

Kerrville Genealogical Society Messenger

Newsletter of the Kerrville Genealogical Society, Kerrville, Texas

President's Message

Every one of us was touched in some way by the July 4th flood. Not one person can say that they did not know anyone that was hurt by the devastating waters that rushed through our community on that early morning. With no warning, it swept our way and took everything in its way with it! Those beautiful cypress trees, the beautiful foliage that was ready to show us its gorgeous colors of fall, the little houses and buildings that had stood on the banks for years to show us the heritage of our ancestors but mostly the people! These people had been our friends next door, the clerk at the laundry that was so nice to us as we did our families' clothes, the teacher that hugged our children when they did good on their tests, but mostly the little girls from the camp.

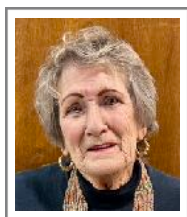
After my electricity came back on and I could watch TV, I cried every time the news came on about the little girls. This was the unkindest cut of all to our hearts!! After going through the fifth flood since I moved into this area this was the worst of all! Knowing that it was not, I tried to think about what was the worst? It was those little girls! Those precious little girls and the crying continued.

But through the tears came the realization that we had to help the living. I could pray for the little girls and work, too. And so I did. One of my good friends had lost everything since her house was flooded with four feet of water...and they were out of town. EVERYTHING WAS GONE!!! So, on the telephone I went...begging for furniture, for clothes in her size and the children and hubbie. Then it was money...donations...donations....donations and it started to come in...I was so happy. And so was my little family that I was helping!

Weeks have passed and after "happy notes of thanksgiving" and delivering times and annoying things that went wrong, we had finished. Nothing more to do!

But not true...it is time to go back to helping friends and neighbors with their family trees! Some need to start over since they lost it all. Some need help to fill in what they lost. Some just need to come in and let you help them to get things straightened up! Some may need help with finding the families from some of those sweet little girls. We all would be happy to help with that. I am sure it would help us all heal.

So call your friends and see what they need. Or come in and help the volunteers that are there. Volunteer to help the volunteers! We all need you so come in and give it a try! See you there...10 o'clock be okay with you?



A love note from your President,

Nancy McLarry



Research Center & Library

125 Lehmann, Suite 102
Kerrville, TX 78028

2025 Kerrville Genealogical Society Board

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Connect with us:

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

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

October 15

Paula Rieker
711 Ranch

Paula Rieker is the author of *The Heritage Lands of the 711 Ranch*. This is the story of the premier 711 Ranch (1949-1999) in Comal County, established by L. A. and Pearl Nordan of San Antonio, Texas, now the land of Mystic Shores on Canyon Lake. The 711 Ranch was the largest ranch in Comal County, Texas, at the time.

DISCOVER RICH TEXAS
HISTORY:

- Native Americans
- Patriots of the Texas Revolution
- Early Texas railroad companies
- German and Swiss settlers

November 19

Lisa McCormick
Schreiner Logan Library
Resources

Lisa McCormick is the Director of the Logan Library at Schreiner University. She will talk to us about available resources of interest to genealogists such as Worldcat, Texshare databases, and JSTOR.

See you in January 2026
We are already lining up
great programs!

Membership News

Janet Dugart, Membership Chair

We currently have 88 members. Please welcome our newest members:

Martha Rollins
Julian (Pat) O'Bryant
Sharon Mock



It is time to start renewing your membership. There is a membership application at the end of the newsletter for your convenience that you can use for your renewal.

Don't forget that dues are increasing in 2026: Individual \$30, Family \$35, and Patron \$80.

On the Shelves at KGS Research Center & Library

Lora Stevens, 2nd Vice President



Our library is full of treasures for all to partake. We have files and books on families, some local but most not. We have lots of informational books about multiple states and counties. We have a number of quarterly periodicals and genealogy magazines. We have several books on the Mayflower, American Indians, and several different wars. This is just a sampling that is available for your use to bolster your genealogy trees. Please come by and see what we can help you find.

Do you have a little free time and want to help? We have lots of projects large and small we could use your help. Are you good on the computer? Are you great at research? Are you worried you don't know what help you can be? I was, to start with, but asked. I started off small and then realized it's not hard or scary at all. Please talk to one of us or come by the library and we can find something just right for you.

