

Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

President's Message

ANOTHER NEW START! ANOTHER NEW YEAR! ANOTHER NEW DAY!

When I opened my eyes this morning, I saw another NEW everything! I fell asleep last night before I saw all the festivities of New Year's Eve on the television. Oh, well...I had seen lots of them in the years before! But this time I realized that this year was going to be different! The sun was shining and the DAY and YEAR looked wonderful; laying out in front of me! I love seeing the new year looking so bright!

And it looks like the Kerrville Genealogical Society has the same thing out in front of them! This year we start with many new members. Looks like we are recovering from Covid and people are beginning to get their lives back on an even keel. Also, we have filled most if not all our positions on the board which was a hard thing to do during the "shut down". Jean Nunnally will be our 1st Vice President this year and moving up from being a very capable Secretary. That is a welcomed asset as all presidents love having a vice president as their right hand person. And check out the other new positions!! Having all of them filled is a great feeling. I welcome them all!

Another surprise is that our volunteer pool is picking up and several of our members are volunteering their time to help out in the library. Don't worry if you were considering joining because we can always use more...and more...and more. Call Sharon Ashby today and join this super group. It is shaping up to be a fun group.

The programs that have been set up for our general meetings are going to be new and exciting and you had better be ready to learn a lot about researching and get new ideas. Bring a friend with you to the next meetings. Get them interested early so that they will not miss anything either.

Let's make this a great year! If you have any ideas you want to share or you want to volunteer to help in any way, give me a call 210-313-4576. I will be seeing you soon!



Research Center & Library

125 Lehmann, Suite 102
Kerrville, TX 78028

2025 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board

President

Nancy McLarry

1st Vice President

Jean Nunnally

2nd Vice President

Lora Stevens

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Janet Dugart

Newsletter Editor & Website

Leslie VanDrasek

Outreach

Open

Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Ashby

Connect with us:

- 830-315-1836
- kgs@hctc.net
- kerrvillegensoc.org
- www.facebook.com/KerrvilleGenealogicalSociety



Your President,

Nancy McLarry

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held at 2:00 p.m.

Guadalupe Basin Natural
Resource Center,
Upper Guadalupe River Authority
Auditorium
125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, TX
78028

January 15

Jean Nunnally will share how beneficial FamilySearch.org can be in your research. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced genealogist, FamilySearch.org should be at the top of your list for online research. Find out the benefits of setting up your family tree on FamilySearch.org. Besides access to billions of records, this free genealogy website has some brand-new AI search tools that can break through some brick walls. Learn the pros and cons of working on a collaborative family tree and explore the basic navigation and search features.

February 19

Lisa McCormick, Schreiner University Logan Library director, will delve into library tools and services available to the public such as WorldCat, JSTOR, and TexShare databases that can provide records and historical context for your personal research.

March 19

Susan Ball, the current president of the Texas State Genealogical Society, will present "**Using Timelines to Focus Your Research**" via Webinar. The most important tool you can use to research your ancestor is a timeline. Learn how to construct a timeline for your ancestor and use it to uncover previously overlooked avenues for research.

Membership News

Janet Dugart, Membership Chair

Our current membership totals 36. Some members have yet to send in their renewal which explains our low membership. If you haven't already, please renew your membership. For your convenience, there is a form at the end of the newsletter; simply fill it in and send with your payment, drop it off, or bring it to our next meeting on January 15th.

Please welcome new member Carla Kunz.

On the Shelves at KGS Research Center & Library

Lora Stevens, 2nd Vice President



Some new "how to" research sources are available in Room 1 on the left side of the desk. One black binder contains Family Tree Magazine research information for each state, listed alphabetically. A larger black binder contains Family Tree Magazine "Cheat Sheets" on Adoptions, Cemetery Success, English Genealogy, Finding Female Ancestors, German Genealogy, Polish Genealogy, 7 Ways to Use Maps in Genealogical Research, 5 Steps to Find Your Ancestor's Deed and much more. A BIG "thank you" to Pat Weber for putting these together for us.



Next KGS Messenger Issue:
April 1, 2025

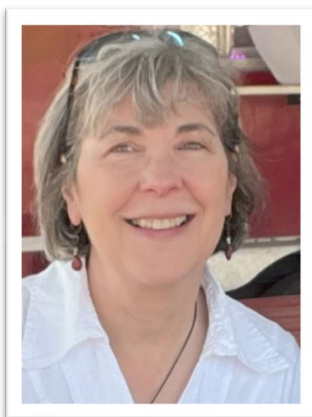
Deadline for submissions:
March 20, 2025
Send to: lmvandrasek@gmail.com

Address changes:
If you need to make a change to your e-mail or postal address, let us know by e-mail or phone.

KERRVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 2025 PROGRAM

Wednesday, Jan 15, 2025 2 PM



FamilySearch.org Tools and Tips

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced genealogist, FamilySearch.org should be at the top of your list for online research. Used alone or in conjunction with other resources, the tools and resources at FamilySearch are powerful. Learn the pros and cons of working on a collaborative family tree and explore the basic navigation and search features. Finally, take a sneak peek into FamilySearch.org's new experimental labs to see how AI can help break down longstanding brick walls.

Jean Nunnally

Jean Nunnally is a native of East Tennessee, whose career brought her to Houston, TX, in 1981 as a finance professional for Shell Oil. After fourteen years, she left the corporate world to become a stay-at-home, unschooling mom to two children. She and her husband, Todd, have lived in New Orleans, Houston, London, and Houston again before moving to Kerrville in 2021.

Jean has been active with the Kerrville Genealogical Society for three years and currently serves as 1st Vice President. In addition to KGS, she volunteers with her HOA, the Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerr County Friends of the Night Sky, and as a citizen lobbyist for a national health organization.



COST
FREE

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

WHEN
2pm, 3rd Wed. of the
month except Jun,
Jul, Aug, and Dec

CONTACT
kerrvillegensoc.org
Facebook: Kerrville
Genealogical Society
830-315-1836

LIBRARY
HOURS
Tuesday, Thursday,
and Saturday
10 am – 4 pm

Crossing the Mississippi

By Janet Dugart

Editor's Note: Celebrating the holidays can bring us together with family or, at the very least, bring up memories of family stories. This is what happened to Janet Dugart and she is sharing with us this family story from her mother.

My mother was born in Arkansas but found herself living in Mississippi at a very early age. While talking to her one day she told me the story of how the family loaded all their belongings onto a boat in Arkansas to head south down the Mississippi River so her father could find work. She said she wasn't sure where her dad was expecting to land but it wasn't long before the boat started taking on water.

Kids being kids, she and her siblings started running around splashing in the water and having a

grand time. The boat captain got irritated with them and told her dad that he needed to get the kids to stop running around. He also told him that they needed to start off-loading some of the furniture that they had loaded on the boat to start their new lives in Mississippi. Momma said she remembered her mother crying as they pushed her beautiful furniture into the muddy Mississippi River.

When the boat landed at the nearest landing, her dad told them all to get off, he wasn't going any further. They made their home in the Delta area of Mississippi. That's where Momma met Daddy and started their family. Momma and Daddy had eight children while living in Mississippi and then in early 1956 moved to Louisiana where the next six children were born.

Let Us Help You Find Your Early Texas Ancestors

By Sharon Ashby

The Kerrville Genealogical Society library holds a collection of approximately 200 books that may be invaluable for anyone researching early Texas ancestors. This collection is particularly beneficial for those looking to join organizations such as DRT, SRT or applying for a Texas First Families Certificate from the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Here are some highlighted resources from our collection:

- *Marriage by Bond In Colonial Texas* (1972) by Bennett Smith: This book includes marriages dating back to 1824 for Austin Colony, Brazoria County, Gonzales County, and photocopies of certain DeWitt Colony Bonds. It explains the Texas statute that allowed for marriage by bond, marriage by justices not authorized to celebrate rites of matrimony and marriages celebrated agreeably to custom of the times.
- *Texas Marriages Vol. 1, A – L, 1824-1850* and *Texas Marriages Vol. 2, M – Z, 1824-1850* by Helen Smothers Swenson (1981): These volumes provide extensive marriage records.
- *1830 Citizens of Texas* compiled by Gifford White (1983): This book includes records from several sources, such as Austin's "Register of Families," listing those who applied for land in 1830 and gives the same information as a census. Other names are taken from records made after 1830 in which citizens swore to immigration before 1830. It also mentions over 100,000 names in the 1867 Register of Voters, created by the military government after the Civil War who swore they had been in Texas for thirty-seven years or more. The 1867 Register is also an important resource for documenting minority populations.
- 1840 Texas Census: Available in three volumes, based on land grants and tax records.
- Republic of Texas Poll Lists for 1846 compiled by Marion Day Mullins (1974): This 1846 poll list is the nearest thing to a complete census of the period. A tax of one dollar was applied to all white male residents over the age of twenty-one and women who were heads of households (usually widows).
- *Texas Scholastics 1854-1855* copied by Gifford White: In 1855, the state received \$2 million in federal bonds for the support of Texas schools. The assessor and collector of each county took the census of free white children, ages six to sixteen and forwarded a copy to the state superintendent. Of 100 counties existing in 1854, 89 reported and of that number 48 made detailed lists that survive. Some give parents only plus the number of male and female children. Others give names and ages of the children as well.
- *Texas First Families, Vol. 1* by the Texas State Genealogical Society (2000) and *Texas First Families, Vol. 2* (2004): These volumes include

applications for the Texas First Families Certificate. The first 4904 applicant's folders are available at The Center for American History, University of Texas, in Austin. The folders may include primary documents, census, Bible, tax and land records as well as biographies.

These resources are just a few examples from our extensive collection that can aid in uncovering your Texas ancestry. Visit the Kerrville Genealogical Society library to explore these and many other valuable texts.

14 Essential Google Tools for Genealogy Research

By Rick Crume; revised by Leslie VanDrasek

Over the past 20 years, Google has grown from a simple search engine to the most visited website in the world. Since its beginnings in 1998 in a Menlo Park, California, garage, the company has created and acquired products and tools that you probably use every day. You don't leave home without consulting the Google Maps app on your smartphone, you use Google Translate for foreign-language records and websites, you archive photo memories in Google Photos, and so on.

1. SEARCH

Google's search engine is, of course, its bread and butter. Typing in an ancestor's name—or a surname and a place, or an ethnic group and a place—can lead to obituaries, background information, and other unexpected discoveries. Try different combinations of a last name or a person's name alone or with another term, such as a place: McMorris Harpersfield. Use quotation marks to search on an exact phrase, like "Julius Bacchus Chafee." Try different spellings and limit matches to a range of years, like this: Peter AND (Reno OR Renno OR Renau OR Renow) 1750..1790. Google's Advanced Search makes it easy to search on multiple criteria.

2. GMAIL

An email account is a quintessential tool for any genealogist today. Google's Gmail has evolved into one of the best email services. Its spam filter keeps junk mail out of your inbox, and its powerful search makes it easy to find messages. To do a simple search, just enter terms in the search box at the top of the screen. For more options, click on the down arrow in the search box.

3. GOOGLE DOCS

If you'd like to create a research plan or write a letter to request records or to a relative who doesn't use email, you might turn to a word processing program like Microsoft Word. But the free Google Docs app offers much of the same functionality as Word, plus several other advantages.

You can access, create and edit your documents from your phone, tablet or computer. You can invite

others to view, download and collaborate on a document—no need to send a file as an email attachment. Also, you don't have to worry about backing up your documents since they're online. Google Docs does lack some of Word's features (for instance, it can create footnotes, but not endnotes), but it's adequate for most word processing tasks.

4. GOOGLE SHEETS

Think of Sheets as a free alternative to Microsoft Excel. It's great for genealogists who like to use spreadsheets to create a research log and organize data (such as DNA matches). Just like its Docs app, Sheets lets you access your spreadsheets from any device and share them with others without having to type out an email.

5. PHOTOS

Google's Photos app lets you do basic photo editing, such as adjusting contrast and color, and cropping and rotating images.

Instead of tags, the Photos app relies on facial recognition. Photos organizes images by date, and you can easily jump to a date on the timeline. That's fine for recent digital photos, but old family photos get added to the timeline on the date they were scanned. You may want to organize them in folders—called albums—by family or other subject matter.

Photos also lets you create a photo book and share albums. While Google Photos may not be an ideal step up for those accustomed to organizing old family photos with desktop software, it's a useful tool for backing up and sharing your photos.

6. GOOGLE DRIVE

Google Drive gives you 15GB of free online storage to upload and store your photos, videos, stories, scanned records, email, and other files online, access them from any device, and share them. You can invite others to view, download and collaborate on the files, and you can search your files to quickly find the ones you need.

Google One paid subscription plan provides additional online storage for \$19.99 a year for 100GB, \$29.99 per year for 200GB, or \$99.99 a year for 2TB.

7. MAPS

Maps can help you pinpoint where your ancestors lived and where their records might be. Google Maps shows an aerial view of the whole world and street maps of many cities and towns. The maps usually highlight populated places, roads, physical features and landmarks. Search on the name of a township or county, and you'll see current boundaries. Download the Google Maps app on your smartphone for help getting to cemeteries and libraries.

Maps can help you identify churches and cemeteries that might have gravestones and records pertaining to your ancestors. Google Maps draws on current map and business listings, so small cemeteries no longer in use and churches that have closed might not appear.

8. GOOGLE EARTH

Using satellite imagery and aerial photography, Google Earth lets you explore the globe. Just enter a place or address and “fly” to the location. Use the integrated Street View to see a 360-degree view from the street, made up of photos taken with car-mounted cameras. By clicking and dragging the image, you can walk down the street where your ancestor lived.

9. GOOGLE BOOKS

Google Books lets you search the text of millions of scanned books, such as family and local histories, and city directories. If a book is out of copyright or the publisher has given permission, you can view and download the entire book for free. Otherwise, you might be able to see only an excerpt of text—or nothing at all.

10. GOOGLE NEWS

Google News provides free access to digitized newspapers from Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Scotland and the United States dating from 1738 to 2009. Sadly, Google stopped adding newspapers or helpful features to News Archive in 2011. You can browse the newspapers, but they're listed alphabetically by title and not by place of publication, making it hard to tell if News Archive has papers for a particular city.

11. GOOGLE KEEP

Keep is similar to Evernote, a popular note-taking app among genealogists. Keep is handy for taking notes as you research online, as well as creating lists, such as a family history to-do list of sources you'd like to check. You can copy notes to a Google Doc and organize notes with color-coding

and labels (which work like tags). For example, you could create labels for surnames, places, record types and archives, and later find all your notes with a particular label.

12. GOOGLE SCHOLAR

Google Scholar is really two separate searches. Select the Articles radio button to search research articles, thesis, and books. You probably won't find an ancestor mentioned by name, but you might try searching on a place, occupation or religion, maybe combined with the word history. That could turn up articles that help you learn more about your ancestors' lives.

Select the Case Law radio button to search an extensive collection of US court opinions—helpful if your ancestor was party to a case or a legal decision affected his life. They include state appellate and state supreme court cases since 1950; federal district, appellate, tax and bankruptcy courts since 1923; and Supreme Court cases since 1791.

13. GOOGLE TRANSLATE

Google Translate comes in handy if you need to translate an old record, read a foreign-language website or email someone who speaks another language.

It can perform translations between more than 100 languages. For an instant translation, simply type in the box on the left and select the target language on the right. Click on the double-square icon to copy the text for pasting in another document.

Translate with your camera—just point your camera and instantly translate what you see.

No internet? No problem—download a language to translate without an internet connection.

Have a conversation—talk with someone who speaks a different language.

If you use Google's web browser, Chrome, when you visit a foreign-language website, it will offer to translate the page for you. At any time, you can also click on the broken-square icon to the right of the website address in Chrome to translate the page.

14. YOUTUBE

Owned by Google, YouTube is the world's second largest search engine. It has videos on just about any topic imaginable, including how to research your family history.

Searches on towns, counties and other places uncover videos about places where my ancestors lived. With YouTube, you can visit your ancestral hometown without leaving home.

Growing Your Social and Genealogical Network

Looking for something fulfilling to do in 2025? Become a volunteer for the Kerrville Genealogical Society.

Joining a genealogy society as a library volunteer can enrich your research journey, provide valuable learning experiences, and offer a sense of community and purpose. By serving the genealogy community, you not only contribute to a larger cause but also grow your own social and genealogical network through sharing and receiving research ideas with other volunteers and patrons. You'll become more familiar with available sources both on and off the internet that might further your own research. Helping others discover their ancestry can be incredibly rewarding.

Volunteering just one or two shifts each month devoted to genealogy research can sustain personal motivation to continue your own research. We provide our volunteers with lists of sources to help both patrons of the library and your own research. Any current volunteer can tell you it is not difficult and you don't have to be an expert genealogist to participate.

Volunteer shifts are only 3 hours each on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm or 1 pm to 4 pm. Contact Volunteer Chair Sharon Ashby at the Kerrville Genealogical Society Research Center & Library, at a general meeting of the society on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 pm, or by phone at 830-285-3306 and leave a voice message.

Tips for Finding Clues in Family Photos

Submitted by Leslie VanDrasek

Trying to identify those mystery photos? Follow these tips when examining family pictures for clues to faces, places and dates.

Follow these tips when examining photos for clues:

To get a good look at details, scan photos at a high resolution and zoom in on your computer. You also could examine them with a photographer's loupe.

For women, focus on hat, hairstyle, neckline, sleeve shape, bodice shape and length, skirt shape and length, and jewelry and other accessories.

For men, pay attention to hat, hair, facial hair, collar, necktie, lapels, waistcoat, trouser length, and overall silhouette (whether jackets and pants are narrow or roomy).

Keep in mind that younger women generally adopted new styles more quickly than more mature women, who tended to wear older styles.

Fashion trends hit cities and upper classes sooner, but even rural women and those of limited means would remake dresses or add accessories. Some

photography studios kept shawls and hats for patrons to borrow.

Compare clothing in your photos to those in the book *Dressed for the Photographer* by Joan Severa. Old Sears Roebuck catalogs (accessible online with an Ancestry.com subscription) are another great resource.

Wedding photos can trip you up if the bride wore her mother's or grandmother's gown. Look for other clues, such as the man's outfit, props and a photographer's imprint, to confirm the date.

Immigrants often abandoned their full ethnic dress after arriving in America, but occasionally wore accessories such as caps, head scarves and mantillas in photos. Robert Harrold's *Folk Costumes of the World* (Sterling Publishing Co.) shows examples of ethnic dress.

Our 19th-century ancestors would usually dress in their best outfits and visit a studio to have a portrait made. Candid snapshots became common later, with the advent of easy-to-use, affordable cameras.

What to Keep and What to Toss

Submitted By Leslie VanDrasek

You don't have to keep all the papers, photos, genealogy records, albums, newspaper clippings, magazines and other assorted "stuff" you inherited from Grandma's attic. This checklist will help you

decide what to keep, toss, and skim for family information (then toss).

As you sort through an inherited family archive of papers, photos, genealogy records, albums,

newspaper clippings, magazines and other assorted "stuff," you might be tempted to either keep everything or throw everything out. Resist both of these urges. Instead, look at each item and use the following lists to help you quickly decide what to save and what to trash (shred any records with sensitive information).

Save:

- vital records
- graduation, marriage invitations, and baby announcements
- educational records—school report cards, school photos
- military records—discharge papers, letters, awards
- Christmas cards and envelopes
- Christmas Card List
- recipes, handwritten favorites
- address books
- bank passbooks
- income tax returns
- journals, diaries, ledgers
- scrapbooks, autograph and photo albums
- correspondence
- employment records—pay stubs, contracts, résumés (keep enough to verify employment and salary)

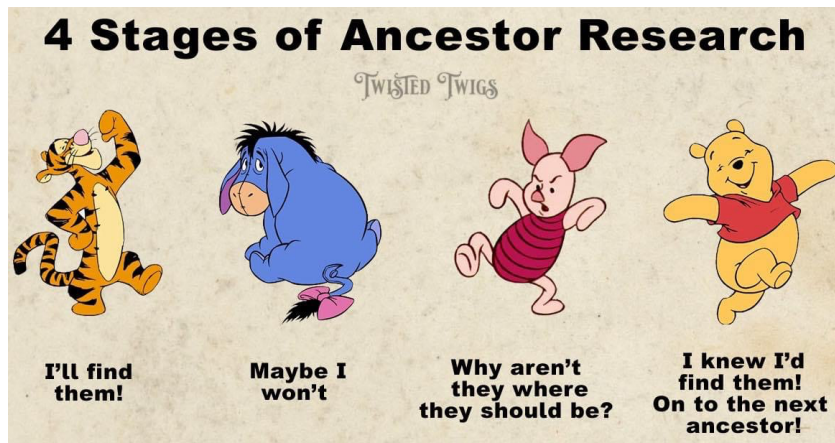
- telephone books
- city and club directories and rosters
- genealogy and family history charts, narratives, family trees

Skim, then toss:

- church and club newsletters (skim first for family news and consider saving a representative copy)
- cancelled checks, check registers (skim first for purchases of family heirlooms or details on relatives' cost of living)
- news clippings (skim for news of family or friends)
- travel itineraries and brochures (skim for information on trips or places where relatives might live)
- old calendars (skim for anniversaries and dates of birth)
- receipts (skim for purchases of heirlooms and other important items such as automobiles)
- medical bills and records (extract genealogical information before throwing away)

Toss:

- random newspaper and magazine clippings
- bank statement
- old insurance policies (check first whether they're still in effect)
- travel brochures



KERRVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership Application

New Renewal

Membership Year: January 1 - December 31, 2025

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 Bring refreshments
 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 Date: _____ Check #: _____ Cash: _____ (Send receipt for cash)

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

