

Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2019

President's Message



I am honored to be elected to serve a second year as President of the Kerrville Genealogical Society. My many thanks to all the board members who have pitched in to help during an illness I dealt with all fall. You have made my job much easier. In fact, you've made it possible to continue in this position.

As previous presidents have stated, genealogy is my passion and having a fine facility like the Kerrville Genealogical Society here in the Texas Hill Country is a great way to support that. Like most of the board, I'm not from around here, but our collection is so extensive, I find many books on the shelves from other states with names of my kinfolk in them. Even books that don't specifically name ancestors help tell the story of the places they are from. Plus, our subscriptions to several internet sites means I don't have to subscribe to every available website out there in order to do research. It just means coming by for a visit. If you haven't been in recently, stop by, see what we have, and visit for a while with our enthusiastic volunteers.

Beyond that, KGS collections provide an invaluable service to historians and others interested in preserving the history of Kerr and surrounding counties. You help to support that too with your dues, donations and time. Thank you to all who have put dollars in the donation jar at the Research Center, have given over and beyond that, and have supported us through Amazon Smile. A donation to Amazon Smile costs you nothing and is an easy way to support KGS financially. And I don't want to forget to thank all the volunteers who donate many hours to keep our doors open, maintain our webpage, Facebook page, and blog, and in general maintain our presence on the internet.

The current and incoming board members are making plans for 2019. Karen has begun scheduling speakers for our monthly meetings at the UGRA building, now back to the third

Wednesday of the month. We apologize for the confusion over our meeting dates for 2019.

Support for KGS by way of your member dues is absolutely necessary. Please rejoin for 2019. The lecture hall at UGRA has been rented for all KGS general meetings in 2019. Mark your calendars: 3rd Wednesdays January through May and September through November in the UGRA lecture hall at 2:00 p.m. We are also working toward a fall seminar.

We especially want to acknowledge and thank the Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation for their \$5,000 grant for educational purposes. This will help underwrite our lectures, seminars, and other educational programs in 2019.

The board is always looking for ways to serve the members of KGS. If you would like workshops, send us a note at kgs@hctc.net; suggestions—send a note. If you would like to volunteer or help the society in some capacity—send a note.

Members, don't forget we have a lending library of approximately 200 books. The Kerrville Genealogical Society belongs to all of us. Your suggestions and involvement are always welcomed and encouraged.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve KGS as your president.

Happy Ancestoring,

Deborah Gaudier

830-257-0073, dgaudier@windstream.net



2019 KGS Officers

At the November General Membership meeting, the slate of officers for 2019 was presented by the Nominating Committee. Following the unanimous vote by the members present, the following were elected and will be formally introduced at the January meeting:

President, Deborah Gaudier

1st Vice President, Karen Robertson

2nd Vice President, Harriet Chesi

Secretary, Carole Pinkham

Treasurer, Donna Scofield

Membership News

Please remember to pay your membership for 2019. We appreciate your support!

There is a membership form at the end of this newsletter, which you can print and either bring to the January 16th meeting or mail it to us. Membership forms will also be available at the check-in desk at the meeting.



KGS would like to welcome new members. Our most recent new member is Douglas Nelson.

The Orphan Trains

Contributed by Carole Pinkham

(Permission to reproduce this article was granted by Dick Eastman at "Eastman's Online Genealogy Blog")



From the 1850s through the 1920s, New York City was teeming with tens of thousands of homeless and orphaned children. To survive, these so-called "street urchins" resorted to begging, stealing, or forming gangs to commit violence. Some children worked in factories and slept in doorways or flophouses. The children roamed the streets and slums with little or no hope of a successful future. Their numbers were stunningly large; an estimated 30,000 children were homeless in New York City in the 1850s.

Charles Loring Brace, the founder of The Children's Aid Society, believed that there was a way to change the futures of these children. By removing youngsters from the poverty and

debauchery of the city streets and placing them in morally upright farm families, he thought they would have a chance to escape a lifetime of suffering.

Brace proposed that these children be sent by train to live and work on farms out west. They would be placed in homes for free, but they would serve as an extra pair of hands to help with chores around the farm. They wouldn't be indentured. In fact, older children placed by The Children's Aid Society were to be paid for their labors.

The Orphan Train Movement lasted from 1853 to the 1920s, placing more than 120,000 children.

Most of these children survived into adulthood, married, and had children of their own. Several million Americans today can find former Orphan Train children in their family trees.

Orphan Trains stopped at more than 45 states across the country, as well as Canada and Mexico. During the early years, Indiana received the largest number of children. There were numerous agencies nationwide that placed children on trains to go to foster homes. In New York, besides Children's Aid, other agencies that placed children included Children's Village (then known as the New York Juvenile Asylum), what is now New York Foundling Hospital, and the former Orphan Asylum Society of the City of New York, which is now the Graham-Windham Home for Children. Not all the children were from New York City. Children from Albany and other cities in New York State were transported, as were some from Boston, Massachusetts, where the Boston Children's Services merged with the New England Home For Little Wanderers, which also is still active today.

