

Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

Volume 11 Issue 3

Founded in 1970

July 2022

2022 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board

President

Nancy McLarry

1st Vice President

Lynn Gazaway

2nd Vice President

Harriet Chesi

Secretary

GayNell Wells

Treasurer

Kathy Turley

Grants & Fundraising

Open

Hospitality Chair

Sharon Smith

Membership Chair

Becky Weinkauff

Newsletter Editor & Website

Leslie VanDrasek

Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Ashby

Research Center & Library

125 Lehmann, Suite 102

Kerrville, TX 78028

Phone: 830-315-1836

Office e-mail: kgs@hctc.net

Find us on the Internet

Our blog:

- kerrvillegenealogy.blogspot.com

Check these for future events:

- kerrvillegenealogy.wordpress.com
- www.facebook.com/KerrvilleGenealogicalSociety/

Next Issue:

October 2022

Deadline for submissions:

September 20, 2022

Send to: leslie.vandrasedk@live.com

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 or by phone, 830-315-1836.

President's Message



Summer is here and so is the heat! If you are like me, you are staying out of the heat and the Sahara Desert sand as much as possible. A lot of you are paying no attention to either of them and taking off for that much awaited vacation.

If you are not on vacation at the beach or in the mountains, now is the time to come to the KGS library. Come in and see what is going on with that super bunch of researchers. You may want to even join them. Stay around and learn about the library and how to help. We are always in need of volunteers and we need you. It is so simple once you see how to do it and you will be an expert in no time. So come down and join this group NOW.

At the end of our meeting in May, I received a check from the Genealogical Society of Kendall County in Boerne for the great Mayfest we joined with them and the Comfort Heritage group. The three of our groups shared in the event and this check was to split the assets after all bills were paid. Our part was \$333.16. This was a fun event and many of us worked very hard to make it a success. Plans are in the works for us to continue with this next year and I will hope that many more of our KGS members will avail themselves and join with the planning as well as the work. Even the work is a lot of fun and you meet many new people from other organizations...a great way to broaden your horizons! If you are in the least interested, please phone me...210-313-4576 and let me tell you about it (or email me at npm@gvvc.com). Let's help make this next one the BEST ONE yet.

Plans are still in the making for the children's program this summer. Many of our members are working on this and our area children will be very pleased to join...as a matter of fact, many of our adult members are wanting to be a part of this even though they are not in the children's category. Call Jane Steadman with any questions if you are interested in any part of this. I will keep you posted on the details as they are made.

I was hoping to be in Kerrville a little more this summer but several problems arose and prevented it. I hope to get over there more often the rest of this summer so let me see some of you all there too. I wish you all a wonderful summer and please contact me if you wish to take part in some of our fall events. If you have any ideas to help us with the ones that are on the planning table or if you have new ideas, NOW is the time to contact me and LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.

Nancy McLarry
President, KGS

Upcoming Meetings

Our meetings are held at 2:00 p.m.
Guadalupe Basin Natural Resource Center
Upper Guadalupe River Authority Auditorium
125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028

September 21

Raymond V. Carter, Jr.:

Texas Gold Rushes—450 Years of Prospecting and Mining for Gold & Silver in the Texas Hill Country

Mr. Carter will discuss this subject which is a book that he has written. See “On the Shelves at the KGS Research Center and Library” below for more information.

October 19, and November 16

To be announced.

Check our website, Facebook, and email message for updates.

On the Shelves at the KGS Research Center & Library

by Harriet M. Chesi, Collections



KGS recently received more donated books. President Nancy McLarry received over 50 books from the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society to add to our collection.

An author from Bandera, Raymond V. Carter, Jr., visited our Library recently and gave us an autographed copy of his book: *Texas Gold Rushes – 450 Years of Prospecting and Mining for Gold and Silver in the Texas Hill Country*. Raymond described what inspired him to write the book: “This book started out as a personal family legend that was told and written about; a legend that

haunted the young boy in me ever since I first heard these stories from my grandfather’s lips. It is the purpose of this book to record research that pertains to real people, their statements, and their true actions that involved mineral exploration in the central part of the state of Texas — the Texas Hill Country.”

Raymond came to the KGS Library to research the old maps in the collection during the writing of his book. The book is located on top of the bookcase on the right when you enter the KGS Library.

