

Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society-Kerrville, Texas

Volume 5, Issue 3

August 2016

President's Message



As temperatures begin to drop, fall breezes blow and school resumes, Kerrville Genealogical Society is back in full swing. Rebecca has some good programs lined up for Fall. DON'T FORGET our general meetings will now be in the UGRA auditorium!!!! Our September speaker, William "Bill" Groneman, is a published author. You can find his books on Amazon. Judith McVay is an experienced researcher and currently the Registrar for the local DRT chapter. Our own Deborah Gaudier has spent many hours researching in courthouses for her own

family and on behalf of the local historical commission.

Please consider attending the KGS Research Center volunteer orientation on September 14th. Become more familiar with the resources available at the facility and donate an occasional 3 hours of your time there.

The KGS Research Center & Library will host the local chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy on Saturday, October 15th.

KGS has planned a busy week at the center to celebrate Family History Month.

October 18, 20, and 22 (Tues, Thurs, and Sat.) during our regular hours we will have an open house. Come by the center for refreshments, and "how to" demonstrations on genealogy websites. That Saturday from 1 to 4pm we will again offer the beginning genealogy class "Finding Your Ancestors-Genealogy 101". Wednesday of that same week (October 19th) is our general meeting and program in our new location in the UGRA auditorium.

Saturday November 5th KGS will have a booth at the local Swap Meet. Consider supporting your genealogy society by donating and/or purchasing items.

Deborah Gaudier and friends continue discussion on topics of genealogical interest on KERV 1230am radio first and third Thursdays around 2pm to 3pm.

Harriet and Pat have done great work setting up the lending library of 200 books now available to KGS members. Look for specific info elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lastly, please contact a board member if you have skills to offer, suggestions, or ideas for KGS.

Information about programs, events and interesting items will be on our website

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txkerrgs/>,

www.facebook.com/KerrvilleGenealogicalSociety/ and the blog at

<http://kerrvillegenealogy.blogspot.com/> and by e-mail to members. Or come by the

KGS center at 125 Lehmann Drive, Ste., 102, Kerrville, TX for the latest happenings...

Sharon Ashby, President

Collections at the KGS Research Center & Library

Recently, KGS announced a Lending Library for KGS members. It consists of over 200 duplicate books, located in Rm. 1 on a tall bookcase and a shorter one next to it, that are available to take home for research. If you find something you want to borrow, ask a volunteer to help you with the sign-out. Member Pat Weber had the idea, spent a lot of time setting it up, including putting together one of the bookcases, so that members could make use of these. Thank you, Pat!

Another improvement for use of a large part of our collection, the Family Stories, was also announced. Member Carole Pinkham studied hundreds of books to determine the major surnames included in each one, created a surname search on the computer in Rm. 2, and put a blue binder with the information on the desk near the bookcase in Rm. 3 where the stories are located. Now, the stories can easily be checked for a family you are researching. Thank you, Carole!

In doing further review of collections stored in our cabinets, I came across one by Barbara Guise Harris Tuttle (1922-2003). She died in Kerrville; it is not known if she was a member of KGS. But her collection on family lines from early VA and NC down to LA is extensive. Some of the lines are: Harris, Wolf, Montagu, Slaughter, Fauntleroy, Smith, Bird, Croshaw, West, Graves, White, Finch, Tarleton, Fleming, Weekes, Doodles, Meindort/Maindort, Latane, Young, Scott, O'Neill, and Guise. Information about her grandfather, Thomas Otis Harris, who was an editorial writer and political reporter for the *Shreveport Times*, is also included. These are found in Collection E-10. If you are interested in Guise, there are several huge folders of information on that line in our surname files. And with Carole's work, I found there is more in the Family Stories: "Guice, Geiss and others, family group sheets on Geiss, Eberle, Fike, Payne;" also, Kuykendall and Townsend are included. And, "Some Known Ancestors of the Guice-Moore Family of Winnsboro, LA." Hopefully, this will help members researching lines in Louisiana...*Harriet M. Chesj, 2nd VP, Collections*

Kerrville Research Center & Library
125 Lehmann, Suite 102,
Kerrville, TX 78028
Phone # 830-315-1836
Office e-mail: kgs@hctc.net

Upcoming KGS Programs

September 21, 2016

Speaker: Bill Groneman (former New York City Firefighter participated in 9-11, 2001) Will speak on his "Crockett Ancestors".

