

Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

President's Message

I am so glad we are able to reschedule our speaker that took ill in March right before our meeting. She will be here in November and you don't want to miss that meeting. She will be speaking about Schreiner Logan Library Resources. If any member feels that they could speak at a minute's notice at any time, please let us know. We always are looking for a replacement who can fill in when that occurs.

We are still looking to fill our Outreach position. If you think you would like to take that position on the board, let us know. We know that some of you are new and hesitate because you think you do not know the duties of these offices, but let me assure you that we will train you and help you throughout the year. Please call me (210-313-4576) and talk to me about this. You CAN do this job! It is truly fun to be a part of this great society.

We also are looking for help before the meeting and after the meeting. If some of you would like to help us before the meeting with setting up chairs for social time, please let us know. We would greatly appreciate it. Especially some of the men!! Just come on in and join us with this chore. We need some of those strong folks to help. Barbara French does an outstanding job with the decorations but cannot do everything. Come and help her!

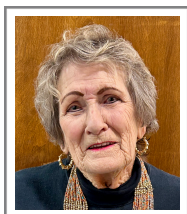
Volunteer for something with this society! Each organization needs volunteers and your talent could be just the one we so badly need. It takes a lot of good people to keep an organization running smoothly so look around and find one of our duties that sounds like you. See the benefits you get in your life!! Contact me!

JOIN * ATTEND * VOLUNTEER

See you at the meeting and bring a friend!

Your KGS President,

Nancy McLarry



Research Center & Library

125 Lehmann, Suite 102
Kerrville, TX 78028

2025 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board

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Nancy McLarry

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Newsletter Editor & Website

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Outreach

Open

Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Ashby

Connect with us:

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



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

Preview to Fall Speakers

September 17

Cari Taplin
Genealogy Grit

October 15

Paula Rieker
711 Ranch

November 19

Lisa McCormick
Schreiner Logan Library
Resources

Membership News

Janet Dugart, Membership Chair

We currently have 86 members.

On the Shelves at KGS Research Center & Library

Lora Stevens, 2nd Vice President



I want to give a special shoutout to the Medina Genealogy Club who had a field trip to visit our KGS Resource Center. The ladies were excited to learn about all the resources (local and nationwide) available in our center. If you have not visited, please come by and check us out for yourself. You will be surprised at what you may find.

Onto a partial listing of books newly donated by our generous donors.

Georgia

- *Indexes to Seven State Census Reports for counties in Georgia 1838 - 1845*
- *Mars Hill Baptist Church Clark-Oconee Co., Georgia*
- *Oglethorpe County Wills*

Indiana

- *Indiana Land Entries Volume I Cincinnati District 1801 - 1840*

Maryland

- *Anne Arundel County, Maryland Land Records 1708 – 1712*
- *Anne Arundel County, Maryland Land Records 1712 – 1718*
- *Anne Arundel County, Maryland Land Records 1719 – 1724*
- *Anne Arundel County, Maryland Land Record 1724 – 1728*

Mississippi

- *Abstracts of Deeds Marion County, Mississippi 1812 – 1840*

North Carolina

- *Guilford County, N.C. – A map supplement*
- *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy Volume I North Carolina*

continued...

Next KGS Messenger Issue:

October 1, 2025

Deadline for submissions:

September 15, 2025

Send to: lmvandrasedk@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.