Texas State Genealogical Society Heritage Certificates Available

by Sharon Ashby

KGS member Janet Dugart let me know the Texas State Genealogical Society is offering five Texas Heritage certificates to anyone who meets the requirements. I thought it might be of interest to our entire membership.

The five certificates are:

1. **Texas First Families Certificate:** Individuals who are direct or collateral descendants of settlers who resided in Texas prior to 19 February 1846 are eligible.
2. **Gone to Texas Pioneer Certificate:** Individual direct descendants of settlers that resided in Texas prior to 1886 may apply.
3. **West Texas Pioneer Certificate:** Individual direct descendants of settlers that resided in West Texas prior to 1901 may apply. There are 133 Texas counties that qualify for this certificate. Yours may be one of them.
4. **Greer County Texas Pioneer Certificate:** Applicant must prove direct or collateral descent

from a settler in Greer County between 1860-1907. This county included parts of Texas and Oklahoma.

5. **Descendants of Texas Rangers Certificate:** An applicant must be directly or collaterally descended from someone who served as a Texas Ranger and who is deceased. A collateral ancestor is a brother or sister of the Texas Ranger.

There is a modest charge for each certificate, of course, but the bigger plan is that TxSGS has already published two volumes of qualifying applications and plans to publish additional volumes. Applicants are encouraged to include biographical information on their early Texas ancestor. No original documents should be submitted. Send a photocopy or other facsimile copy of pertinent materials. Find much more information about this process here www.txsgs.org/programs/heritage-certificates/

TxSGS is now accepting DNA as evidence of parent-child relationships for applicants for heritage

certificates (First Families of Texas, and so on) and for the Early Texans DNA Project. More information is on the TxSGS website here www.txsgs.org/programs/heritage-certificates/using-dna-proof-arguments-for-heritage-certificates-and-early-texans-dna-project-members/

Any one of the five certificates would be a unique gift for a family member. There is plenty of time to get the paperwork submitted and approved by Christmas. You may have a young grandson (or a grown son or husband) who would be thrilled to have a certificate signifying he is a direct or collateral descendant of a Texas Ranger. I'm guessing some of you may qualify for several of these certificates!

Our volunteers at the Kerrville Genealogical Society Research Center & Library are prepared to help you with the process of gathering the required materials for the certificate or certificates of your choice. We have volunteers available during open hours Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.

Gone to Texas Pioneer Certificate

by Kathy Turley

My husband's family, the Lowrance's, date back to the 1850s here in Kerr County. When I recently found out about the Texas State Genealogical Society's Heritage Certificates, I knew I had to do this for him. He has really hoped, since I started doing genealogy research, that I would find the "magic link" that would qualify him for Sons of the Republic of Texas. Alas, his family arrived too late! But, he does qualify for the **Gone to Texas Pioneer Certificate**. His direct ancestor had to live in Texas prior to 1885. Bingo! I put the documents together — and I didn't have to go too far! His Great-Grandfather was born in Kerr County in 1860.

Approximately two weeks later, he got his certificate. I can't say that he's happy with second choice, but I can't change the dates and it is a beautifully done document. I really recommend to everyone with a pioneer ancestor that you put together the documents and submit the application. The application form and easy to follow instructions are online at www.txsgs.org/programs/heritage-certificates.

Next on the list, they have a certificate **Descendants of Texas Rangers**. His 2nd great-grand uncle, Miles Lowrance, was a Texas Ranger. For this certificate, the relationship doesn't need to be direct — YAY.



Becky Weinkauff, Membership Chair

"We want to add a shout out of thanks and gratitude to all of our new and continuing members of KGS for the needed and much appreciated support!"

Sarah Creath

by Sharon Smith

This is the story of my ancestor as told by many over the years. Sarah is one of the remarkably hardy Texas pioneer women and one who suffered more continuous savagery from Indians than any other in the history of the State. She and her families are the subject of nearly all Texas histories relating Comanche Indian depredations in Texas. Her story can be found in detail in the book *The Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas*.

Sarah was born near Brownsville, Jackson County, Illinois around 1812. When sixteen years old, she married John McSherry because she was unhappy at home with a stepmother. The couple headed out for Texas and arrived in 1828 in DeWitt's Colony, settling on the West bank of the Guadalupe River. They were ten miles downstream of their nearest neighbor, Andrew Lockhart. Sarah was described in history as "a beautiful blonde, an exceptional type of the country girls of the West in that day, handsome in person, graceful in manner and pure of heart." John was described as "an honest, industrious man of nerve and will. They were happily devoted to each other."

