bookcase dedicated to the Dells. (Pictures taken by Jerry Ball)

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Most of us are challenged trying to find records for our female ancestors. Take home *The Hidden Half* by Christina Schaefer. It has helpful suggestions, and a state by state guide to laws affecting women.

One of my favorites is *Kendall of the Picayune* by Fayette Copeland. Most people have no appreciation of the impact that man made on Texas and the nation. Of course, he does not match the stature of Adams and Jefferson, for which there are also biographies in our circulating section in the bookcase opposite the Receptionist desk. To find out what other gems are in the Circulating Library, search the Family History Place catalog on our website. Just insert the word Circulating in the search box.

A new addition to the library, NOT in the Circulating Library, are eight volumes of the *Confederate Veteran*, a periodical published in 1892 through 1932, with stories of soldiers, battles etc. Volume 2 has several articles on Texas veterans. The index to our Volumes 2 thru 12 (with exception of 8) can be found on PERSI on the Heritage Quest web site. The database is free if you access it through TexShare on your local libraries website. If you find an article in which you are interested in any of these volumes, you can view it at the Family History Place. For more details on using PERSI, read *The Family Historian* column in the Boerne Star August 19, or consult a volunteer at The Family History Place.