Meeting Place-UGRA Auditorium, 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028

October 19, 2016

Judith "Judy" McVay, DRT Registrar will present:
"Family Lore Becomes Family Fiction."

Includes accidental resources in unusual places we might
accidentally find information.

Her 2 x's Great Grandmother, Georgia Virginia Lawske Wood, was
played by Angelina Jolie in the movie series, "True Women."

Meeting Place-UGRA Auditorium, 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028

November 16, 2016

Deborah Gaudier will present: "What's At The Courthouse!"
And how to research the different records.

Meeting Place-UGRA Auditorium, 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028

These meetings will be at 2 PM

Check the Kerrville Genealogical Society Facebook Page
at: www.facebook.com and log in and like us.
We will list KGS events on there.

Don't forget to check out our blog too at:
<http://kerrvillegenealogy.blogspot.com/>

*If you change your e-mail address or snail mail address please e-mail
us at kgssociety2011@gmail.com to let us know.*

Writing Our Genealogies Frank and Ruth Kiel

When Frank was thirteen years old his mother collected information about relatives and created a family tree on a 5" x 11" sheet of tablet paper. This sparked an interest that has resulted, half a century later, in two books: *Hendrik Gerrit Kiel, Dutch Immigrant to Pennsylvania* (2000), and *Jeremiah White, First Family of Ohio* (2016).

Frank's summer at age fifteen on a ranch in Nebraska provided information about that part of the family that many years ago left Pennsylvania to go West. Summers with a grandfather in central Pennsylvania renewed an acquaintance with the part of the family that stayed in Pennsylvania. Service in the U.S. Army included national and international travel that made it possible for Frank to interview Kiel and White family members in the United States and Europe. A grant in 1975 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend Ohio State University led to his calling, flowers in hand, on Ruth's great aunt, Goldie Mullins, in Piqua, Ohio, to learn more about the family that remained in Ohio when Ruth's grandfather, Ferdinand White, moved to Pittsburgh.

Public records, especially in Pennsylvania and Ohio and Maryland, and at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., provided primary sources about land transactions, births, marriages, deaths, and military service. Research for the Kiel book began before computers and digital information. Professional genealogists were used, especially to trace family ancestors in Germany and England. While stationed in Germany, 1970–1973, Ruth and Frank visited The Netherlands to see Amsterdam and the village of Rouveen, original homes of the Kiel family, and England to see Cheltenham and Chipping Norton, original homes of the Stratford family. Now it is possible to use software, such as *Ancestry.com*, and microfilm from the Family History Center of the Latter Day Saints to find information that in 1960 required personal travel. Such information should be confirmed with primary sources; myths are sometimes accepted as valid and are copied repeatedly, for instance the *Ancestry.com* claim about Hans Eyer's 1714 origin in Württemberg, which cannot be confirmed.

During research in Germany in 1986 the minister of the Öschelbronn church permitted us to take to our hotel church records dating back to 1500s with births, deaths, and marriages of Ruth's paternal grandmother's family. The assistant minister, who spoke English, took us to visit Ruth's cousin, Frau Wilhelm, who had never seen this material. Eighty years old, she had spent the day in the field digging potatoes. Through her, we met cousin Eugen Greiner, a veteran of the German army in World War II, captured three times on different fronts.

Writing a genealogy book is time consuming and can be expensive, but it is rewarding to learn one's heritage and perhaps to meet distant relatives. The research should be recorded in a written format, not just stored away until everything is known. The search continues. We hope to learn more about a White ancestor in Ireland.

Note: The Kiels, KGS members, will have their books available at KGS Sept. meeting.

The Veterans in the Kerrville National Cemetery: Finding Their roots

The Veterans rest under the well-trimmed grass of the Kerrville National Veterans Cemetery, 508 men. Some gravestones have only a name and a date of death not giving up the secret of who they really were, where were they from, who were their families? Only a name and date of death to mark their place of eternal rest.