Only a few of the Orphan Train children are alive today, and most were too young at the time to remember their experiences. However, a few elderly Americans can recall their experiences on the Orphan Trains.

Stanley Cornell and his brother are amongst the last generation of Orphan Train riders. When asked about his experience, Mr. Cornell replied, "We'd pull into a train station, stand outside the coaches dressed in our best clothes. People would inspect us like cattle farmers. And if they didn't choose you, you'd get back on the train and do it all over again at the next stop."

Cornell and his brother were "placed out" twice with their aunts in Pennsylvania and Coffeyville, Kansas. Unfortunately, these placements didn't last, and they were returned to the Children's Aid Society.

"Then they made up another train. Sent us out west. A hundred-fifty kids on a train to Wellington,

Texas," Cornell recalls. "That's where Dad happened to be in town that day."

Each time an Orphan Train was sent out, adoption ads appeared in local papers before the arrival of the children.

J.L. Deger, a 45-year-old farmer, knew he wanted a boy, even though he already had two daughters, ages 10 and 13. "He'd just bought a Model T. Mr. Deger looked those boys over. We were the last boys holding hands in a blizzard, December 10, 1926," Cornell remembers. He says that day he and his brother stood in a hotel lobby. "He asked us if we wanted to move out to farm with chickens, pigs, and a room all to your own. He only wanted to take one of us, decided to take both of us."

Life on the farm was hard work. "I did have to work and I expected it, because they fed me, clothed me, loved me. We had a good home. I'm very grateful. Always have been, always will be."

Cornell eventually got married. He and his wife, Earleen, lived in Pueblo, Colorado. His brother, Victor Cornell, eventually moved to Moscow, Idaho.

Some of the children struggled in their newfound surroundings, while many others went on to lead simple, very normal lives, raising their families and working towards the American dream. Although records weren't always well kept, some of the children placed in the West went on to great successes. There were two governors, one congressman, one sheriff, two district attorneys, and three county commissioners, as well as numerous bankers, lawyers, physicians, journalists, ministers, teachers, and businessmen.

The Orphan Train Movement and the success of other children's aid initiatives led to a host of child welfare reforms, including child labor laws, adoption and foster care services, public education, and the provision of health care and nutrition and vocational training.

Do you have an ancestor who was on one of the Orphan Trains?

Many web sites provide information about America's Orphan Trains:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_Train

<https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/about/orphan-train-movement>

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2400>

<http://encyclopedia.adoption.com/entry/Orphan-Train-Heritage-Society-of-America-Inc-OTHSA/267/1.html>

Even more sites about Orphan Trains, many of them dedicated to Orphan Train experiences in specific states, may be found on Cyndi's List at: <https://www.cyndislist.com/orphans/orphan-trains/>.

On the Shelves at the KGS Research Center & Library

by Harriet M. Chesi, Collections



If you are doing research in Arkansas, these books found in the Arkansas section in the main room may be helpful:

Corinth Revisited by Its Kinfolks

History, Bible, Marriage, Cemetery Records, also including these cemeteries
In Texas: Colorado City, Huckabay, Trinity and City

History of Benton County

History of Clark County

History of Newton County

History of Lafayette County

1820-1907 Index to Arkansas General Land Office for Union, Bradley & Ashley Counties

The Goodspeed Biographical & Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas

Arkansas Pensioners 1818-1900

Records of some residents who applied to Federal Government for benefits
arising from service in Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Indian & Mexican Wars

Settlers of Lovely County & Miller County Arkansas Territory

Arkansas Gazette Obituary Index 1819-1879

Northwest Arkansas Connections: Selected Obituaries

Arkansas Newspaper Abstracts 1819-1845

Cemeteries of Yell County, Arkansas

Ouachita County Tax Records 1851-1857

Arkansas Confederate Veterans & Widow's Pension Applications

Remember to look at the Lending Library Bookcase in Room 1 filled with books available for check out by KGS members for research at home.

You might be interested in this new book:

First Families of Bexar County, Texas

Descendant Lineages of Residents of Bexar, San Antonio, and Bexar County prior to 1850

This covers historical eras of settlement in Central Texas: Spanish Colonial, Mexican National, Republic of Texas, and Early Statehood. Biographical sketches, historical narratives, photographs, and maps supplement the lineages. We do not have a copy of this book, but if you are interested in ordering it, contact the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society at www.txsaghs.org.

Wagon Train from Benton County, Arkansas to Willamette Valley, Oregon

by Donna Scofield

Following is an excerpt from a newspaper article written by Leroy Brown about 1910. (*Leroy Brown is the great grandfather of KGS member, Donna Scofield.*)

On the 15th day of April 1861, Leroy Brown and wife with some other relatives left from near Brown's Mill, Benton County, Arkansas and headed toward Oregon by wagon train. Others from Franklin County joined the party near the Cherokee nation. We ferried across the Sand River near Salt Works. Crossed the Verdigris and through the Osage Nation and western part of Kansas.

We encountered a hail storm on the Arkansas River and the stock stampeded and it took two to three days to find them. Continued on the North side of the river until near where Pueblo is now. The train then turned north and crossed the divide between Arkansas River and South Platte. They crossed South Platte River at Denver City. We traveled north near the mountains, crossed many beautiful streams. About 45 miles from Denver we went into the Black Hills. Forded the Laramie River by raising the wagon beds and putting blocks under them. Further on we came to Sulphur Springs. Stayed two nights and one day.

At the next camp finally found water under a big rock left of the road. Ferried across the Green River and swam the stock. From Green River to Ham's Fork. Crossed the old California road 45 miles east of Salt Lake. Several more days of travel brought us to Soda Springs. The Washington County people left the train and went on the southern route. We left Bear River and headed towards Fort Hall. The morning after leaving Soda Springs the stock stampeded and ran with the wagons. One girl was slightly hurt and an ox had a horn broken.

The trail traveled down the Snake River on the South side and came to a train waiting for

company and we continued together. Occasionally we passed a newly made grave and one night we went into camp on a high bluff where a train had been massacred and their wagons burned. As we traveled down the river we saw fires in the mountain for several days at different places

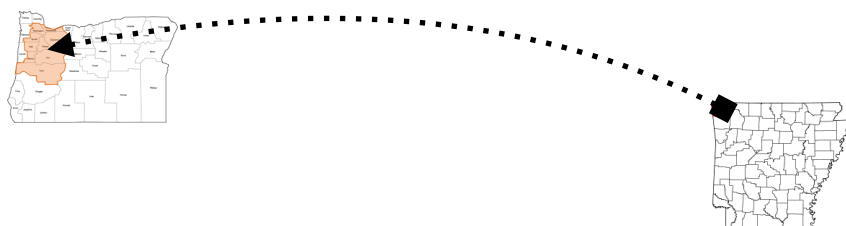
One day a few days later we stopped for noon. We saw a heavy dust rising on the road just traveled. The Indians soon came in sight, a great many on horses and riding fast. A few men meet them with guns and ordered them to stop. They stopped and parlayed. Pretended to be friendly but were not allowed to come near the camp. Some cattle were lost at the Powder River from eating poison. (plants?) On through Grand Ronde and crossed the Blue Mountains on the Meecham road. Came off the Blue Mountains into the land of promise about the 20th of August.

While resting the stock on the Umatilla River, some members decided they had found country good enough for them and headed toward where Waitsburg, Washington is now located.

The rest of the train were bound for the Willamette Valley. We traveled on towards The Dalles, Oregon and when near the Deschutes, we were directed on a cutoff which proved to be a stock trail. We had to stop and make a road before we could get to the crossing. Continued to Tye Valley and let the stock rest before resuming our journey across the Cascades and on the old emigrant road to Oregon City. From there we went to Jefferson City arriving on September 23.

There were no deaths on the train and no serious sickness or serious accidents happened to anyone. They were all well and healthy.

In 1864 Leroy Brown moved to the Waitsburg area. Other families followed to this area but a few families stayed in Oregon.

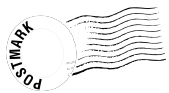


A 1913 Letter from Kerrville

Provided by email to KGS from Lisa Lee

Recently I discovered a letter written by Edna Stone North living in Kerrville to my great grandmother Nettie Lee, in Haywood, OK. I wanted to share it, and I thought maybe y'all would appreciate a transcript of it since she was living in Kerrville. I'm pretty sure she passed away there about a year later. Apparently my great grandfather was living and working with the North family but no kin. ~ Lisa Lee

(You will notice this letter was transcribed as written by Edna North with her own spelling and punctuation. ~ Editor)



Envelope postmarked:
Jan 3 1913 Kerrville, Tex

From Edna North, Kerrville, Tex to Mrs Nettie Lee, Haywood, Okla
"Kerrville, Tex Jan 1 1913
"Mrs. Nettie Lee

"Tis with pleasure that I will answer your most kind and welcome letter. This leaves all just to be (tolerable?) well. I have just got up from a spell of sickness. I had the plurshey. I was in the bed Xmas. I never cooked a cake or a pie and, we did not have any thing but a hard time. We did have some old red beans, sow bellie cooked. Oh Mrs Lee you don't know what a hard time . I am having you asked me if I knew anything about where Mr Lee was. He is still here, just as fat as he can be, he weighs 152 lbs. He is driving Toms wood wagon. Tom and Wain Sandfer is cutting the wood. He took two loads to day. I think Mr Lee wrights to you two or three times a week mabe some body else gets your letters. He can just eat any thing most that he wants. He killed a deer the other day and Saturday Tom and him walked four miles and went to the turkey roost & killed a big gobbler and come back that night. You may know by that he is doing fine. Well I will change off and tell you something else none of them remedies did not stick before or after. I just tried every one you told me about. I haven't seen any thing since I had that mis whack when you was here. I am so ever lasting mad I can't walk straight. I am just like an old mad ox all the time. I never get to go any where and take the children to see any pleasure and you know what they have to eat & ware. They are still going bare footed. I the times looke mighty blue to me. I will tell you Mrs Lee if I could I would go away off in another country where I was not known and make

up money enough to take us where we could make a better living and have some things to ware. Oh you don't know how I would aprecheate (appreciate) some money to get some things I want and kneed. Mama said for you to write to her. She is crippled and can't walk but just around in the house. Her foot and leg is is just swelled in a strut. This is the lonesomest place in the world. No body ever comes on the place. I feel just like I didn't have a friend on earth. Somebody said old Mrs McKity had fifty cakes cooked Xmas and she sent Mrs Holloman apiece of every one. Well I guess I had better ring off. I guess you will get tired of reading this letter. If I could see you I could talk to you a week and then not get through. I would love to see you and the children. Answer soon and a long letter.
From your friend Edna North"

Board member Harriet Chesi did some research on Edna Stone North and submitted the following information:

Edna North was born in Gillespie, Texas on August 31, 1886, to William L. Stone and Caldonie Shockley. In 1900, the Stone family was living in Kerrville; her father was a farmer. She married Thomas Charlie North in 1903. On the 1910 census, Thomas was working as a laborer in Kerrville and the family consisted of Edna and their children James A., Thelma E., and Charles R. North. Edna died January 3, 1914, at age 27 of a diseased appendix and was buried in Nichols Cemetery.

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## Upcoming Programs

**January 16, 2019**

**Jeannie Berger: *Make a New Year's Resolution to Complete a Family History Project and Succeed!***

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to organize all those documents and photographs that have been piling up in boxes and in folders on your computer? Have you scanned all the family photographs, news clippings and letters and downloaded records galore from Ancestry and

FamilySearch but don't know what to do with them? KGS member Jeannie Berger will show you how you can incorporate these items into your family histories and also how you can use them to create "digital scrapbooks."

**February 20, 2019**

**Kurt Kneeland: a program on beginning DNA**

Mr. Kneeland may also be available for one-on-one consultations. Watch your email and our website for more information in the near future.

## Upcoming Meetings

Our 2019 meetings at:

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

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

January 16, 2019  
February 20, 2019  
March 20, 2019  
April 17, 2019  
May 15, 2019  
September 18, 2019  
October 16, 2019  
November 20, 2019

## "A Winter of DNA" eConference (with DNA kit giveaways)

If anyone is looking for an opportunity to learn more about using your DNA testing for genealogy research, Family History Fanatics will be producing "A Winter of DNA" eConference on January 26th. Speakers and topics will include:

**Tim Janzen** - *Maximizing Your Use of GEDmatch*

**Richard Hill** - *Finding Family with DNA Testing: A Genetic Detective Story*

**Andy Lee** - *DNA Tree Building: What to Do When GEDmatch Matches Don't Respond*

**Maurice Gleeson** - *Using Y-DNA in Your Family Tree Research*

The online sessions will begin at **9am Central Time on January 26th**. A final panel discussion will end the day. All registrants will be able to view the conference for 30 days. Register and get your questions answered by some of the most popular genetic genealogy educators! Presentations are live, not pre-recorded, and you can ask questions throughout.

Price is only **\$19.99 until January 18th** and then it will be \$24.99. Also, they will be having DNA kits and other stuff as door prizes that will be given away. You don't have to be present to win, but you do have to register.

More information is available on the website: <http://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/winterdna>



## 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/](https://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 address, please e-mail  
[kgs@hctc.net](mailto:kgs@hctc.net) or phone us to let us know.

### 2019 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board & Officers

|                                                       |                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b> Deborah Gaudier                     | <b>Membership Chair:</b> Jeannie Berger     |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</b> Karen Robertson | <b>Outreach Chair:</b> Elizabeth Baker      |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</b> Harriet Chesi   | <b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Leslie Van Drasek |
| <b>Secretary:</b> Carole Pinkham                      | <b>Volunteer Coordinators:</b> Sharon Ashby |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> Donna Scofield                      | 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: | <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 #:** \_\_\_\_\_