They built a cabin near a small creek with a spring that was close to the front of the cabin. Before too much longer, a son was born: Joseph Lewis McSherry. (I am descended from him.) He was a baby when a terrible thing happened. One day around noon, John grabbed a bucket and walked to the nearby spring for water. As he arose from the bank, bucket in hand, a party of Indians with a wild yell, sprang from the bushes and in a moment he was a lifeless and scalped corpse. Sarah heard her husband screaming and opened the cabin door in time to see him killed and scalped by Indians. This was in 1832.

Sarah barred the door and prepared to use her husband's rifle to drive off the Indians. The savages surveyed the situation but didn't attack the cabin and soon disappeared. She was left alone, with a baby, ten miles from the nearest neighbor and without a road to get to any place.

Unexpectedly, about dark, a man, John McCrabb, totally unaware of the sad situation rode up to the cabin for shelter for the night. Very soon he placed Sarah and her babe on his horse and, by the light of the stars, started on foot, through the wilderness, to the house of Andrew Lockhart. They reached it before daylight and were met with warm and kind hearts. Here Sarah and James remained

until she met and later married John Hibbins in 1835.

John Hibbins was known as a "well-to-do man" and described as the "largest stock raiser on the Guadalupe River." They took up residence in DeWitt County near present day Concrete. Sarah had another child. Sarah could neither read or write and consequently knew nothing about her family and friends left behind in Illinois. Eventually, she decided to satisfy a continued longing to visit her father and family at the old home. With her husband's consent, she left with her two children to make the journey, made by boat. Upon her arrival, she learned that her father had died and the family had scattered. On her return trip to Texas, she was accompanied by a brother, George Creath. When they arrived on the boat in Columbia on the Brazos, John was there loaded up and ready to start for the settlement. The next morning as they approached

Rock Creek, only 15 miles from home, thirteen Comanches attacked them, killing her husband and her brother. Sarah was captured along with her two children at a time of great suffering over the loss once again of a husband.

The young mother, with her 8-month-old child in her arms, was marched along by her captives. At the second camp, the little baby began crying, and one of the Comanches smashed its head against a nearby tree as Sarah looked on in horror. Sarah later shared that every feeling of her heart was concentrated into deadly hate and thirst for vengeance. Onward they marched, testing all her powers of endurance to keep up with their hasty march.

She had acquired some understanding of the Indian language and ascertained that she was not to be kept a prisoner for ransom but would be killed, while her little son would be kept by them and reared in the tribe. The next night they camped on the bank of a stream. After midnight, Sarah freed herself of the cords around her wrists and ankles and slipped away, not daring even to kiss her only and first-born child, Joseph, then about six years old. Wading down the creek for a distance to hide her tracks, she found a dense thicket, where she hid. When daylight came, she heard the Indians in pursuit with Joseph calling out "Mama" "Mama" to bring her out of any hiding place.

Sarah remained hidden until she was satisfied her captors had left and then followed the creek to the

Colorado River and, as rapidly as possible traveled down the river, shielded by the trees along its banks. Eventually she heard the lowing of a cow and saw one going over the hill to her calf and she followed them to a settler's house. Sarah was torn with thorns, her ripped clothes barely hanging on her, and so bruised on her face that her condition was very bad.

But Sarah had some luck on her side. At the cabin were eighteen Texas Rangers commanded by Captain John J. Tumlinson, who had arrived two days before and were encamped there. Captain Tumlinson knew Sarah and the men were soon in their saddles in pursuit of Joseph. It was not long before the Indians were sighted; they had Joseph tied on the back of a horse which they let loose to save themselves.

Captain Tumlinson later related the scene when the child was returned to Sarah – “A mother meeting with her child released from Indian captivity; recovered as it were from the very jaws of death. Not an eye was dry. She called us brothers and every other endearing name and would have fallen on her knees to worship us. She hugged her child to her bosom as if fearful she would again lose him.”

Again, Sarah found herself and son alone in the world. They eventually found shelter in the home of the Hornsby family near Austin and took flight with them to East Texas to avoid contact with Santa Anna's army after their attack at the Alamo. They settled down in Washington County where Sarah came across a former neighbor from DeWitt's Colony – Claiborne Stinnett. They married in June 1836 and returned to the Guadalupe area. He was later elected sheriff of Gonzales County. Sarah gave birth to a daughter during this marriage.

