

# Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

Volume 7, Issue 4

October 2018

## President's Message



One of the things that well-run organizations do is to plan ahead. For a voluntary club such as ours, this means several things:

(1) meeting the current and anticipated needs of our members;

(2) insuring adequate financial resources to carry out the first point; and

(3) planning for our long-term viability

Point #1 includes insuring that we have a place to meet, a place for our library, putting on interesting programs at our monthly meetings, and educational opportunities. So, what are our needs, for now and the future? I'd like to hear from you, the members. Is the club meeting your needs with respect to genealogical research? Is there something we could do differently or better?

With respect to point #2, the club's finances currently are not in good shape. Do you look at the financial reports available each month at our general meetings? Our dues only cover a small percentage of our annual operating expenses. There is a significant shortfall. Our annual expenses run around \$18,000 per year, but income runs about 1/2 of that. To keep the KGS Research Center and Library open we need to increase our funding.

We are working to find funding for our operations from local foundations—but so are other non-profit organizations. As we approach the end of the year, many of us are beginning to think about our taxes and where to make those tax-deductible donations.

Please consider the Kerrville Genealogical Society. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If every member

made a \$150 donation we should just about cover our operating expenses for the year. We know many cannot afford this, but others can and just hadn't thought about including this "Hidden Gem in the Hill Country" in end of year donations.

Can't afford \$150? Please consider \$100, or \$75, or \$50—ANY amount will help. Or perhaps you'd like to help underwrite or sponsor a subscription to one of the sites we subscribe to—*ancestry.com*, or *americanancestors.org*, or *fold3.com*, or help underwrite the cost of printer ink for a month (\$40) or a month's worth of internet and phone service (\$120). We don't, however, need printer paper. We are well supplied!

Finally, on point #3, the long-term viability of any voluntary organization is never assured. The first thing we have done this year to begin to address this is develop a strategic plan—which is included in this newsletter. Our membership holds steady at about 110 members. Even if we meet our members' needs (point #1) and maintain adequate financial support for club activities (point #2), we may still face a challenge in growing our membership beyond the core group of retirees. One way we hope to do this is through the 4-week, 8-hour class Sharon Ashby, Jeannie Berger, and I are teaching at the Dietert Center with the hope that we will add some new members.

I hope the above has given you some food for thought. I would certainly welcome your ideas and input. Remember, it's your club—the elected leadership is here to listen to your ideas and proposals so that we can meet the needs of our membership for now and into the future.

Happy ancestor-ing!

*Deborah Gaudier*

830-257-0073, [dgaudier@windstream.net](mailto:dgaudier@windstream.net)

# The Kerrville Genealogical Society Strategic Plan 2018

Earlier this year the board adopted a strategic plan which we would like to share with you.

## **Our Mission:**

The Kerrville Genealogical Society strives to meet the educational needs of its members and the general public through the acquisition, preservation, and dissemination of genealogical and historical information. KGS collects, preserves, promotes, and interprets the rich and diverse history of the Kerrville and Kerr County area for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations by obtaining and maintaining a comprehensive collection of historical and genealogical materials for the family historian studying his/her roots. We have materials from most states and some other countries. We try to keep up with current local, state, and national issues affecting genealogists and historians and keep members informed of them.

## **Our Values:**

The Kerrville Genealogical Society brings together people of diverse backgrounds who have a common interest in family history and the preservation of Texas' past. We foster an environment where everyone seeking information is treated with respect and provided with a rewarding and educational experience. We work with and train walk-in researchers one-on-one; sponsor seminars and lectures; and answer research questions by telephone and email. Material in the possession of the Society will be preserved with care. We hold to certain core values: honest and ethical conduct; leadership and service to others; preservation of Texas' history, vital records and family data; community support, collaboration and partnering. The Society embraces technology to further these values.