Next KGS Messenger Issue:
January 1, 2026

Deadline for submissions:
December 15, 2025
Send to: kgs@hctc.net

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

From the KGS Messenger editor:

After almost 10 years of putting together our newsletter with articles our membership has submitted, it is time for me to step down and let someone else take over this rewarding position. Don't be intimidated, there is a job description, board members willing to help and I will still be around to give a hand as well. It doesn't take a lot of time and this is a quarterly newsletter so it is only every three months it has to be put together. If you can find your way around a computer, you can do this job. Think seriously about this position. If you have questions, feel free to ask me or another board member.

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 increased by \$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.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Turley, Treasurer

Report for the months of June, July, and August 2025:

Beginning Balance June 1, 2025	\$1,269.17
Income	
Dues, personal donations, donation boxes, interest	\$330.62
Fund transfer from Money Market account	\$5,000.00
Expenses	
Rent, internet/phone	-\$2,403.79
Ending balance August 31, 2025	\$4,196.00

Holiday Closings

By Sharon Ashby

Holidays are fast approaching and we will have the usual closings at the Research Center & Library.

Thanksgiving we will be closed Tuesday-Saturday, November 25-29.
Christmas and New Year closures will be December 23, 2025, through January 1, 2026. We will reopen the library on Saturday, January 3, 2026.

Enjoy your holidays with family and friends!



Where Is “The Divide”?

Sharon Ashby Wants to Know

Kerr County residents experienced a devastating flood on July 4th this year. Much of the news coverage focused on the extreme rainfall over the North and South Forks of the Guadalupe River, which converge at Hunt. The Divide was mentioned frequently in those reports.

As someone who is not a Kerr County native, I’ve heard of The Divide but was never quite sure where it was located. So, I felt compelled to learn more about the geography and history of this area. For others who may also be unfamiliar with it, I’m sharing what I discovered.

The Divide is an unincorporated rural community located in western Kerr County, about 30 miles west-northwest of Kerrville. It’s not a formally bounded area, but rather a regional designation shaped by geography, history, and community identity.

The name comes from its role as a natural watershed divide, where rainfall runoff splits toward two river systems: the Llano River to the north of Highway 41, and the Guadalupe River to the south and east. The Divide spans a strip of land approximately five to fifteen miles wide, straddling both State Highway 41 and State Highway 39.

The map shows that both the North Fork and South Fork of the Guadalupe River fall within the bounds of what locals refer to as The Divide. This is why the region played such a prominent role in the July 4th flood coverage.

Divide was homesteaded by the early 1880s. Families such as Hughes, Dietert, and Klein—well-known in Kerr County history—were among the early settlers. The area was ideal for ranching cattle, sheep, and goats, and today it remains known for ranching and hunting, including exotic game.

The most enduring and talked-about structure in The Divide is its school. Divide Elementary School, the only school in Divide Independent School District, is one of the most unique public schools in Texas.

The original one-room schoolhouse was built in 1883 on the Wharton Ranch and later relocated to the Leinweber Ranch. A wooden school was then constructed on the Hughes Ranch to replace it. In 1936, a stone schoolhouse was built on land donated by the F. B. Klein family. That building is still in use today.

For the 2025–2026 school year, Divide Elementary has an enrollment of 35 students and 3 teachers. The original single room was eventually divided into two classrooms to accommodate multiple grade levels, serving students from Pre-K through 6th grade.

The spirit of the community that settled The Divide and the school that stands as a living piece of Texas history continues to thrive. In the aftermath of the 1,000-year flood of 2025, that spirit will help Kerr County rebuild, better and stronger than before.



Double Dating in 1752

Submitted by Katherine Turley

Written by Jeanne Harrison, Capt. James Cook Chapter of DAR

Have you ever wondered why there may be two dates for many of your Revolutionary War ancestors? It is all the result of a somewhat confusing convergence of Julian and Gregorian calendars by the Protestant English and her colonists in 1752.

The Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar in 45 BC, originally designated January as the first month of the year. But after the fall of the Roman Empire and pressure to align with religious festivals, the Julian calendar adopted 25 March as the first day of each new year. Annunciation Day on 25 March coincided with the Christian belief of the birth of Christ nine months later, thus the March date represented a new beginning.

In 1582, Catholic countries adopted Pope Gregory XIII's authorized calendar, with sought to realign calendar date with solar cycles. The 'new' Catholic Gregorian calendar re-adopted January as the first month of the year, dropped 11 days from the month of September, and dropped leap days in century years not divisible by 400 (i.e., 1900).

Today we use the Gregorian calendar, but England did not adopt Pope Gregory XIII's 'new' calendar until 170 years later, in 1752. This has had a direct effect on genealogy information regarding Patriot

ancestors. Perhaps you have seen years shown as double date: '1745/1746' or '1745-1746'. The year referenced depended on which calendar was used, especially if the referenced month was between January and April.

Court references might appear to be out of date order, such as an early New Town, Connecticut Colony court record which accurately listed sequential court events using a Julian calendar as:

1. 27 Decr. 1636
2. 2. 21 Febr. 1636
3. 3. 28 Mrch. 1637 (following the 25 March 1637 New Year)

Genealogists need to be aware that many important dates prior to 1752 might have been transcribed using either calendar. For example, George Washington's birthdate on Wikipedia is shown as 22 Feb 1732. However, 11 Feb 1731 would have been his birth date on the Julian calendar used at that time. The later birth date is given on the National Archives web page. The question of two different years for a birth or death date often puzzled me. I hope that this explanation helps and clears up some confusion over the Colonial dates when you encounter double dating in your archival research.

A Class-ic Connection

Written by Deborah Hudiolin, Illinois

Compiled by Megan Smolenyak in her book *In Search of Our Ancestors*

As a way of getting my first-graders to write, I share my e-mail address with them. This year, I found myself corresponding with one little girl in particular—Gabrielle.

Recently, as part of my ongoing genealogical research, I sent a query to a family history mailing list seeking help. A short while later when I checked my mail, I saw Gabrielle's address and prepared to jot out a short note in return.

Instead, it was a message from Gabrielle's mother, telling me that she was responding to my recently broadcast genealogical plea, as she thought there was a possible connection between our families. We did some talking and sharing of information and ultimately discovered that we share ancestors eleven generations back in the 1600s—Joseph Loomis and Mary White, one of the founding families of Windsor, Connecticut.

The next school day, Gabrielle came up to me and told me that she had a secret to share. She whispered that she was my cousin, which, of course I knew by that point. I asked her if we should share the news with the class and she said that she'd like to keep it our secret for a bit. About five minutes later she told me that it was time to tell the news.

I had talked about my research before, so the class knew what I meant when I mentioned my family tree. I told them that I had just found out that one of them was my cousin. The debate started as to which one of them it might be. Several were sure that it was them, but wondered how I knew. Gabrielle just sat there and didn't say a word.

I looked over at her and she nodded her head. I said, "Class, I'd like to introduce you to my cousin... Gabrielle." She beamed, and some of the children told her that she was lucky! One of them told me to

keep looking for more people so that maybe she would be my cousin, also. Later that day, some children from the other first grade class “tattled” on Gabrielle, telling me that she was telling everyone

that she was my cousin. They were quite chagrined when I told them it was true.

I guess I’m going to have to be careful now so I don’t find myself accused of nepotism!

Please Donate Used Ink Cartridges

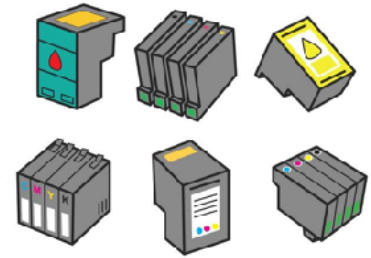
Sharon Ashby, KGS Volunteer Chair

Kerrville Genealogical Society purchases printer ink and other occasional supplies from the local Office Max store and we are subscribed to the Office Max rewards program. KGS can redeem up to 10 empty ink cartridges each worth \$2 up to 10 cartridges on the purchase of a new ink cartridge at Office Max. This is a considerable savings on new ink for our printers at the Research Center.

Please save and donate your empty cartridges to KGS. The cartridges can be *any* brand printer, *any* number on the ink box, and *any* black or color ink cartridge with the *exception* of drum cartridges.

You can drop off your donation of empty cartridges to the KGS Research Center Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday.

Your donation of empty ink cartridges will be very much appreciated.



80 Old Time Illnesses and Their Current Names

Submitted by Leslie VanDrasek
Source: The Ancestor Hunt © 2021

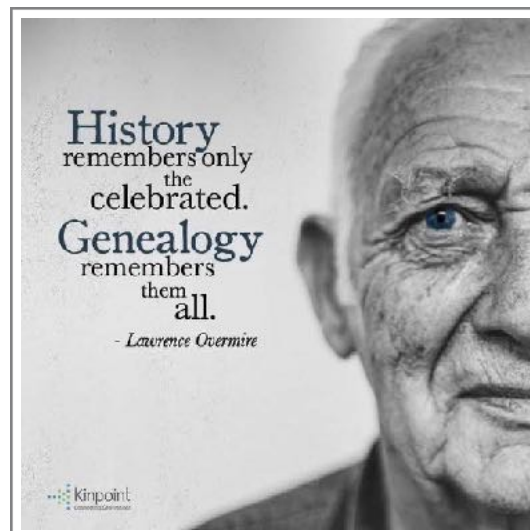
When doing our research we sometimes come across a description of an illness or cause of death and are unfamiliar with what that illness would be called today. We may laugh or giggle at the old-time names, but it is helpful to our understanding of what would be their current meaning. The following list should help clarify some of these illnesses.

Ablepsy: Blindness
African Consumption: Tuberculosis
Ague: Flu-like symptoms likely caused by malaria
Apoplexy: Stroke
Barrel Fever: Alcoholism
Bethlehemite: Mentally ill person
Biliousness: Jaundice
Black Death: Typhus
Black Dog: Depression
Black Pox: Smallpox
Blood Poisoning: Sepsis or Septicemia
Bloody Flux: Dysentery
Brain Fever: Sun stroke
Breakbone: Dengue Fever
Bronze John: Yellow Fever
Camp Fever: Typhus
Catarrh: Inflammation of mucous membrane
Chalkstones: Swelling with pain
Change of Life: Menopause
Childbed Fever: Infection following childbirth
Chin Cough: Whooping Cough
Congestive Fever: Malaria
Consumption: Tuberculosis
Corruption: Infection

Coryza: Cold
Debilitas: Weakness of the body
Domestic Malady: Depression or another sort of emotional breakdown
Double Personality: Manic depressive
Dropsy: Swelling caused by fluid retention
Dysentery: Inflammation of intestinal mucous membrane
Dyspepsia: Acid indigestion
Enteritis: Intestinal inflammation
Extravasated Blood: Ruptured blood vessel
Falling Sickness: Epilepsy
Fits: Convulsions
French Disease: Syphilis
French Pox: Venereal Disease
Galloping Consumption: Pulmonary tuberculosis
Green Sickness: Anemia
Grip, Gripe or Grippe: Flu
Ictus Solis: Sunstroke
Idiot Savant: Developmentally delayed and exceptionally talented
Jail Fever: Typhus
Kings Evil: Scrofula; Swelling of the neck glands
La Grippe: Flu

Leprosy: Hansen's Disease
Lues Venera: Venereal Disease
Lumbago: Back pain
Lung Fever: Pneumonia
Mad Cow: Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
Mania: Insanity
Melancholia: Severe depression
Milk Leg: Inflammation of leg
Marasmus: Emaciation
Mormal: Gangrene
Mortification: Gangrene
Painters Colic: Exposure to lead
Palsy: Problems with muscle control, such as tremors or paralysis
Pleurisy: Inflammation of lung
Pox: Syphilis
Putrid Fever: Diphtheria
Quincy or Quinsy: Tonsillitis

Remitting Fever: Malaria
Retarded: Developmentally or cognitively delayed
Sanguinous Crust: Scab
Scorbutus: Lack of Vitamin C
Screws: Rheumatism
Scrumptox: Impetigo
Senile Gangrene: Hardening of the arteries
Ship Fever: Typhus
Sloes: Milk sickness
St. Vitus Dance: Chorea
St. Anthony's Fire: Skin infection
Swine Flu: H1N1 Virus
The Shakes: Parkinson's disease
Ulcus: Ulcer
Went Under: Had anesthesia
Whitlow: Boil
Winter Fever: Pneumonia
Yellow Jacket: Yellow Fever



KERRVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership Application

New Renewal

Membership Year: January 1 - December 31, 2026

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 \$30.00
 Family \$35.00 January 1 - June 30 full-price membership
 Patron \$80.00 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