For Charles Sherman, himself an Air Force Veteran, this could not be and he started to work. Using various genealogy sources and military records, he labored at the challenging task to identify each veteran, and when possible, adding birthday, State of origin, town of origin, Unit of Service, often including parents' names to the record.

Each of the 508 names were carefully researched with identifying information printed in book form and placed on the shelf of the KGS Research Center & Library in the Military Collection, a permanent record with easy public access.

Charles Sherman, a longtime member of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, is a proud descendant of the family that ran Sherman's Mill on the Guadalupe River in the early days of Kerr County. He is an exceptional historian and researcher, this is not his only historical research project. There are many other records from Kerr County in the permanent collections on the shelves of the KGS Research Center & Library.

Additionally, Pat Weber, also a member of the KGS, worked long careful hours placing the names and information on the free web-site used for genealogical research, Find-A Grave. Some names were on Find-A-Grave with limited information, Ms. Weber offered the edits, updating the information. All the names and information can now be found on the site.

This gives the opportunity of finding these veterans to anyone in the world by going to the Find-A-Grave site. The information Mr. Sherman and Ms. Weber added is there, including the name of the Cemetery and its location. This additional information will allow the veteran to be identified as a family member, perhaps solving a mystery and adding to their family history.

Many of the veterans were from out-of-state and when they died in Kerrville, their information might have been lost to those researching their family history. Many of the veterans have gravestones reading only a name with the designation of Spanish American War—at long last the veterans' information is complete.

The Kerrville Genealogical Society has collected and maintains military service records of Kerr County including some family history from WWI to the Iraq War. Also, this permanent military collection has records on the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Indian wars, Revolutionary War Bounty Lands, Civil War pension records, DAR, DRT and Texas Rangers. The military website Fold3 is also available at our Center for research...*Elizabeth Baker*

MYSTERY SOLVED!



This old suitcase, filled with family mementos and photos dating back to early 1900s, was dropped off at the KGS Center in May 2015 when we were in the process of setting up our new space. It was found in trash somewhere in the Kerrville area, and the man that found it felt someone would value what was inside. Deborah Gaudier undertook the challenge to make contact with the unknown family. She had established the KGS blog some time before and spent time researching the contents to establish a blog entry: Looking for Family of Lucille Picciano Proctor. This was June 13, 2015. No response. The suitcase sat mostly ignored at our Center, but never was there a thought about tossing it.

An email came to KGS August 5, 2016, over a year later: "Hello. While researching our family name I came upon your blog. I realized that Lucille was my father's sister. Lucille lived in Michigan. My parents visited, but we lost touch. As the family genealogist, I would be very interested in the pictures if they are still available." The suitcase was shipped to the family the next day. And a phone call was made to the man who found it to let him know the rest of the story; he said it made him very happy. Newspaper research told that Lucille had moved to Kerrville in 1970, lived at the Lone Star Lodges & Mobile Home Park, and died a widow on April 23, 2004 at the age of 94.

This is just one example of the work that KGS volunteers continue to do to help many people who contact us in person or by phone and email from far away. Can we help you with your family mystery?

Notice – Vote To Raise Member Dues

Your KGS officers, always cognizant of the bottom line, discuss ways to keep expenses as low as possible without sacrificing genealogical services important to our members. Nevertheless, it is a continuous concern and financial struggle to raise the funds to support the society and your research center & library.

Last Spring the board of directors unanimously approved a recommendation to raise the annual dues beginning the year 2017. The board is recommending annual memberships of \$25 a single person, \$30 per family. The student membership will remain \$10, patron \$75 and benefactor will also remain \$500.

A vote by the membership was to take place at the May 2016 general meeting. The vote was postponed due to bad weather and lack of attendance. The board will ask the membership to vote on the recommended increase of annual membership dues at the general meeting to be held at 2pm on September 21, 2016 in the auditorium of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, 125 Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Discards Wanted for KGS Swap Meet Booth

The KGS board has rented space at the Hill Country Swap Meet on November 5th at the Hill Country Youth Events Center east of Kerrville. The booth is a minimal expense and we are hoping, with the help of the membership, to raise operating funds for KGS. This is an opportunity for you to help the society costing you only a little of your time. Look around your home and don't forget the attic and garage. If an item isn't absolutely necessary and you have no personal attachment that would cause "emotional conflict," add it to your donation box. All items that do not sell at the end of the day will be donated to a charity unless you designate that you wish to have it back. E-mail Sharon Ashby at sharonashby@hotmail.com or call me at 830-285-3306 to ask if an item is acceptable. Items may be dropped off at the Kerrville Genealogical Society Research Center & Library beginning at the September 21st general meeting or any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday through the October 19th general meeting. If you can volunteer time to sort or carry donations, or work in the booth please contact Sharon.