Once again, in the fall of 1837, Sarah lost a husband to violence. He mysteriously disappeared while on a business trip to Linnville. With a loaded packhorse and \$700 cash, he took a shortcut across the prairie above Victoria and approached a campfire late in the evening. Speculation was that he was killed by Indians, but five years later in the fall of 1842, two runaway slaves in jail in Mexico confessed that they had murdered him. As a result, his remains were found. Their daughter drowned when two years old, after her father's death.

Thus, in just a few years, this brave young woman, not yet thirty, was widowed for the third time, with only one surviving child. Sarah remained unmarried for some two years before marrying her fourth husband, Colonel Phillip Howard, on May

30, 1839, in Gonzales. Howard arrived in Texas in 1836, served in the Texas Army, and was now involved in selling goods, wares and merchandise. In 1840, they moved to a homestead near the ancient Mission of San Juan outside San Antonio.

While there, Indians impacted Sarah's life once again. Joseph, now about twelve years old, was attacked by Comanches while tending horses and barely escaped with his life. This time Sarah and her son were able to avoid serious casualty.

The family later moved south on the San Antonio River to Goliad County in Spring 1842. Soon after their neighbors were murdered by Indians, they moved again to Lavaca County near Hallettsville where Howard served as a County Judge. Later on, they settled in Bosque County. During this marriage, Sarah is believed to have given birth to three daughters.

Sarah was able to enjoy thirty-six mostly good years before her death of natural causes in 1876 at the age of 64. The only known memorial is a Texas Historical Marker located near Shiner, Lavaca County, Texas.



One author of an article about Sarah's life wrote, “maybe Thomas Rusk, once the Republic of Texas' Secretary of War, had Sarah's trying life in mind when he said: The men of Texas deserved much credit, but more was due the women. Armed men facing a foe could not but be brave; but the women, with their little children around them, without means of defense or power to resist, faced danger and death with unflinching courage.”

The author went on to write, “no Texas woman ever had a better claim than Sarah Creath McSherry Hibbins Stinnett Howard of being one tough grandma.”

I agree. And I hope you do, too.



August 17, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Mark Standley Workshop

Our Museum of Us: Curating Your Family's Stuff into a Digital Future

Members \$30

Non-members \$40

More details to follow — watch your email, local newspapers, Facebook, and our website.

KERRVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Mark Standley workshop

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2-4 PM



Dr. Mark Standley

Our Museum of Us: Curating Your Family's Stuff into a Digital Future

Experience a hands-on workshop with Dr. Mark Standley.

Sometimes our stuff possesses us, as much as we possess it. We accumulate stuff over the course of our lives in our 'hills of enough'. We have stories about our things, but don't always take time to share them with others.

During this workshop participants will learn how to ask questions, curate stories and digitally record memories and items of value with their smart phones or other devices. Our Museum of Us, written by Dr. Standley, is the basis of this workshop. Families can keep these digital recordings for generations to come and decide together what physical artifacts to keep, to share, or to recycle. In short, create an "Our Museum of Us."

As a writer and educator, Dr. Mark Standley believes in the power of quality conversation and how it impacts education. With publications on an array of topics, including digital storytelling and cherishing our family's legacies and memories, Dr. Mark encourages others to participate in conversations with the community around them.

Dr. Mark earned his Doctorate in Digital Learning Leadership from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He lives in Alaska and Texas, consulting with education systems, volunteering at church, and enjoying his puppy, Chili, kayak fishing, flying drones and RVing. He has previously spoken to the Kerrville Genealogical Society and is looking forward to presenting this workshop to Kerrville and its surrounding community.



COST

MEMBERS \$30

NON-MEMBERS \$40

WHERE

125 Lehmann Dr.
Kerrville, TX 78028
Guadalupe Basin Nat. Res.
Center Classroom

WHEN

August 17, 2022, 2-4 PM

Door prizes

Refreshments provided

**EARLY BIRD
PAID REGISTRATION – BY
AUGUST 1, 2022 FOR
CHANCE TO WIN FREE ONE
YEAR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP
TO KERRVILLE
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

CONTACT

830-315-1836
kerrvillegenealogy.
wordpress.com
Facebook: Kerrville
Genealogical Society

Library Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, and
Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

KERRVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Membership Year: January 1 - December 31, 2022

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 Individual and Family memberships
☐ 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 #: _____ Cash: _____ (☐ Send Receipt)

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE