

Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

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July 2018

President's Message



I hope you are enjoying your summer and finding lots of new connections.

Our collection of print material continues to grow. If you haven't been in recently, please stop by and see what's new. We continue to add to our lending library as well as our main collection. Remember, we have a lending library of some 200 books. Being able to borrow from the lending library is a privilege of membership.

Also new is the rainwater collection and new landscaping with walking paths at the UGRA building. It's not quite done, but, when it is, the property should be more attractive.

We can always use more volunteers at the KGS Research Center and Library. Our shifts are only three hours. You can work as often as you want, whether once a month or once a week. When it is quiet, you can work on your own genealogy or take on a project—and there are always projects! Recently Pat Weber compiled a two-volume binder on West Kerr families using the material Irene Van Winkle publishes regularly in the West Kerr Current (see the following article).

Another way to help is by shopping through AmazonSmile. Every time you buy something online at Amazon, log on through AmazonSmile. Amazon will donate a small portion of your purchase to KGS. It costs you nothing and adds a little to our bank account each quarter.

We need to find a CPA willing to donate services to us. Are you one, or do you know one who would be willing to do this? We are looking for more grant funding and some of the granting agencies require a financial review, which is just short of a full audit. We have lost out on one large grant already this year because the accountant missed the deadline, therefore, we are looking for someone else. If you can help, please let us know.

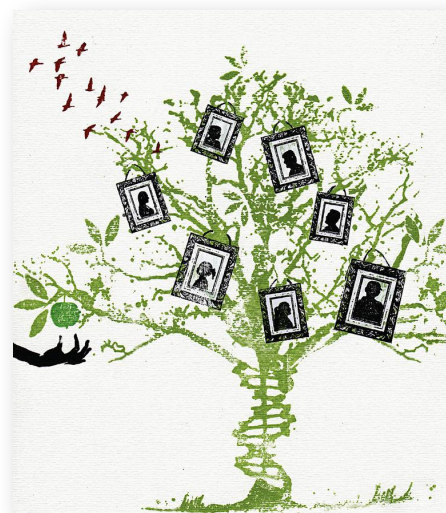
Like most of our membership, my roots are elsewhere, but I find our KGS Research Center & Library invaluable. I do a lot of local history research as I seek to learn more about our community, and surprise, surprise I recently discovered a Kerr County connection! You'll read about it on Page 4 in this newsletter.

We may research previous centuries, but KGS operates in the 21st century. We are at several social media sites. Check out our website, <https://kerrvillegenealogy.wordpress.com/>, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/KerrvilleGenealogicalSociety/, and our blog at <http://kerrvillegenealogy.blogspot.com>. Check-in periodically to see what's happening. We aren't on Instagram, YouTube, Reddit, Pinterest, or a host of others, yet, but if you want to manage one or more of these sites let us know!

Your board works for you. Send us an email at or call if you have any suggestions for the Society. We want to hear.

Happy ancestor-ing!

Deborah Gaudier



Hats off to a very hard worker!!

by Irene Van Winkle

I have been a frequent visitor and guest/member of the Kerrville Genealogical Society for many years. I have seen how hard many of the members have worked to keep the KGS Research Center & Library constantly updated, but I recently was surprised—well, blown away is more like it—to see the collection of stories that I have been writing for the past ten years reach a new level of conservation, thanks particularly to the efforts of one KGS member.

For quite a while, Pat Weber, one of the many dedicated volunteers at KGS, has been working steadily to compile my series of histories that have appeared regularly in the *West Kerr Current* since 2006, the year of the Kerr County sesquicentennial. In fact, the week of June 21 saw the printing of the 465th story.

So far, Pat has put the stories together in two very large volumes, each contained in its own protective sleeve. That means hundreds and hundreds of histories, each in its own place, numbered and catalogued.

Reprints of the first 50 stories were extracted from a collection that had been published in 2006, called the *Family Chronicles*. They are still available for sale through the *West Kerr Current*.

Pat Weber then took the rest of the stories from available clippings of the actual newspaper editions, and others she had to get from the online newspaper archives.

"We don't have every single story but I got as many as I could," Weber said. "I went to the archives and found the ones that I could find there and printed them out and put them in."

It appears she has been able to obtain the better part of the series, which is a major task. She has also organized them in two ways.

"There is one index which is alphabetical, by the name of the family. The other is by date/series number, in the order in which they were published," Weber said.

This collection will remain at the KGS Research Center & Library in the front reference room for the public to enjoy and, hopefully, use in their own genealogical research. It will continue to grow as long as the series is being published.

I would like to personally thank Pat for her diligence and dedication to keep the series as a living document for generations to come.

Irene Van Winkle
Author of Sesquicentennial History Series
West Kerr Current

Invite a Friend to Join KGS!

by Jeannie Berger

Thanks to all of you who support KGS with your membership.

This year is flying by quickly and is already half over! However, that is good news for anyone wishing to join the KGS in 2018. Due to a recent change in by-laws, between July 1 and December 31 memberships cost one-half the regular yearly fee. This would be a great time to invite a friend to join.

You will find a membership form at the end of the newsletter, at the KGS Research Center & Library, or on our website. Please copy it and

send it to someone you know who loves genealogy, and encourage him or her to join. Or, better yet, treat a friend to a gift membership!



Old Probate Records Can Reveal a Lot

by Harriet Chesi

This year I have been working on finally putting my grandparents' stories down on paper for family members, near and far.

When I was 13, my beloved grandfather died and I wanted to know more about his family. My grandmother took me to visit with the oldest family member, my grandfather's older cousin. I had pen and paper to write down what she told me; I still cherish that time with her. She gave me my great-great grandfather's Bible and tintype photo. Over the years, I added to my collection when I lived close enough to travel back up to the home area and stay with an uncle. This gave me an opportunity to spend many hours in the county courthouse (Goshen, Orange County, New York) collecting vital records, deeds, and wills, all before the online sources we can find today.

Looking online recently at New York State census records for my 3rd great grandparents, John and Elizabeth Atwood, I saw that Elizabeth reported that she had given birth to 16 children! (During one of those trips up home, I did find John and Elizabeth Atwood's gravestones and ones for 2 of their daughters in an abandoned cemetery alongside a road I traveled on all during my childhood never knowing about them.) I had been aware that there were a lot of children and now I wanted to find them all. Years ago when doing cemetery research, I learned that one had died as a small child; the rest lived to be adults and over time several wandered far away. Upon the death of the parents (John in 1865, Elizabeth in 1876) and with the death of some of their children that had remained in the same area, I learned the names of all surviving siblings

along with residence locations from probate court records that I had collected long ago. If one of them was predeceased, their children were listed. I was able to track all of them and learn that the William Atwood living far away in Santa Fe, New Mexico was one, along with Jabez Atwood living in Magnolia, Wisconsin.



Probate records also list inventories of possessions and properties. In some cases with early 1800 records, it was possible for me to learn the contents of each room in the home based on how the inventory was taken. And occasionally, it was interesting to find listed - "lot of books." These inventories can also reveal farming implements and harvested crops, along with any animals. I learned my ancestor who died in Massachusetts in 1686 had a "supply of tobacco." It may be necessary to contact the county courthouse to obtain these records if not found online.

We know how hard it can be to learn a female ancestor's maiden name long ago. In tracking Elizabeth's children, I came across a newspaper obituary for one of her sons that gave her maiden name as Hallet, not a commonly found name in that early time period in my home area. That leads to more research.....

Virtual Genealogical Society



There is a new place on the Internet (<https://virtualgensoc.com>) where anyone can "meet up" with like minded genealogists to share information and learn from one another. You might like to check it out and see if it would be beneficial. As described from their website:

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"The Virtual Genealogical Society is a global organization (not a 501c3) serving family history enthusiasts of all levels, geared towards those:

- whose circumstances make it difficult to attend local genealogical society meetings
- who prefer online presentations, special interest groups (SIGs), conferences, and socializing
- with an interest in connecting, networking, and mentoring with global genealogists

"The Virtual Genealogical Society was founded on 27 April 2018 with the recognition that many family history enthusiasts are merging technology and globalization in their genealogical pursuits. We aim to provide a forum for genealogists to connect, network, and mentor with genealogists around the world through monthly meetings online, webinars, social networking, annual conferences, and in-person meet-ups at conferences, institutes and events around the world."

My Kerr County Connection

by Deborah Gaudier

I'm not a Texan. My roots are in the southeastern US, but the more research I do, the more I discover I have kinfolk who ARE from around here.

Recently I met with a neighbor, a descendant of Charles Schreiner, to discuss a research project for an historical marker here in Kerr County. While chatting, he pulled out this 1880 family photo from the Great Western Cattle Trail.



I was stunned when I read the back:

This picture is taken from an old Tin-Type photo "Schreiner and Lytle Herd" 1880.

Third man from left is Alex Crawford.

Sixth man from left is Alex Maltsburger. [sic. should be Maltsberger]

Seventh man from left is Will Hale.

Eighth man from left is Sebe Jones.

All these men drove 'Trail Herds' for Captain Schreiner for several years.

Original photo taken near Doan's Store, Red River Crossing.

(Notes drafted by Nell Schreiner Labatt)

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The above Alexander Perry Maltsberger is a kinsman of mine, not real close (2nd cousin, 3x removed), but a relative nonetheless. Our common ancestors are my 4th great grandparents Aaron Newman, b. 29 March 1772 in Virginia, d. 1 April 1839 Jefferson Co., Tennessee, and his wife Catherine Blair, born 1774 in Virginia.

The following item appeared in True West Magazine, June 1964, "Old Time Ranchmen of the Southwest":

"With brand ALX, Alex Maltsberger, was a pioneer cowboy who entered the Panhandle in 1880 as a trail driver for Schreiner, Light, and Lytle, who were some of the largest South Texas trail outfits. In Lipscomb Co, he served as the first sheriff and worked for the Box T. Later he was a Cherokee Strip rancher on the John Chisholm Trail near the Cimarron. Some of his friends were Sebe Jones, Alex Crawford, Charles Schreiner, Sam Cupp, John McQuipp and Charles Ryneerson. Sebe Jones and Alex

shot it out with and captured horse thieves in South Texas. Vigilantes took the prisoners and hung them in a pecan tree on Turtle Creek as Sebe and Alex were on the way to Kerrville with the men."

In an odd coincidence, I live on a tributary of Turtle Creek, and like many of my neighbors we have a pecan tree on our property.

Charles Schreiner is an important historical figure in the region with whom I previously had no known connection. Because of my genealogical research I now know my relative worked for Schreiner as a young man and apparently had a close friendship, and I now have a photo of Alex. It encourages me to keep researching. You never know where the path may lead.

Let us know if you have discovered a local connection you didn't know you had before.

New On the Shelves at the KGS Research Center & Library

by Harriet M. Chesi, Collections

- *Will & State Records in the Virginia State Library – A Researchers Guide*
- *Colonial Virginia Register*
- *Virginia Genealogy Guide*
- *Military Genealogical Sources – Locating Your Revolutionary War Ancestor: A Guide to the Military Records*
- *The Georgia-South Carolina Boundary – A Problem in Historical Geography*
- *List of the Early Settlers of Georgia*
- *Cemetery Records, Fayette County, Georgia*
- *Land Deed Genealogy of Hancock County, Georgia*
- *Historical and Genealogical Handbook of Freestone County, TX, including 1885 map of Fairfield, TX*
- *Researching in Alabama – A Genealogical Guide*
- *Elmore County – Historical Atlas of Alabama: Vol. 1—Historical Locations by County; Vol. 2—Cemeteries by County*
- *Lauderdale County – Historical Atlas of Alabama: Vol. 1—Historical Locations by County; Vol. 2—Cemeteries by County*
- *Old Land Records of Lauderdale County, Alabama*
- *Old Montgomery Land Office Records & Military Warrants 1834-1869*
- *Tracing Your Mississippi Ancestors*
- *Natchez Under-the-Hill*
- *Little River County (Arkansas)*
- *Tennessee Land Grants – Surnames W-Z*

Future Programs

by Barbara French

Watch your email and our website for updates and programs coming this Fall!

Did You Know?

Genealogy may be good for our mental health...

In the December 2017 AARP Bulletin, the focus was on Brain Power: Concentrate Better, Safeguard Your Memory, Stay Sharp Longer, Cut Dementia Risk. On Page 15 about "Guard Your Memory" was the following: Researchers recommend "cognitively stimulating activities,"

meaning anything that engages your brain and helps it do new things, explains Ronald Petersen, MD, director of the Mayo Clinic's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. For instance, your brain might benefit from photography classes, designing a quilt, working with technology or researching your genealogy.

Many Thanks and Best Wishes

Our secretary, Mary Overton, recently resigned because of a move to the Houston area to be closer to family. Mary is a long-time member and has served on the board several times as secretary and as treasurer. She is a quiet worker who willingly stepped in where and when needed. When we had our radio program, she would occasionally take a turn; when we were moving out of our old location on Water Street,

she worked to inventory our collection and determine donor history.

In addition to her genealogy interests, Mary's interest in history was extended to the Hill Country Archeological Association and Kerr County Historical Commission where she was also a member.

Mary, you will be greatly missed. We wish you well in the future.

WANTED: KGS Secretary

Because our secretary has moved, we need someone to serve in this position through the end of the calendar year. Primary responsibilities: record minutes of board meetings first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m., at general meetings on the third Wednesday of September through November at 2:00 p.m., and other meetings as called.

If you would be willing to serve the KGS through the end of the year in this capacity, please call Deborah Gaudier at 257-0073 or email dgaudier@windstream.net.





Kerrville Genealogical Society Research Center & Library

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

Check the Kerrville Genealogical Society Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/KerrvilleGenealogicalSociety/
 Log in and "Like" us — we will list KGS events there.

We have a web site that contains upcoming events, information about the
 Research Center & Library, and other information.
<https://kerrvillegenealogy.wordpress.com>

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

***If you change your e-mail address or postal address, please e-mail
kgsociety2011@gmail.com to let us know.***

2018 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board & Officers

President: Deborah Gaudier	Membership Chair: Jeannie Berger
1 st Vice President: Barbara French	Outreach Chair: Elizabeth Baker
2 nd Vice President: Harriet Chesi	Newsletter Editor: Leslie Van Drasek
Secretary:	Volunteer Coordinator: Sharon Ashby
Treasurer: Donna Scofield	Asst. Volunteer Coord.: Sharon Smith

KERRVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Membership Year: January 1 - December 31, 2018

Membership is open to all individuals 18 years and older, libraries, and societies and is pro-rated based on date of application.

Primary Member Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zipcode:** _____

Phone (home): _____ **Phone (cell):** _____

Email Address: _____

Secondary Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zipcode:** _____

Phone (home): _____ **Phone (cell):** _____

Email Address: _____

I consider myself: ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

I would be willing to: ☐ Contribute to newsletter ☐ Serve on a committee
☐ Other _____

Type of membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10.00	New members and former members (if more than a full year) may join at a pro-rated fee:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30.00	January 1 - June 30 full-price membership
	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$75.00	July 1 - December 31 half-price membership
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation	\$_____	If you can, please consider a higher level of support.

Kerrville Genealogical Society is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). The Society relies on donations and membership support.

SEND COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Kerrville Genealogical Society
125 Lehmann Drive, Suite 102
Kerrville, TX 78028

For KGS use only **Date:** _____ **Check #:** _____