

# Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

Volume 9 Issue 1

Founded in 1970

January 2020

## 2020 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board

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## Research Center & Library

125 Lehmann, Suite 102

Kerrville, TX 78028

Phone: 830-315-1836

Office e-mail: kgs@hctc.net

## We can be found on the Internet

### Our blog:

- [kerrvillegenealogy.blogspot.com](http://kerrvillegenealogy.blogspot.com)

Check these for future events:

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

### Next Issue:

April 2020

### Deadline for submissions:

March 25, 2020

Send to: [leslie.vandrask@live.com](mailto:leslie.vandrask@live.com)  
or leave at the Research Center & Library

### Address changes:

If you need to make a change to your e-mail or postal address, let us know by sending an e-mail to [kgs@hctc.net](mailto:kgs@hctc.net) or by phone.

## President's Message

2020 marks a special year for Kerrville Genealogical Society. As of April 21<sup>st</sup>, the society will complete 5 years serving our members and the community at our excellent Research Center & Library in the Guadalupe Basin Natural Resource Center in Kerrville. It was a leap of faith to take on this financial and time-consuming responsibility! Thank you to all the members who worked many diligent hours to get the Research Center "up and running." And, thank you to the Research Center volunteers, past and present board members and those members who have given a great deal of support with monetary donations so that we can all celebrate 5 successful years at 125 Lehmann Drive, Suite 102.

June 17, 2020, marks the even **bigger** 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a group of genealogists that quickly became known as Kerrville Genealogical Society, Inc. While Kerr County has an endless supply of fascinating history, most of our members have family roots in far off locations. The Kerrville Genealogical Society, primarily by the generous donations of members, owns about 4,000 books of genealogical interest that includes most US States and some other interests. Our subscriptions to Ancestry, Fold3 and American Ancestors are free to use, and our monthly programs provide educational opportunities. I believe the Society has survived 50 years because it is a place to make friends, share our genealogical interests, discover our ancestors and learn research techniques. On the strength of that, I'm sure the Society will continue to thrive for another 50 years.

Thank you to Deborah Gaudier for her time and leadership as our President. Thank you to out-going board members Carole Pinkham and Donna Scofield. Each were excellent at their jobs and easy to work with. Elizabeth Baker will assist Karen Robertson with grant requests and other outreach duties in 2020. We welcome new board members Lynn Gazaway, our new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and Susan Johnson our Treasurer for 2020. Special thanks to all the folks who volunteered at the KGS Research Center & Library during 2019 so that our materials could be accessed three days a week all year round except holidays. The time you've donated is very much appreciated. Each month we have enjoyed wonderful refreshments and decorated tables after our meetings. Sharon Smith and Barbara French have done a fine job of being there every month to lay out the goodies and will continue to do so into 2020.

I value the 15 years I've spent as a member of this society and I look forward to serving as your President in 2020. I hope to see you in the Research Center and at the meetings this year.

Sincerely,

*Sharon Ashby*



## Upcoming Meetings

Our 2020 meetings will be held in the auditorium at  
**125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028 at 2:00 p.m.**

January 15, February 19, March 18, April 15, May 20,  
September 16, October 21, and November 18

### **January 15, 2020**

Please watch for an email; check Facebook and our website for an update.

### **February 19, 2020**

**William Patrick “Pat” Blackman: 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower**



Pat is a native Texan, born in Brownsville, who grew up in New Orleans where he met his wife of 59 years, Jackie, also a native Texan. Both he and Jackie graduated from Louisiana State University after which Pat completed a 42-year career in business-to-business advertising, public relations and corporate marketing in Houston.

He and Jackie retired to Boerne in 2004 where they have been involved in church activities and community volunteer work while finding time to spoil their four grandchildren.

Pat is a lifelong student of world history and has a particular affinity with American history. “I don’t claim to be a historian in the classical sense of the word because I don’t have a degree in history,”

claims Pat. “I’m just a guy who’s loved history since childhood and studied it ever since.”

Pat is the current president of the Boerne chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and is also a member of the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Kendall County Historical Society.

Since moving to Boerne Pat has given dozens of lectures and presentations to various groups including the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the War of 1812, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Daughters of the Union Army, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Jamestown Society and the Kendall County Genealogical Society plus a seven-year-long series of monthly American history lectures to residents of Morningside Ministries at Menger Springs.

### **March 18, 2020**

Please watch for an email; check Facebook and our website for an update.



## Membership News

*By Jeannie Berger*

Happy 2020! If you have not yet paid your dues for the new year, please do so at your earliest convenience. There is a membership application at the end of the newsletter, and applications will also be available at the January meeting.

Your membership dollars are greatly appreciated to help YOUR genealogical society to maintain the research library and to present many informative

programs throughout the year. And as a benefit to you, only members receive the KGS Messenger quarterly newsletter and other announcements about genealogical activities.

Thanks to renewing and new members. A welcome message and recognition of new members who joined during the first quarter of 2020 will be published in the April issue of the Messenger.

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

*by Harriet M. Chesl, Collections*



KGS appreciates these donations to the collection.

*The Descendants of William Sabin*  
*The Johnson Pride, From Scotland to England to the New World*  
*Ancestors & Descendants of Joshua Porter III*  
*The Young Family — New Jersey to Texas*  
*Plum Creek Almanacs (Caldwell County, TX) — 10 issues*  
*History of Spartanburg County, SC*  
*Spartanburg District, SC – Deed Abstracts – Books U-W 1827-1839*  
*The WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma*  
*Migration into East Texas (1835-1860)*  
*History of Wise County, Texas*  
*Pope County, AR 1829-1980*  
*Carroll County, AR – Union United Baptist Church Records*  
*Carroll County, AR Historical Quarterly – 15 issues*  
*Cumberland County, KY – Yesterday and Today*  
*History of Adair County, OK*  
*Family Histories – OK*  
*Union Soldiers Home & Cemetery Records Index — OK*  
*Siftings from Putnam County, TN*  
*Putnam County, TN — Bible, Family & Tombstone Records*  
*Putnam County, TN — Stray Leaves from Putnam County History*  
*Fentress County, TN Newsletter – 34 issues*  
*First Arkansas Confederate Mounted Rifles*  
*Clayton McCormick Ancestors & Descendants*  
*Rushing, Morris, Bradford, Estes, Day Family Histories*  
*Leach -- Leech Families*

In January, we will receive a copy of a soon to be published book:

*Tracing Immigrants Through the Port of New York:  
Early National Period to 1924*

Between the late 1700s and 1924 New York was a key gateway for millions who journeyed to the US to establish new lives. Today, millions of Americans descend from those who passed through Castle Garden and Ellis Island. The book details the records and research strategies for use when tracing those who passed through New York City.

There are rare books pertaining to the histories of people in many states. The early editions of

historical/genealogical periodicals in Room 4 can reveal a lot about our ancestors' lives.

## **Lending Library**

Remember to look at the Lending Library bookcase in Room 1; members can check books out for research at home.

## **Book Sale:**

In Room 1, there is a basket overflowing with books that are for sale. Look them over any time you are in the Research Center and Library. Your donation would be greatly appreciated for any books you would like to keep.

## **KGS—How It all Began!**

*Written by Dot Hogan in 1996, submitted by Sharon Ashby with submitter's comments*

On June 17, 1970, a small genealogy "class" met at Dietert Claim (Kerrville's Senior Citizen Center) to organize what they called "The Genealogical Associates of Dietert Claim." They agreed to have weekly meetings at which time they would pool their resources and help each other with their family research. A few books and magazines were donated to the group and they arranged with Mrs. Jaeggli, Butt-Holdsworth Memorial librarian, to have a shelf for genealogy books at the library. During that first year, the group held a rummage sale to earn money to buy a few more books, and they gained a few more members.

In the second year, there were about 12 members meeting weekly, usually with 5 or 6 present and never more than \$85 in the treasury.....usually much less.

In 1972, Mrs. Brindle was elected Director and the group installed themselves and their collection on the third floor of the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. They voted to have one meeting a month to conduct business and provide a program. Dues were set at \$2 yearly and by-laws were written.

With the membership growing, the group had gained a few more members and in 1974 began the Kerr County Cemetery project headed by Arlene Tolman. *Our current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Lynn Gazaway, was a student in Mrs. Lavender's government class at Tivy High School at the time. This class, and maybe others, was assigned to help on this project. It was the Society's contribution to the Bi-Centennial effort.*

Gerald Witt, *still a member of KGS*, was director in 1979/80. It was under Gerald's direction that the Kerr County Cemetery book was finished and bound.

The Society's book collection grew. It was kept locked, at the City library and only open a few hours in the afternoon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday when a volunteer from the Kerrville Genealogical Society was on duty. The book collection continued to grow. With the help of then librarian for B-HML, Victoria Roberts, more room was made for the genealogy collection and eventually volunteers from the Society were needed daily from 1 to 4 p.m.

In 1988 membership dues were raised to \$10 per year or \$15 for a family. Many donations and memorials have been received from individuals, SAR and DAR; bookplates were placed in books to signify this. As using computers for research gained popularity, a KGS computer group was formed in 1988. A new microfilm reader was necessary in 1993 and in that year a reader-printer was purchased.

During its first 25 years, many KGS members donated many hours to compiling Kerr County cemetery books, death records, obituaries, marriage books, histories, Confederate records, and Kerr censuses. Many members have written and published family histories of their own, and the books have been presented to the Society for its collection.

## **Early Days in Denton County, Texas**

*Submitted by Jeannie Berger*

**Originally published in Stirpes, Volume 36, No. 3, September 1996.**

**Written by Mrs. J. M. Stover from Memory**

My father & mother and one sister, Martha Jones, came to Texas from Illinois in the year 1846 or 1847 first settled in Hickory Creek not a great ways from what use to be a called old Aulton staid there a few months then came to the place that is now Little Elm and Presented the land that is known as the Matthew Jones head rite and in Nov. 28, 1848 I was born and in year 1850 my father in company with my Grandfather and Grandmother Peter Teel then and an Uncle John House started back to

Illinois on Business and he taken sick and died on the way back there was buried in Arkansas and Joel S. Clark came back with my Grandfather Peter Teel and in 1851 him and my Mother married and we continued to live on the same place until the year of 1899 when we moved to the place I now live on what is called the Round Prairie. I also own what is called the 4 mile Prairie 4 miles East of Denton on the McKinney Road it is connected with the Round Prairie.

**Denton Texas Nov 19, 1920 [written by Mr. J. M. Stover]**

Sarah Catherine Stover is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Jones, one of the earliest families to settle in Denton County, having come here from Illinois, nearly 80 years ago. They settled first on Hickory Creek, southwest of Denton, and later moved to what is now the Little Elm Community. Her father preempted 640 acres of black land in 1848 sixteen of which were sold in 1867 to Henry Hill at \$2.50 an acre for the site on which Little Elm now stands. Her father died in 1848 and her mother married Joel Clark, who died in 1905. Mrs. Clark's death occurred five years later.

Miss Sarah Catherine Jones was married to J. M. Stover in 1865. The bridegroom was a young soldier just out of the Confederate Army. He enlisted in the first company organized in this county.

Interesting recollection of the rude log shack to which she was taken as a bride are told by Mrs. Stover. It was built of hewed logs ruffed with pine planks. Two "sleepers" were built in at either extremity of the room, part of which was converted into a bed, the other a table. The young Husband was immediately put to the task of building the household furnishings, consisting

of only the barest necessities. Bedsteads, tubs, buckets, chairs and tables were all fashioned out of timber.

Mrs. Stover spoke reminiscently of her wardrobes when she was a girl and when she was a bride. In her trousseau, were to be had none of the dainty silken garments which the girls taste of today demands. Instead, they were rough, coarse, homespun garments the materials for which had been spun by hand. Even her wedding slippers were unwieldy raw hide shoes which her step father had made out of tanned skins.

Interesting account of the early hardship encountered in the struggle for existence during the pioneer days are given by Mrs. Stover. There was no railroad in Denton County, and supplies were hauled in wagon trains from Shreveport, La., then the nearest market. The few families had the wherewithal to provide for only the barest necessities and a wait of six weeks was necessary for the wagon train to make the trip. Practically everything that was eaten was raised and cotton for clothing was hand-spun by the housewives.



*Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Stover and children on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary*

J. M. (Joseph Martillis) Stover and Sarah Catherine Jones were the great grandparents of KGS member Jeannie Stover Berger. Her grandfather, Joel A. Stover (seated, far left in the photograph), was the seventh of their nine children all born in Denton County, all but one surviving to adulthood. This is a tribute to Sarah Catherine during Women's History Month, March 2020.



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# KERRVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

**Membership Year: January 1 - December 31, 2020**

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:  January 1 - June 30 full-price membership July 1 - December 31 half-price Individual and Family memberships
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$75.00	
	<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 #:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

