

# Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

Volume 6, Issue 4

October 2017

## President's Message

Where has the year gone? They say as we get older, time passes faster. Well, 2017 is going by in a blur and here we are....! September, to me, has always felt like the month to plan and begin activities for the year even though January is the official beginning on the calendar. Your KGS board had a productive meeting in September to schedule programs and activities for Fall that we hope members will enjoy.



Rebecca has planned some great programs for the fall meetings. Joe Herring spoke in September. He is a native of Kerrville and a well-known historian. **October** speaker, County Judge Tom Pollard, is also well-known in the community. He has an interesting family history dating back to the Battle of the Alamo. **November** speaker, Gloria Jennings from San Antonio, has been teaching writing workshops for many years.

**Make note that September, October and November general meetings will be in The Grill at the Dietert Center, 451 Guadalupe Street in Kerrville on the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of these months at 2:00 p.m.**

Please consider coming to our first ever KGS Saturday Social. Members, bring your spouses and let's all get to know each other. Genealogy attracts men and women equally and it offers opportunities to socialize, enjoy friendships, and share research knowledge. You might even get advice from other genealogists on breaking that genealogy brick wall. I'll bet you will find you

have other things in common, too. Look for the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Kerrville Genealogical Society signed up for the AmazonSmile program in April 2017 which allows us to receive a small donation from eligible items each time an Amazon shopper chooses KGS as their designated charity. Each quarter KGS will receive a deposit directly from AmazonSmile Foundation. Not every item on Amazon earns a donation but many do. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the product detail pages on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). But, don't worry about that. Just shop as you normally do. It does not cost the shopper anything and it does not change the way you manage your account in any way. Our first donation we received as "a newbie" was \$14.99 from the April through June quarter. We hope donations will increase as we get the word out. Please ask your family and friends to donate to KGS when they shop at Amazon, and please remember KGS when you shop for the upcoming holidays.

It's time to nominate KGS officers for 2018. Sharon Smith is the Nominating Committee Chair. Please say "Yes!" if she calls you to take an office. Better yet, call her at 830-896-1870 to volunteer for the 2018 board of officers. Or, nominate someone you know (with their permission, of course.) This is an opportunity to be involved with wonderful people who share a common interest.

Happy Ancestor Hunting,

*Sharon Ashby*

## In Loving Memory, this Newsletter is dedicated to:

### **Nina Dell Dalla, 1939 - 2017**

*by Harriet Chesi and Leslie Van Drasek*



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of one of our long serving members. Nina could always be seen and helping with her sweet smile and generous spirit. We will miss her and everything she did for Kerrville Genealogical Society.

Nina had been a member since the 1980s. She trained volunteers and scheduled their times in order to keep the Kerr Regional History Center open and, in recent times, the KGS Research Center & Library. She worked to maintain and add to the KGS collection; was involved in setting up and organizing the KGS collection in our new site; served as a member of the Board for many years; member of the Nominating Committee for many years working to find people to fill positions on the KGS board; provided refreshments for meetings and welcomed members and visitors to the monthly meetings at the sign-in desk.

There may be others, but her contributions to KGS were ***not insignificant***.

#### Obituary from Brown's Memorial Funeral Home, Irving, Texas

Nina Dell Dalla, 78, resident of Kerrville, TX passed away on September 3, 2017 after a valiant battle with aggressive cancer. Nina was born January 8, 1939 in Gainesville, TX to parents Tay and Horice Gilbreath. She was married to Robert Bernauer in 1956. They had three children; Cindy, Donna and Jason. In 1982 Nina married Jerry Dalla, her husband of 34 years. Nina worked at Mary Kay Cosmetics for 23 years retiring as the Southwest Distribution Director of Administration. Upon retirement in 1996, she and Jerry traveled across the United States and Canada in their silver Airstream. After six months of adventure they put down roots in Kerrville. Nina was a devout parishioner of Notre Dame Catholic Church. She was treasurer of the Kerrville Genealogical Society and a regular volunteer at the Kerr Regional History Center.

Nina was also a member of DAR, the Republican Women of Kerr County, and past president of the local chapter of UDC. Nina was preceded in death by Robert Bernauer, son Jason Bernauer, her sister Madge, and brother JB. She is survived by her husband Jerry, daughters Cindy and Donna, step children Troy, Cynthia and Rhonda, twin sister Anna, brothers Ken and Cleddy, and nine wonderful grandchildren. Nina was eagerly awaiting the upcoming birth of her great granddaughter and namesake, Ella Dell. Nina will be buried at Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville, TX on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 11:30 am. A visitation will be held between 4:00 and 6:00 pm, Friday, September 8, 2017 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Salvation Army.

## October Is Family History Month

In honor of Family History Month, all members are invited to our Saturday Social on October 14th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Kerrville Genealogical Society Research Center & Library. Food and beverages will be provided.



# Breaking Through That Dreaded Brick Wall

by Ken Pinkham

I did not start researching my genealogy until 1991, when my wife and I finally bought a computer. She had always been interested in doing her family history, since most of them were from Texas or surrounding states. Some of them were still living and she could actually see them, talk to them, write to them, and get documents, pictures, and anecdotes from them. Most of my people were dead and buried all over the USA. There were no pictures, family Bibles, anecdotes, documents, and not many of them still alive. My dad was career military, as was I. That meant we traveled a lot. We would try to see as many relatives as we could, but only if they lived on the way to a new assignment, usually every three to four years. If we did stop to visit, we would only stay about two days, and I don't remember them sitting around talking about genealogy and their ancestry. I didn't even know if these people were relatives, or just friends my parents were visiting. But, finally in 1991, I started taking an interest in finding out who I was, and where I came from. And, this is the story of my efforts, successes, and the many disappointments I encountered, and how I managed to break through the wall I had heard about from other genealogists.

Growing up, my father, Joseph (Joe), was always telling us that we were related to Lydia E. Pinkham. I had no idea who she was or why this was so important to us. I just figured she and I shared the same last name. As I got older, Dad told me she was a lady who, in the 1880's, patented an elixir to cure "women's health problems", and had made a large fortune from selling her "medicine". I have a bottle of her "medicine" that lists the ingredients. Mostly it is just herbs in a solvent of 13½% Ethyl Alcohol. But, she did make a fortune selling it. Supposedly, her will stated that this fortune would go only to the females in the Pinkham line. So, Joe and his older sister Edith never quit trying to find a way to break the will to get some of the fortune for themselves. Dad passed away in 1993 never having seen a penny of Lydia's fortune. After Dad died, and while cleaning out his effects, I found a first edition book he had purchased, titled, "*Lydia Pinkham Is Her Name*", written by Jean Burton in 1949. As he was reading through the book, he underlined every male name he came across. About half way through the book he found the name Arthur, which was his father's name. He underlined that

name three times in red pencil, and must have stopped reading as there are no names underlined after that point. Arthur Pinkham was his father, and as dad now believed, the son of Lydia. Had he read further he would have learned that Lydia did, in fact, have a relative named Arthur. But, he was not in a direct line, the middle name was different, and Lydia's Arthur lived in a different period of time. Besides that book, Dad also had a notebook in which he started a family tree showing his lineage to Lydia. There were only three names in that tree. Joe's was first, his father Arthur Sprague Pinkham was second, and Lydia E. Pinkham was at the bottom. Another thing I found in the book was a certified copy of a Death Certificate for Arthur S. Pinkham, his father. So, when I finally started my genealogy quest all I had to begin with was a Death Certificate on my grandfather, born 23 Mar 1886, in "N.Y." to Frederick Pinkham and Emma LNU, and died 19 Jan 1920 in Vinita, Oklahoma.

At first, I believed Joe's mom, Fannie Lee Hughes, married Arthur S. Pinkham sometime around the time of 1915. I could never find a marriage license or marriage certificate, and had no idea where, when, or even if they were married. They had a daughter, Edith, born in 1916 and my father in 1918, both born in Vinita, Oklahoma. So, I figured they were probably married sometime before 1916. No matter how hard I searched, or for how long, I could find no marriage information. I even drove to two counties in Kansas, and Vinita, Oklahoma, where Joe was born, to check the county marriage records, but I came home empty handed. Again, I read over Arthur's Death Certificate I had found. I knew that Arthur's father was shown as a Frederick Pinkham, and his mother was an Emma LNU. I was hoping that the Pinkham name would be easy to research as it is not that common a name. I searched all the records on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, MyHeritage.com, etc. hoping to find a Frederick and Emma Pinkham. I even joined several on-line genealogy discussion groups trying to learn something about my Pinkhams. I also took two DNA tests to see where that might lead me, but neither test has been of much help.

My wife and I have watched a program called the "Genealogy Roadshow" since it first aired.

Thinking they might be able to help, I submitted my request. I figured that if anybody can help, they most certainly could since they had the resources to help. A producer conducted an interview with me via Skype and took a real interest in my story. She ended the interview by telling me she would have their staff research Arthur S. Pinkham, and his father, Frederick Pinkham. Several weeks later, I received an email from her telling me that their staff could not find anything on Arthur and Frederick. As I learned, they do the research before the program airs, and, if successful, they air the program with the person making the request. So, they researched my situation, and admitted they could not find a thing. These are professional genealogists and researchers, and if there was anything to be found, they could do it. But, they couldn't. I was now back on my own and even more disappointed. If professional genealogists could not find any information what chance did I have?!

Eight months after my grandfather Arthur died, my grandmother, Fannie Lee Hughes, married a man named Frank Van Pelt. My Aunt Betty, the second child born to Fannie and Frank Van Pelt managed to locate a copy of the Marriage License for Frank and Fannie, that she still had. My Dad, Joe, was only eight months old at the time when his father, Arthur, died and he knew nothing about his father. I have come to the conclusion that it must have been common, and an acceptable practice, in those days, that last names could, and would be, handed down to children without the benefit of adoption. Joe actually grew up thinking his name was Van Pelt, not Pinkham. He even graduated from high school, in 1937, as Joseph Van Pelt. In 1938, Joe decided to join the U. S. Army. Naturally, the Army required either an original Birth Certificate, or papers showing he had been adopted since he was trying to enlist with the last name of Van Pelt. But, at some time his original birth certificate had been destroyed or lost. His mother, Fannie, filled out the paperwork for the replacement, as she had done with Arthur's death certificate. This time she said that Arthur was born in "Boston" and Joe's last name was Pinkham. Thinking that Arthur was born in either New York or Massachusetts, I sent checks and forms to obtain birth records from both New York and Massachusetts. Responses were returned from both states stating there were no records for an Arthur S. Pinkham. At this point I was really wanting to quit genealogy for good. I could

not imagine that nobody knew anything about an Arthur S. Pinkham. It was like he never existed. A few years earlier, while searching the U. S. Censuses on line, I gave up searching for Arthur and decided to look for Frank Van Pelt, thinking perhaps that may help. I found Frank Van Pelt on the 19 Jan 1920 U. S. Census for Vinita, Oklahoma. As I was reading other names on that page, I noticed the four names immediately above Frank. In ascending order, I found Joseph (my dad), Edith (my aunt) Fannie (my grandmother) and Arthur (my grandfather). What threw me for a loop was that they had been enumerated with the last name of Connell. I've seen every possible way of misspelling the name Pinkham, but this was new to me. I printed out the census and filed it in my records, thinking the census taker was just having a bad day. I was also wondering what the odds were of finding four other people, with the same first names, DOB's, etc., as my family, but different last names?! I closely examined all 18 pages of that 1920 census, for Vinita, Oklahoma, and found no other Connell's. So, I was again, thinking it's time to give up genealogy or research only my mother's side of the family.

Then, one day I became determined that I was going to solve this and not to quit. A few years earlier, I had been writing my Aunt Betty (Dad's half-sister) for any information she may have been told about Fannie and Arthur from her mom. As best she could, she tried to remember names, events, or anything she might have heard. However, she was in her mid-90's, and her memory was not quite as keen as it once may have been. But, in one of her letters, she wrote that she remembered her mom saying that Arthur had been raised by his grandparents, and she believed their name to be Wall or Hall. Fortunately, I kept those letters. I dug them out and, word-by-word, read every one over and over trying to find a clue that would help me in my search.

Going back to Ancestry.com, I continued looking for Frederick Pinkham and Emma LNU. Although I could not find them, I did find a Thomas Frederick Pinkham married to an Emma Isabel Wall. When I saw the name Wall I got the feeling that I may be on the right path and figured perhaps this could be the Frederick Pinkham and Emma from Arthur's Death Certificate, especially with Emma's last name being Wall, which fits with what my aunt had mentioned. Also, Thomas had the middle name of Frederick, but may have been going by Fred,



or Frederick. I continued going down this path, amazed at what I was now finding by using this strategy. I found a Birth Registration from New York City showing an Arthur Sprague Connell being born to Charles Stewart Connell and Emma Isabell Wall on 23 Mar 1886. Again I wondered, just how many Arthur's could there be with a middle name of Sprague and the same DOB as my grandfather? But, there was no mention of a Pinkham linked to Emma Isabel (Wall) Connell. Where did the Pinkham name come from that I was raised with? Looking further, I found that Emma's first husband, Charles Stewart Connell, had died a few years after Arthur was born. In fact, Arthur was 11 years old when his mom married Thomas Frederick Pinkham. Here again, it was probably common to "give" the last name to children, without the benefit of adoption. By doing that, all of a sudden, Arthur Sprague Connell became Arthur Sprague Pinkham, the name on the Death Certificate! Also, Arthur's grandmother and at least three generations going back from her, is the family surname of Sprague, Arthur's middle name. Now all of a sudden, the lights came on, sirens wailed, and flags went up. All those loose ends were starting to come together. Then, there was the Arthur S. Connell on the 1920 Census. There had to be a reason he gave that name to the census taker. That's probably because that was actually his name. I then found a marriage license for Arthur S. Connell, and Fannie Lee married in Garnett, Tulsa County, Oklahoma in 1914, and not in Vinita, Oklahoma, as I had thought. I also found Arthur's Draft Registration for WW I, naming a Fannie Lee Connell as his next of kin. I was curious why he was classified as an Invalid, but perhaps I'll find out as I go along. But now what I wanted to know is what was my dad's last name, Pinkham or Connell? I went to an on-line search of birth registrations of records at the Oklahoma Department of Vital Records. Searching the site, I found that there was a birth registration for Joseph Franklin Connell, but no Joseph Franklin Pinkham!! Even though the DOB was one year and one day off, I knew this had to be him!! All the coincidences had now

fallen into place – the 1920 Census, the Draft Registration, the Marriage License, the on-line Births in New York City, and New York State. I always wondered why there was absolutely no information to be found for Arthur S. Pinkham. Now I realized it was because for the last 26 years I have been searching for the right people, but using the wrong name. Twenty-six years!! But once I used other names and expanded my search, I was finding tons of information, and documents for Arthur S. Connell. I was now holding an original copy of my dad's original Birth Certificate in my hands that I had purchased from the State of Oklahoma, and he had never been a Pinkham, either by birth, blood, or adoption. Even if there had been an adoption, his blood line would be as a Connell. And, if Thomas Frederick Pinkham had adopted Arthur, he, too, would still be a Connell biologically. I'd love to see my dad's face if I could and tell him we are not related to Lydia E. Pinkham. At this stage of my life, I have no plans to change my last name from Pinkham to Connell. By blood, and biologically, I am a Connell.

Of course, there are ups and downs to what I have found. The down side is that I have several generations that have to be deleted from my tree in the Pinkham line. These are the ones I've wasted the last twenty-six years looking for. I've had to give up my being the 20th great-grandson of King Henry III, of England, and am now a descendant of Samuel Connell, an Irish political activist and rabble-rouser in the 1880's, from County Meath, Ireland. The upside is having entirely new people to research and finding out who they are, and finding out who I am.

The message I have here is that brick walls can be broken, or at least gone around. With perseverance and maybe a little detective work, you can find that long lost ancestor and break through that wall. Oh, a little luck helps, too. Don't give up. The answer is out there somewhere in genealogy-land. Now, I have to research the other claim my father always made—that we are "part Indian"!! Let's hope that won't take another 26 years.



## History Corner: 1917 Departure From the Depot

*by Deborah Gaudier*

One hundred years ago, on September 5, 1917, a group of men from this area, recruited by Capt. Charles J. Seeber, left together from this depot for training at Camp Bowie near Fort Worth. War was raging in Europe and Americans were preparing to enter that war—the war we now call World War I. There were others who left at different times, but this was the largest group, comprising more than 100 men.

Rev. Samuel W. Kemerer, the pastor of the Kerrville Methodist Church, wrote about the men's departure from the train depot on that rainy Wednesday. He drew a wonderful word picture of the event.

He wrote: "Probably the largest number of people that ever assembled at the Aransas Pass depot in Kerrville gathered Wednesday afternoon to bid farewell to Company D, which departed for new training quarters at Camp Bowie, Fort Worth.

"As Company D goes forth from our midst to fight for country and humanity, the heart of Kerrville and entire surroundings is with them.

"That was a memorable sight at the station when Kerrville gathered to tell the boys good-bye, and bid them God-speed on their first lap to the front — to Somewhere in France.

"The train was making up, and the engine puffed and rang its bell sharply while performing its indispensable part in this gigantic tragedy of all time. A great throng was grouped about the station and lined up along the tracks. There were fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sweethearts and loved ones, friends and neighbors... We heard kindly greetings and brief

jokes and repartee, but somehow they sounded a little forced and lacked spontaneity. There were no loud calls or shouts. A deeper note was sweeping the hearts of both the soldiers and the gathered throng. But there was the warm handclasp and low spoken well wishes, and sometimes only a look of blessing and farewell. God knew that many mothers' hearts were torn, that many fathers' hearts were too full for words, and that tears streamed from many eyes, so God also wept in the tender rain that fell, for He looked on and understood and loved.

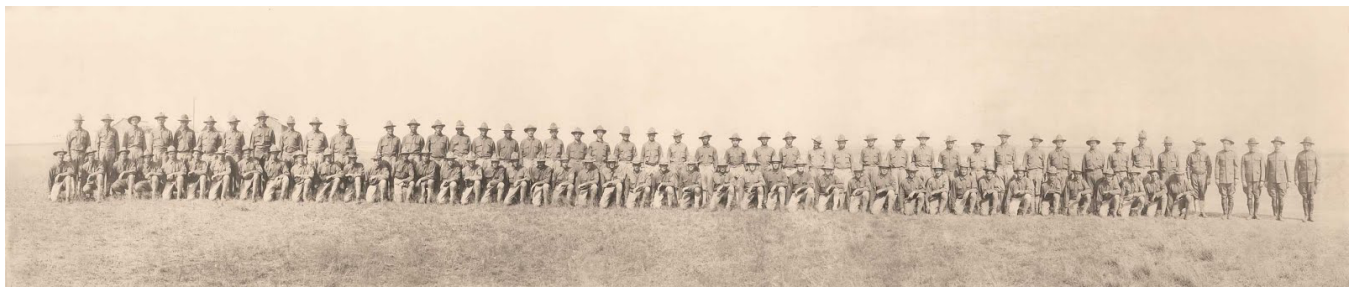
"Then the bugle sounded, and the boys lined up. Captain Seeber uttered brief short orders. Each line became straight, every form erect. An orderly called the names crisply. What a response! It sounded short and sharp like the crack of a gun — 'Here,' 'Here,' 'Here,' — until every man had made answer....

"They were a noble company. They answered like men who had measured the task and were eager to engage in its accomplishment.

"So the train moved away, the engine with two flags fluttering at its headlight, the bell sounding ceaselessly, the soldier boys leaning far from the windows waving farewell. And the great throng waved farewell, and the lovely hills of Kerrville threw farewell kisses, and the clouds wept farewell."

And thus he described their departure. Let us not forget those men, their willingness to serve, and their sacrifices, from those who returned and those who did not.

The Kerrville Genealogical Society Research Center & Library has a photo of the men in Company D and a list of their names.



## 1917 Company D-2

|                               |                                  |                             |                              |                                |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Capt. Charles J. Seeber       | Coffey, Sgt. Bonner L.           | James, Grover C.            | Morris, Sgt. Reginald Herman | Shipp, Ezra                    |
| 1st Lt. Robert E. Hanney, Jr. | Coleman, James L.                | James, Sam W.               | Mosel, Cpl. Felix            | Shipp, Cpl. William H.         |
| 2nd Lt. Robert Haeger         | Coleman, Norman                  | Juarez, Manuel O.           | Nickson, Franklin            | Shufford, Sidney B.            |
| 2nd Lt. Karl Michel           | Cowden, Earl Robert              | Kendall, W.                 | Nugent, Edmund Dewitt        | Shumaker, James L.             |
| Aaron, John W.                | Cowden, Guy H.                   | Kirk, E.                    | Nugent, Jackson Louis        | Smalley, Cpl. Ray W.           |
| Allen, Mike L.                | Denton, Leonard Miles            | Kirk, Henry C.              | Osborne, James K.            | Smith, Cpl. James C.           |
| Baker, Joe - Cook             | Dubus, Adolphe                   | Kountz, John H.             | Perner, Oscar W.             | Solomon, Jesse J. - Musician   |
| Baker, Walter Sidney          | Dubus, Rene                      | Krueger, Elgin A.           | Pierce, Clifton              | Solomon, Ralph - Musician      |
| Balentine, Chandler           | Durst, Sgt. Kittrell Goree       | Krueger, Herbet L.          | Pierce, Frank E.             | Stein, Emil                    |
| Bierschwale, Frederick        | Evans, Henry M.                  | Lemos, Francisco            | Ploeger, Cpl. Joe R.         | Striegler, Valentine G.        |
| Bonn, Harry A.                | Fairchild, James A. Garfield     | Leslie, Newton S.           | Rembolt, F.                  | Surber, Benjamin F.            |
| Bowers, Sam                   | Faris, Dave L.                   | Lewis, Lee - Mechanic       | Reynolds, John A.            | Surber, Louis H.               |
| Braley, Sgt. George C.        | Fassel, Albert (Gillespie Co.)   | Lightfoot, Sgt. Harry E.    | Roberts, Daniel F.           | Surberg, L.                    |
| Branford, Carl B.             | Felps, Cpl. Joe W.               | Lowrance, Lonnie            | Rodriguez, Emmitt            | Szymanski, William             |
| Browning, Cpl. Auva A.        | Fleming, William L.              | McCaleb, Thomas White       | Roe, Cpl. James C.           | Tarver, John B.                |
| Burrier, Alvie L.             | Friday, Edward Gibbs             | Merck, Samuel C.            | Rubio, Cheno                 | Tobin, Nolan W.                |
| Burrier, James W.             | Garrett, Jesse L.                | Metz, Cpl. Alvin R.         | Rubio, Max                   | Tobin, Robert Hardin           |
| Burrier, Tom                  | Glenn, Cpl. Samuel J.            | Mittanck, Sgt. Erwin A.     | Scarborough, Cpl. Ira S.     | Welch, Jesse J.                |
| Burrow, Fred                  | Henke, Mess Sgt. Chester William | Mittanck, Ollie Sander      | Scarborough, Mack J.         | Williamson, 1st Sgt. Payne Lee |
| Carpenter, James W.           | Hime, William L.                 | Moody, Willie J. - Mechanic | Schneider, Alfred M.         | Wilson, Jack - Cook            |
| Cerda, Jesus G.               | Ivy, Lloyd A.                    | Moose, John Irvin           | Schneider, Harry L.          | Wilson, Cpl. Rance             |
|                               | Ivy, Otis C.                     | Morris, Sgt. Otho Anderson  | Seelig, Felix                |                                |

## AmazonSmile by Leslie Van Drasek

With the holidays fast approaching, using AmazonSmile is a great way to shop and to make a small donation to help Kerrville Genealogical Society. For every qualifying purchase, AmazonSmile

Foundation will make a quarterly contribution to your selected organization. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support us every time you shop, *at no cost to you.*

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Your



shopping cart, wish list, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings remain the same.

It is very easy to do! Instead of logging into Amazon the usual way ([www.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)), use [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) every time you want to shop on Amazon. The first time you login, you will be asked to select your charitable organization, Kerrville Genealogical Society. After that, every time you login using [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), KGS will be automatically selected and you just shop as usual. You may also want to add a bookmark to [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier. If you need more information, select "About AmazonSmile" at the bottom of the home page of Amazon to get complete details and answers to your questions.

We encourage you and thank you for donating this way to help support KGS!

# Frank, Fred and Bob Were Rescued — Now, Who Are They?

by Elizabeth Baker

On July 22, a hot Saturday morning over five hundred volunteers gathered on the river and on the banks to be led by the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Team, staff and Directors in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean Up. Every year the volunteers are amazed at what finds its way to the river.

This year an unexpected item was among the six tons (12,025 pounds) of trash. It was a small 90+ year old fragile photograph, tucked in a drawer of a dresser found on the banks of the river. *"Frank, Fred, Bob-Early Twenties. Bob in ROTC uniform."* was written on the back in pencil. The photo was given to Ray Buck for safe keeping, no small task while cleaning up the river. Then back at UGRA after the clean up, Ray came next door to the Kerrville Genealogical Society Research Center & Library and asked, "Do you like old pictures?"

That started the quest to first, save the photo by scanning it and placing the original in an archival sleeve, then to identify Frank, Fred, and Bob. The original was repaired and color corrected using Photoshop Elements Clone tool and Healing brush. Photoshop Elements is a simple-to-use program for this process. The computer in Room 3 has Photoshop Elements installed on it for use by all members and guests.

The first step to identify the photo was the desk of local author/historian Joe Herring. He quickly stated, "Fred looks like the Grinstead boy." Joe

quickly opened one of his books and pointed to an image of the son of J. E. Grinstead, a local publisher and author (1866-1948). The images were remarkably similar but the ages of the boys was not correct so the search continues.

Do you know who Frank, Fred, and Bob could be? Maybe family members? The date of "early twenties" and the ROTC uniform Bob is wearing may help identify him and his friends.

Will you please help us identify Frank, Fred, and Bob? If you have information, please call KGS Research Center & Library at 830-315-1836 or e-mail [kgs@hctc.net](mailto:kgs@hctc.net).

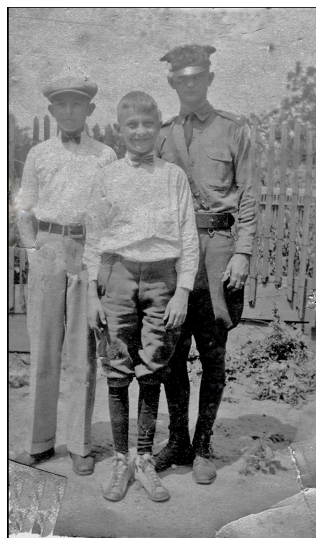
As a side note:

KGS wants to thank the volunteers and UGRA staff and directors for a successful 14<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean Up saving the beautiful river and reminding us "Let's Keep *Our* River Clean".

The Guadalupe River originates in Western Kerr County, deep in the Hill Country. This beautiful spring-fed river is one of the highest rated recreational and scenic rivers in Texas and is Kerr County's central asset. UGRA has been doing this task since 1939. This year, in this process of the hard work, the volunteers saved a glimpse of history, a glance back to three young men in a moment of time.



Original Photo



Repaired Photo



# Sharon's Genealogy Tip: International Classification of Diseases Codes

by Sharon Ashby

You've received that long-awaited death certificate for your ancestor. But, now you can't make out the writing for the cause of death or you don't know what it means. You are in luck if the death certificate has a number written across the body of the certificate. This number is called the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) Code. It is a coding system maintained by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics used to classify cause of death, a contributory cause of death or secondary illness. The U.S. began using the coding system around 1900. WHO updates the codes about every decade. You can now find these codes provided online by Wolfbane Cybernetic at <http://www.wolfbane.com/icd/index.html>. The codes on the death certificate may be a one-, two-, or a three-digit number and may have an alphabetic letter after the number. Be sure to look for the list of codes appropriate for the year of your ancestor's death.

The first example on the right was a bit difficult for me to read and I was unsure of the spelling. The hand-written code is 1b and the death year is 1925. So, looking at the code list I see that 1b is paratyphoid fever.

In the second example at the right, the cause of death appears to be spelled Lerengeal Phthesis. The code is 31 and the death year is 1929. This code number indicates tuberculosis and the correct spelling is laryngeal phthisis. So, by using the code on the death certificate it is clear that the cause of death was tuberculosis of the larynx.

In another example, the immediate cause of death was broken bones. But, the code index indicated the bones were broken by a fall. An eye infection was the primary cause of death for another. Again, looking at the code index it was clear that the underlying cause of the eye infection was syphilis.

You may want to recheck the death certificates in your family files for ICD codes to make sure you haven't missed a vital piece of information.

(If informant, give city or town and State)

16. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) May 23 1925

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from May 9 to May 23 1925 that I last saw him alive on May 23 1925 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 11:45 PM

The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows:

Paratyphoid 1b

(duration) 20-25 days

CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary?) (duration) 2 yrs. mo. da.

18. Where was disease contracted? at If not at place of death?

Did an operation precede death? No Date of   

Was there an autopsy? No

What test confirmed diagnosis? Widal

Signature J. J. [unclear] M.D. (Address) 314 [unclear] [unclear]

\* State the Disease-Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR DATE OF BURIAL

☐ SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED or DIVORCED (Write the word) MARRIED

16. DATE OF DEATH March 17 1929

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from March 1 1929 to March 17th 1929 that I last saw him alive on March 17th 1929 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at    p.

The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows:

Laryngeal Phthisis

(duration) 14 yrs. mo. da.

CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary?) (duration)    yrs. mo. da.

18. Where was disease contracted? Texas If not at place of death? No

Did an operation precede death? No Date of   





## **New on the Shelves at the KGS Research Center/Library**

*by Harriet M. Chesl, Collections*

***Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots Vol. 4 S-Z***

***Directory of Irish Family History Research***

***Familia #32 - 2016***

***Death Notices from Benton Co., TN, Vol. 4 - 1911-1920***

***Ray Wharton, Champion In and Out of the Arena***, donated and signed  
by author George Sharman, our speaker at the KGS May meeting

We have also received some donated books that are duplicates of what is available on the shelves; these will be added to the KGS membership lending library. Check out the bookcase in Room 1 to sign books out to read and research at home.

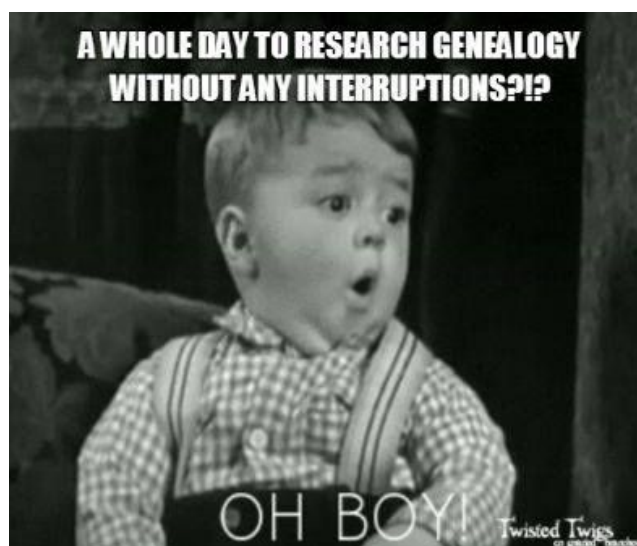
## **Meeting Location Change**

In case you missed it on the first page:



Due to unexpected conflicts at our usual monthly meeting location, we will be meeting in the Grill Room at Dietert Center, 451 Guadalupe Street, Kerrville. This location will be for our September, October, and November meetings ONLY. Beginning in January we will return to the UGRA Auditorium and our Research Center & Library will be open following the meeting and program. We are sorry for this inconvenience and look forward to seeing you at Dietert Center for the remainder of this year. Our Research Center & Library will continue business as usual being open Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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## **Kerrville Research Center & Library**

125 Lehmann, Suite 102  
Kerrville, TX 78028

Phone: 830-315-1836      Office e-mail: [kgs@hctc.net](mailto:kgs@hctc.net)

Check the Kerrville Genealogical Society Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/KerrvilleGenealogicalSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/KerrvilleGenealogicalSociety/)

Log in and “Like” us — we will list KGS events there.

Don’t forget to check out our blog, too:

<http://kerrvillegenealogy.blogspot.com/>

***If you change your e-mail address or postal mail address, please e-mail  
us at [kgsociety2011@gmail.com](mailto:kgsociety2011@gmail.com) to let us know.***

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## **2017 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board & Officers**

|                                 |                    |                         |                   |
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