## **Our Vision:**

The Kerrville Genealogical Society seeks to be a user-friendly source for an individual to obtain historical and genealogical information. We plan to achieve this through the following goals and tasks:

### GOAL 1: Improve Program Services

- Assure the Society is run in the most effective and efficient manner possible.
- Include evaluations by the board in the annual report for member information.

- Maintain an up-to-date Policies and Procedures Manual which should be available to all Board members and volunteers.
- Coordinate more fully with other organizations, i.e., state and local genealogical societies and programs, local museums, the Kerr County Historical Commission, etc.

### GOAL 2: Increase Membership

- Attract younger members and retain current members.
- Increase membership by a minimum of 10% per year.

### GOAL 3: Attract and Maintain a Strong Volunteer pool

- Develop a volunteer policy and assure that all volunteers receive a copy.
- Increase number of volunteers.
- Conduct an annual volunteer appreciation event.

### GOAL 4: Upgrade Technological Facilities and Services

- Board to develop a plan for optimal use of electronic resources.
- Use electronic media to make Society resources more available.
- Routinely review and update Society website.
- Optimize use of Facebook to generate interest in Society and its resources.
- Upgrade outdated equipment (hardware and software) and identify media/computer needs.

### GOAL 5: Enhance Publicity and Events

- Develop a strong publicity program to make sure that all events are broadcast to the widest audience possible.
- Assure that signage is routinely updated and events publicized in a timely manner.

### GOAL 6: Define and Meet Society's Financial Needs

- Increase funds available for use by the Society for operating costs and special projects through improved investment strategies.
- Continue active grant writing program seeking additional funding for ongoing operational and special projects where applicable.

## German-Texan Heritage Society



Texas was settled by many Germans and there is a special group dedicated "to promote the public awareness about the incredible contribution German Texas had and continue to have by leaving their mark on today's prosperous Texans." The German-Texan Heritage Society began in 1978.

They have speakers, festivals, as well as education programs and German language classes offered in Austin, Round Rock, West Austin, San Antonio, and they are expanding to other locations.

Just like KGS, they have different categories/levels of membership and are a 501(c)(3). They can be found online at [www.germantexans.org](http://www.germantexans.org) or email at [office@germantexans.org](mailto:office@germantexans.org) or toll free phone 855-892-6691.

## Invite a Friend to Join KGS!

*by Jeannie Berger*

There is still time to invite a friend to join KGS for one-half the annual fee. We'd like to increase membership, which is a vital source of revenue for us.

2019 is right around the corner, and we will be accepting payments for next year beginning at the November meeting. The new form is at the end of this newsletter for your convenience.



*Invite  
your  
Friend*

Thanks to all of you for your support!

## Upcoming KGS Programs

UGRA Auditorium, 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028  
October 17, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

### **Ken Pinkham: *Breaking Through That Dreaded Brick Wall***

Most of us have come to a brick wall in our research and had a difficult time trying to get through it. Ken Pinkham grew up believing he was a Pinkham only to find out he wasn't! It took many years but he had an amazing journey as he uncovered the truths about his family history.

**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE**

## Meeting Changes for 2019

Due to scheduling changes with the UGRA Auditorium, we will have our general meetings on the FIRST Wednesdays and NOT the third Wednesdays as we have in the past. We will send out reminders beforehand just as we do now. If you want to mark your calendar ahead of time, the meetings will be as follows:

January 2, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, September 4, October 2, and November 6

## **Fuzzy Ink Stationery**

*by Leslie Van Drasek*



Many of us use the internet for our research looking for new family discoveries and aids to help us with organizing our research and records. Recently I found a website that has lots of forms and resources for gathering information. It is Fuzzy Ink Stationery at <https://fuzzy.ink/stationery/>. It was created by a woman in Australia who mixes her love of family and genealogy with her background in graphic design. She designs and develops all invitation, stationery, and genealogy templates. She begins by saying, "Hi there, I'm Prudence. I'm a quirky creative who is passionate about helping other people tell their stories." Also, "I help genealogists creatively tell their ancestors stories and compile their family history."