Items we won't take: Furniture, heavy items, glassware (easily broken), clothing that has to be tried on, no underwear or nightwear, shoes, heavy books, broken, dirty or non-working items.

Items we will take: Blue jeans and novelty T-shirts (clean and in good repair), nice handbags, tote bags, costume jewelry, sunglasses, kitchen gadgets, collectibles, hobby items, clean toys, working small appliances, clocks, watches, cameras, DVD's, music CD's, sports items, tools, office items, Texas themed, Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday items.

GENEALOGY TRIVIA

States with the most counties

- Texas -254 counties
- Georgia -159 counties
- Kentucky -120 counties
- North Carolina -100 counties
- Virginia -95 counties

States with the least counties

- Delaware -3 counties
- Hawaii -5 counties
- Rhode Island -5 counties
- Connecticut -8 counties
- New Hampshire -10 counties

2016 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board & Officers

President-Sharon Ashby	1 st Vice-President-Rebecca Kuykendall
2 nd Vice-President-Harriet Chesi	Secretary-Mary Overton
Treasurer-Donna Scofield	Membership Chair-Pat Weber
Volunteer Coordinators-Nina Dalla & Sharon Smith	
Outreach Chair-Elizabeth Baker	Newsletter-Marilyn Talbot

From the KGS Archives ~ *Compiled by Harriet Chesi*

A glimpse of life in Kerrville in 1903 through letters written around the purchase of a local business -

Chas. S. Kyle

....Dealer in...

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry,

Musical Instruments.

Repairing a Specialty.

Kerrville, Texas, March 14th, 1903

Dear Mr. A. E. Self,
Decker, Ind.

Having noticed your advertisement in the March Keystone, for a location in the South or West, I take liberty of addressing you. I have a jewelry business here which I will sell. This is a town of 1500 actual inhabitants and a floating population of several hundred more as it is a very popular health resort for people suffering with pulmonary trouble. Kerrville is the county seat of Kerr Co. and is situated 70 miles northwest of San Antonio and is 1750 feet above sea level.

My jewelry, watches and clocks will invoice about \$650.00. I also carry a small stock of the stringed instruments and musical sundries which will invoice \$50.00 to \$75.00. I have a complete set of the best tool for watch, clock and jewelry repairing which I will sell very reasonable. Prices are good in this country, and as every body wears a watch, and there is no competition nearer than San Antonio, business is good. I have made good money here and would not think of selling if I did not have more extensive interests elsewhere. If you are interested in locating in this part of the country, I cordially invite you to investigate further. I will be glad to give you any information within my power.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. S. Kyle

Kerrville, Texas, March 24th, 1903

Mr. A. E. Self
Decker, Ind.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 20th received and in answer will say that since receiving your letter I mailed you a special edition of our Kerrville paper which will explain this city and surrounding country more thoroughly than I can say in a letter. If you will carefully peruse the paper you will find nearly all the information you asked in your letter. The rest I take pleasure in writing you.

We have three saloons in Kerrville, but the amount of drunkenness is comparatively insignificant and the fact we have absolutely no rowdy element is our special pride. Ours is an exceptionally quiet town for Texas and in fact, would be a credit to Indiana. I was born near Ft. Wayne, Ind. and am proud of the old state but I believe Texas is the coming state of the Union.

In regard to your direct business question will say:

My successor can enjoy the same permanent location my predecessors and I have enjoyed for 15 years. The location is in the "Rock Drug Store" - a photo of which appears in the paper I sent you. I have 10 ft. of show case and counter and one of the large windows in front besides the space occupied by my work bench, and polishing lathe also plenty of shelf space for clocks and musical instruments. I pay \$5.00 per month and have the assurance of staying as long as I care.