Oklahoma

- *Index to Probate Oklahoma County, Oklahoma 1895 - 1920*

Oregon

- *Blazing A Wagon Trail to Oregon*
- *The Oregon Trail Yesterday and Today*

Texas

- *Always on Tuesday – One Hundred Years of Music – A history of Tuesday Musical Club Inc 1901 – 2001 (San Antonio)*
- *Hardin County, Texas Marriage Records 1858 – 1899*
- *Hunt Texas The Early Years 1857 - 1959*
- *Smith County Texas Marriages 1846 - 1899*

Virginia

- *Virginia Cavaliers and Pioneers – Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants*
- *Virginia Historical Index Volume One A-C*
- *Virginia Historical Index Volume One D-K*
- *Virginia Historical Index Volume Two L-Z*

Miscellaneous

- *The Compass Volume I – A concise and factual compilation of all vessels and sources listed, with reference made of all their voyages and some dates of registration*
- *Passengers and Immigrants to America*
- *They Came In Ships – Second Edition*
- *1975 Register of Graduates and Former Cadets 1802 – 1975 of the United States Military Academy*
- *The Army of the Potomac – Glory Road*
- *Illustrated History of the Civil War*
- *A Tour Guide to the Civil War*
- *A to Zax – A comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians – Third Edition*

Families

Chandler Family History
Davidson Family History
Harrington Family History
Lamb Family History
The Texas Brunes
The Thompson Family

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Turley, Treasurer

The month of March 2025 our checking account had a starting balance of \$4,500.38. Income for March, April and May was \$1,555.44 which included membership dues, personal donations, donations from our donation box and/or sale of books, and interest.

Our expenses for March, April and May were \$4,836.89 which includes Rent, Internet/Telephone, Printer Ink/Toner, Magazine Subscription, Insurance, Website Subscriptions, and Speaker's Fee leaving a balance in our checking account at of the end of May was \$1,218.93.

Discovering a Family Connection in an Unexpected Way

By Jeannie Berger

You just never know just where, when or how you might discover another family connection. I recently had one of those happy unexpected surprises, and some of you may have had a similar experience as well.

KGS receives many requests for help in locating ancestors as well other information related to them. The subject of a recent query was about the original home built by Joseph Lamm, a German immigrant who arrived in the Comfort, Texas area in 1855. I was able to find a photograph of the house on *The Portal to Texas History*, but the question remained as to whether or not the house still existed.

I visited the Comfort Heritage Foundation and learned where the house was located. I drove to the area and found it—right where it had always been from the time Mr. Lamm built it. I was able to speak with the owner of the property who was a descendant of some other early immigrants to the area. He provided me with quite a bit of information

and kindly allowed me to take the photograph included with this article.

So, that's one part of the story.

As I was looking into this little mystery, I remembered my maternal grandmother had a cousin named Lillie Lamm. Was she by any chance connected to this Lamm family?

I did some more checking, and sure enough, one of Joseph Lamm's grandsons had married Lillie Lehne, whose mother was Matilda Klaerner Lehne, sister of my great grandmother Martha Klaerner Eckert. Lillie Lehne Lamm was indeed the cousin in question. And, Lillie's granddaughter, two grades ahead of me, and I had attended the same high school. What a small world!

For more of Joseph Lamm's story, go to HJLamm1870.com. You can find the above-mentioned photograph of the reverse side of the house on *The Portal to Texas History*, "Joseph Lamm Residence" (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph664670/>)



Lamm House, Kendall County, Texas

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

As I'm sure you are all aware, prices everywhere are going up. That includes the Society's insurance and our subscription to Ancestry.com, to name the two largest increases. Our dues have remained the same since sometime before 2017.

As a result, at the May board meeting, the decision was made to raise our Society's membership dues. The increase was unanimously passed by the board of directors and will be \$5 per year. We appreciate all your support and the decision to enact this change was not an easy one to make!

Therefore, when you pay your **2026** dues, the following new rates will apply.

Individual Membership:	\$30.00
Family Membership:	\$35.00
Patron Membership:	\$80.00

Thank you all for your continued support.

Unraveling the Mystery of a Masonic Blade

By Sharon Ashby

Aiden and his mother Kristi stopped by the KGS library with a sword that Aiden had inherited from his great-great grandfather, Elmer Wayne Brown, who had been in the fraternal organization of Masons. Elmer lived in Pottsville, Pennsylvania most of his life. He was born in 1874 and lived to 91 years old. Aiden had the sword with him and wondered if we could help him research it and find out why his great-great grandfather had it.