She has created many downloadable templates to help you create a beautiful way of telling your families' stories and history; aids for gathering information and questions to ask; templates to record your information, etc. Her downloads are set up for Microsoft Word or PDF formats, however, I use a Mac and have had no trouble using her templates. Some are free downloads and some are free to members (which is a free registration).

If you have been hesitant about telling your stories, she has some innovative ways to get you motivated to start with your storytelling articles or books.

### **SOME OF THE FUZZY INK FREEBIES**

- Family History Writing Planners
- 8 Ways To Step Into Your Ancestors Shoes
- Newspaper Notification Template for Google Slides
- The Non-Writers Writing Challenge for Genealogists: Build the Foundation
- The Non-Writers Writing Challenge for Genealogists: Find the Story
- The Non-Writers Writing Challenge for Genealogists: Write the Summary
- Ancestor Trading Card Planner Preserve Your Research Log
- Family Trivia Game Planning Worksheet

### **BLOG TOPICS**

- Celebrations
- Design & Layout Tips
- Designing
- Family History Inspiration
- Featured
- Free Printable
- Games & Collectibles
- Genealogy
- Genealogy Toolbox
- My Story
- Researching
- Software Quick Tips
- Storytelling
- Storytelling Tips
- Tips
- Tutorials
- Video Tutorials
- Writing

## **New Naval Records Added to Fold3!**

*September 20, 2018 by Trevor (from fold3.com)*

This month, Fold3 is pleased to highlight two new collections of naval records we've added to our archives.

The first collection is Letters Received by the Secretary of Navy ("Captains' Letters") dated 1805-1885. The second collection is Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy from Commanding Officers of Squadrons between

1841-1886. These letters are in original manuscript form.

The Captains' Letters collection is organized by year and contains correspondence from captains at sea to the Secretary of the Navy related to a variety of issues, including shipboard discipline, repairs of vessels, and conflicts with foreign governments.

## New On the Shelves at the KGS Research Center & Library

*by Harriet M. Chesi, Collections*

*Ancestors of H.F. Grona and C.F.A. Wulst* by Jeannie Berger, KGS member  
Herman F. Grona and Caroline Friederike Wulst immigrated to Gillespie County, Texas in 1857

*New Jersey Biographical and Genealogical Notes* by William Nelson  
Early NJ families are featured.

*The 1787 Census of Virginia*  
for Elizabeth City County, Bourbon County, Rockingham County, and Rockbridge County

*Index to Edgar Wood's "History of Albemarle County in Virginia"*

*Bolton (MA) Soldiers & Sailors in the American Revolution* by Whitcomb & Mayor

*Abstracts of the Baltimore Co. (MD) Land Commissions 1727-1762*

*Missouri Genealogical Records & Abstracts by Eddlemon, Vol. 1: 1766-1839*

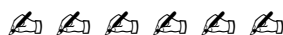
*Old Westmoreland-The History & Genealogy of Westmoreland Co., PA*

*The Northeast Mississippi Historical & Genealogical Society Quarterly*  
Volume IV: 1800s marriage & death records; Monroe Co. roster of Confederate Soldiers and Sailors  
Volume V: Early records from Lee, Monroe, Union, Prentiss, Benton and Pontotoc Counties

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Kerrville Genealogical Society is thankful for all donations to the collection.

- Remember to look at the periodicals by genealogical societies that are organized by state in Room 4—they contain a wide variety of early records; many not found online.
- Look at the Lending Library bookcase in Room 1 filled with books available for check-out by KGS members for research at home.





## More Than Just a Family Tree

*by Jeannie Berger*

A year and a half ago, I was pleased to play hostess to my new friend, Petra Kuehne of Halle, Germany. You may recall that in the April 2017 edition of the KGS Messenger, she was the subject of a featured article.

I met Petra after writing a series of letters to Germany in hopes of finding someone to research my Grona ancestors. She gladly took on the project and became so fascinated with the story of German immigration to Texas that she decided to come see the area for herself in the spring of 2017.

Over the several months that she spent hours in the archives scrolling through image after image, she found more than I ever could have imagined! Many discrepancies were cleared up, a family legend was dispelled and I learned a great deal not only about the people from whom I am descended but also quite a bit about the history, geography and culture of the old Prussian Empire and some German words and phrases as well.

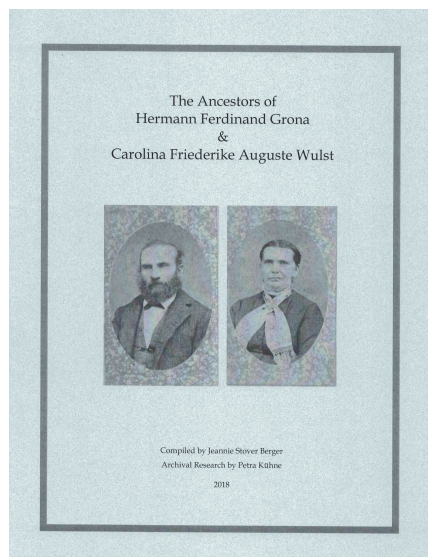
Wanting to do justice to the information that accumulated thanks to Petra's research, I recently put together a little booklet entitled *The Ancestors of Hermann Ferdinand Grona and Carolina Friederike Auguste Wulst*, immigrants to Texas in 1857 with their young son Max, who, as an adult, settled in Kerrville in 1889. While it does contain family trees, it also featured images of the original documents Petra found in the archives in Magdeburg as well as from books that mention the family that were at St. Mary's

Library in Halle, where she volunteers as a genealogist and transcriptionist.

There is a copy available at KGS on the new books shelf. If you are a Grona descendant, I hope it helps you learn a little more about your origins in the old country. And even if you're not a family member but have German ancestry, you might enjoy checking through the book and see what to expect from documents in their original form and the wealth of information they provide.

The following image is from the Heiratsregister of the Evangelical Church of St. Nicholas in Bad Dueben. It records the marriage of Hermann Ferdinand and Augusta. The translation reveals that it took place on 2 July 1857 and was the 22nd marriage of the year. It lists the name and occupation of the groom as the economic administrator of the manor of Nudersdorf as well as the name of his father, Joseph Theodor Grona, and his occupation: "the retired captain and knight of the Order of the Red Eagle Joseph Theodor Grona and his deceased wife Johanne Karoline Florentine, born Liebau...." The groom was 30 years, 5 months old.

The bride, 24  $\frac{3}{4}$  years old, was the daughter of Johann Gottlieb Wulst and his deceased wife Johanne Henriette, born Wolfram. The occupation and residence of the bride's father were noted; he was a handyman/carpenter in Bad Dueben, and the bride was "in service" in Luetschena, a suburb of Leipzig. The wedding was performed by Deacon Kressyg "still in der Kirche" (without bells in the church).



[illegible]

Hochzeit durchgeführt von: *Diacon Kreyssig*



## Kerrville Genealogical Society 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/](https://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](mailto:kgsociety2011@gmail.com) to let us know.*

### 2018 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board & Officers

President: Deborah Gaudier	Membership Chair: Jeannie Berger
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President: Barbara French	Outreach Chair: Elizabeth Baker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Harriet Chesi	Newsletter Editor: Leslie Van Drasek
Interim Secretary: Carole Pinkham	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, 2019**

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: ☐ Student \$10.00 New members and former members (if more than a full year) may join at a pro-rated fee:  
☐ Individual \$25.00  
☐ Family \$30.00 January 1 - June 30 full-price membership  
☐ Patron \$75.00 July 1 - December 31 half-price membership  
☐ Benefactor \$500.00  
☐ 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_