The Drug Store has a large safe which affords ample space for my needs and which is at my disposal with out extra charge. I do not handle optical goods as the Druggist sells glasses but his stock can be purchased very cheap and the business worked up to a good standard as we have no regular optician in the city. My repair business is so good I did not care to take up that line. My repair work averages about \$72.00 per month. My sales for Dec. amounted to 305.15. If I had had a larger stock, I could have sold a great deal more. While for Feb. sales, it was some what lighter on account of rainy weather and bad roads which kept country people from coming in. My Feb. sales though amounted to \$156.25.

Houses of 4 or 5 rooms can be rented from \$5 to \$10 per month and provisions are so cheap here as any where I have ever lived. Now if there is any further information you desire I will be pleased to submit it. If you wish reference of myself I refer you to Chas. Schreiner, Banker of this city and Dunn's or Bradstreet Commercial Agencies.

Hoping to here from you at your earliest convenience, I am, Respt. yours,
Chas. S. Kyle

Letter from Mr. Self to his wife:

Kerrville, TX 5/6/1903

Emma -

We have had three kinds of weather today. It was foggy this morning. The sun soon came out and by one o'clock it was pretty near warm enough to be uncomfortable. About half past two it came up a thunderstorm. The lightning flashed and the thunder cracked, and we got just a little hail. It is now quite cool. It gets cool every night. You will enjoy that because you will be able to sleep well.

I forgot to tell you about the business here. Sunday is a closed up day and dark closes the jewelry business on other days. That is the way Mr. Kyle runs it, and it can be kept going that way as long as there is no opposition.

I have been looking for a house to-day. I found one with 5 rooms and three porches (they call them galleries). The kitchen will hold the range and you...just about. The dining room is larger. The other three rooms are of very good size, but only two of the rooms are papered, the others

being ceiled (houses are built here for summer). There is a cistern and a partnership well. There is a stable and chicken "coop" with plenty of room for the hens to exercise. There will be no show for a garden this year, I think.

This house is toward the edge of town and is so situated as to have the advantage of the breeze that comes up the valley from the south. The yard contains very little grass but plenty of small rocks. Grass does not grow well in most places here.

I shall look out the other way tomorrow for a place. There are plenty of empty houses, but they are not at all desirable. There are a great many people here as health seekers.

I had enough lunch to carry me all the way thro. I ate my dinner from it on the way from San Antone to this place. It takes about three hours to come from San Antone to Kerrville.

You will want to supply yourself with a comb and you ought to have a whisk broom or brush. You have no idea how dirty you will get. The toilet room on the train is supplied with towel, water, and soap. We ran out of soap though before we reached San Antonio. You will find a little pump to pump the water into the wash basin.

Dr. Boyd and Mr. Mosby are on a trade. The Dr is about to trade for the "Tivy Hotel."

I will send my next letter to Paoli. If I can get ready for you to come next Tuesday week, I'll telegraph the Paoli Agent to telephone Mort. I may add a little to this tomorrow. I sent a letter to Ma today. Love..... 5/7 noon I climbed to the top of Tivy mountain this morning. I enclose a few samples of the flowers I picked on my way down and a twig taken from the very summit near Capt. Tivy's tomb. There is a fine view from its top.

Kerrville, Texas, May 12, 1903

Emma:

You and the children's letters reached me yesterday. I was real glad to hear something from you. I am having pretty good health, having gained nearly 4 pounds since the next day after my arrival. Well, we clinched the bargain this evening at six o'clock. I am to take hold at once. I telegraphed Rogan Saturday to load the household goods. If they get here by Monday, I'll telegraph for you to start Tuesday. But if they have not reached here by that time, you may count on another two weeks stay, I guess.

Did I tell you we are having a revival? Well we are. It is just a quiet ingathering with no excitement (the Preacher's wife did shout a little once). There were four conversions to-night - all girls. I like the preacher. He tells you something new each time or rather he tells the old story in new language.

Well, children, you are having a good time are you? We will go mountain climbing when you get here. You can go fishing too. The Guadalupe is a fine stream to fish in. Its nice along the banks. They are catching some big ones too. There are deer and turkeys here - not plentiful though. Yes, there are some wild cats, centipedes and tarantulas too.

I like the place better as I get acquainted. I think we will be well pleased with our new home if we do well. I will probably not write you again for a week. I may write a little more tomorrow. Oh, yes, my room is the upper corner room to the right of the door as you face the hotel. It is very comfortable. I am getting quite used to being waited on at table by a colored lass. They do not give pennies here in the collections at S. S. and church - nothing smaller than a nickel goes. 11 o'clock and Good Night, Love I am just about free from coughing and of course am pretty well pleased with that part.

Kerrville, Texas, May 18, 1903

Dear Wife and Children -

I am much disappointed because this is a letter instead of a telegram. I had hoped that the household things would arrive to-day, but they did not. The agent here said it would take about ten days from St. Louis here.

Well, you can count on coming the first Tuesday in June. That will land you here June 4. I am making a very good start in business. The bench work to-day was \$4.25. Mondays are the best days here and Saturdays seem to be the poorest. I have no work laid up for to-morrow neither had I for to-day. I have sold something every day yet. I hope it will keep up all right.

I have been to preaching services 13 times since I came, prayer meeting once, lodge and ice cream and strawberry fest once. You see I have put in my time pretty well. Besides above I have been to S. S. 3 times and preaching 4 times on Sundays.

I went to lodge Saturday night. I stood the examination all right, so that I will have no more trouble on that score. There were about 40 present. One man had come 40 miles - not on the R. R. either. It seems strange for a man to start out to go 40 to 80 miles on horseback or in a buggy. Dr. Wright started this forenoon to see a patient so far away that he expected to not get there until after dark to-night.

I made the acquaintance of a man this afternoon who lives a short distance above town. He invited me to go out to his farm to hunt squirrels and to get his dogs. That is a sample of Texas hospitality. It rained yesterday and made the sidewalks very sticky. This mud sticks closer than two brothers. That old yellow clay is not in it at all.

They say the mountains are just covered with flowers now - more so than 10 days ago. I hope you will get here before they are gone. They will stay all summer if it rains.

I rented the house that I wrote you about. I had to begin counting rent from the 15th. I will get someone to go down and clean it all up good. Then I can arrange some of the things when they come, get me a bed or cot and move in, taking my meals here. We have had several messes of green beans. Good night, Love.... There are so many widows here that I may be gone when you arrive.

Kerrville, Tex, May 24, 1903

Emma: -

Well, one more week is gone by and still I am a bachelor(?). I got a card yesterday that our H. goods were in St. Louis awaiting my prepayment of the freight to this place so I sent the required amount (\$61.07) and ordered them shipped at once. They will get through within a few days now. I think I'll try to have everything ready for your arrival Thursday week. I am getting hungry to see you.

I had a pretty good sum of work last week and pretty fair sales. Mr. McAfee and I took a drive up the river this afternoon and came back at half past four. I then took his aunt - Mrs. Lake for a 2 hrs. drive. We went to the Split Rock. I climbed to the top of it. It is quite a curiosity, sure. The roads that are much traveled are hard as a bone. It is fine driving now. Flowers, flowers everywhere.

I think it has rained every day for a week. I don't believe the sun has shone 5 hrs. during the past week; still it is pretty nice weather. The air is so soft and balmy.

I went to S. S. this morning and to Baptist preachings and to M. E. preaching to-night. Sister Wendell, the preacher's wife, called me up at noon and wanted me to attend E. L. at 3 o'clock but Mr. McAfee wanted me to drive for him as he was too weak to do it himself, so I went with him.

Of course you understand now that you start Tuesday, June 2. I marked the page on that folder that is your time table from St. Louis. You will want to leave St. Louis at 9 at night in order to make connections all the way through. Good night, Love. I have been too busy to write any more to-day. They are keeping me pretty close till 6. I like that part all right though.

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More of the story: In 1938, Alonzo E. Self, jeweler, moved his business that began at a location adjoining the Arcadia Theatre (Rock Drug Store) to the former location of the Kerrville Hat Works at 723 Water Street after remodeling to provide a new entrance and show windows. The business was sold in April, 1947 to Mrs. Bert J. McDowell and became known as McDowell's Jewelry Store. He died March 2, 1954 at age 88, a 51-year resident of Kerrville and is buried in Glen Rest Cemetery, Kerrville.