This was a stunningly beautiful sword with an ornate handle displaying Masonic imagery. The handle was part ivory with Masonic icons and the initials E. W. B.



in very fancy script scrimshawed on it. The blade was also very ornate in design and had "Elmer W. Brown" engraved on it in beautiful script.

Faced with this interesting challenge the KGS volunteers got to work researching the man and his sword. Volunteer, Lora, almost immediately

discovered that there was Pulaski Lodge No. 216, a Free & Accepted Masonic Lodge in Pottsville at the time. More research revealed that the Tiler is traditionally the only Masonic officer who carries a sword. The Tiler must be a Master Mason. His role is to stand outside the entrance to guard the lodge from unauthorized entry, ensuring that only qualified individuals participate in Masonic meetings. This constitutes mostly non-Masons. But it can also mean Masons that are not in good standing meaning their dues are not current or they are not of the appropriate degree. The sword symbolizes protection and vigilance. One hypothesis of the origin of the word “tiler” is that it derives from the tiles used in operative Masonry, that were used to seal the structural masonry, whether they be on floors, walls, or roofs. Likewise, the tiler seals the activities of the Masonic Lodge.

While the sword itself was a fascinating artifact, an old newspaper obituary uncovered even more about Elmer Brown’s remarkable life. He was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, a member of Third Brigade Band for 52 years, a life

member of Local No. 515, American Federation of Musicians. He was the oldest living member of Miners Lodge No. 20, I.O.O.F., Pottsville. Membership in other organizations included Schuylkill Forest No. 50, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Mountain City Royal Arch Chapter 196, and Constantine Commandery No. 41 Knights Templar. Each of these affiliations spoke to his deep involvement in fraternal organizations, his sense of brotherhood, and his desire to foster community and service.

Aiden can take pride in knowing that his great-great-grandfather was not only a talented musician but also a dedicated, caring, and community-minded individual. His legacy, embodied in the Masonic sword, serves as a reminder of the values he upheld—honor, fraternity, and service. As Aiden holds the beautifully engraved blade in his hands, he isn’t just carrying a piece of history; he’s carrying the story of a man whose life was rich with tradition, commitment, and purpose.

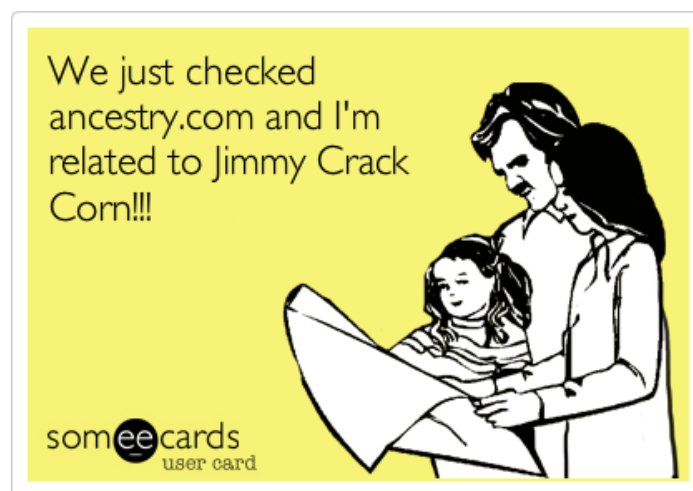
Support Kerrville Genealogical Society—Donate Your Used Ink Cartridges!

If you have empty printer ink cartridges, please consider donating them to the Kerrville Genealogical Society. Our research center relies on high-quality printing to help patrons preserve and explore their family histories.

Each donated cartridge earns us a \$2.00 discount on new ink purchases, allowing us to redeem up to

\$20.00 per transaction—a meaningful savings that helps sustain our work.

This is a simple way to support KGS at no cost to you, and we truly appreciate your generosity. Thank you for helping us continue our mission!



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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE