
FIVE HILLS HERITAGE

Published by: Five Hills Genealogical Society

January, April, July and October

Volume 3 Number 1

January 2004

President: Charles O. Davis
Secretary: Jane Harbert

Vice President: Marion Palumbo
Treasurer: Frances Green

Meeting Schedule

January 15	6:30 p.m.	Methodist Church	Genealogy and History.
February 19	6:30 p.m.	Methodist Church	Craig Ordner - Railroad Research
March 18	6:30 p.m.	Methodist Church	Barbara Simpson - Coryell County Courthouse

2nd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our October program was another good one by Gwen Jett - Doing Family Research with Children. Gwen discussed how family research is taught to young children in school (see photo on page 2). She also brought along several children's books about family research from a variety of authors. Most of the mem-

bers in attendance that evening were surprised at the number of genealogy related books that are available for young children.

In November, our scheduled speaker, Mr. Craig Ordner, came down with the flu and had to cancel. Linda Ledger filled in for him. Mr. Ordner has rescheduled and will give our program in Feb-



Our Second Annual Christmas Party was well attended by our members and guests. There was lots of good food and holiday cheer for all.

ruary. Linda gave her presentation - An Abridged Copperas Cove History. Linda is an excellent speaker, and those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed her presentation.

Our December program, again this year, was our annual Christmas Party. Many members were there with guests and fam-

ily members. Those who didn't attend missed a great time.

After everyone was almost finished with their dinner, we began the gift exchange. Everyone was asked to bring a gift that could go to either male or female, and keep it under \$10.00.

The meal was potluck provided by mem-

bers, and there was a wide variety to choose from. Linda Ledger again gets thanks for the great table settings and decorations. Thanks, Linda, for a job well done.

We also elected our new society officers for 2004. Your

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Program Review

(Continued from page 1)

new officers for 2004 are: President - Charles O. Davis, Vice President - Marion Palumbo, Secretary - Jane Harbert and Treasurer - Frances Green. We will install our new officers at the January meeting. I trust that they can count on each and every member's total support in the coming year.



Gwen Jett discusses one of the children's books on Family Research during her program - Doing Family Research with Children.



This was the scene at our Christmas Party as members enjoyed the dinner. You can see the great job Linda Ledger did with the settings and decorations.

State of the Society

George H. Ballentine

As I leave as President of the Five Hills Genealogical Society, I wanted to recap what we have done in the last two years since I became president.

In February 2002, Valerie Reynolds and I thought that there might be enough interest in the area to form a new genealogical society. We planned an interest meeting which was held on February 21, 2002 at the Copperas Cove Library. The meeting was attended by twenty nine people interested in family history. After the meeting it was obvious to us that we should organize and start a new society. Grace United Methodist Church offered to let us use their Fellowship Hall, where we still meet today.

The first year the officers were: President - George H. Ballentine, Vice President - Charles O. Davis, Secretary - Barbara Trubee and Treasurer - Valerie Reynolds. We worked through that first year taking on new members and trying to get all of the tax and organization paperwork done. We grew and had many excellent programs for the membership.

The second year officers saw a change in Secretary, with Jane Harbert taking over those duties, and Treasurer, with France Green coming on board. Our membership went up and down in our first two years, but

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Santa Fe Railroad Depot - 1907



This is a shot taken in 1907 of the Santa Fe Railroad Depot in Copperas Cove. The folks waiting for the train seemed more than happy to pose for the picture. *(Thanks to Linda Ledger for this photograph.)*

My Drug Problem

I had a drug problem when I was young:
 I was drug to church on Sunday morning;
 I was drug to church for weddings and funerals;
 I was drug to family reunions no matter the weather;
 I was drug out of bed to go to school every weekday;
 I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults and teachers;
 I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

These drugs are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroin and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place to live.

-- Anonymous



**WE
SUPPORT
OUR
TROOPS**

State of the Society

(Continued from page 2)

stayed at about 48, where it currently stands.

We decided on a name for our newsletter quarterly, and Five Hills Heritage is now in its third year of publication. In conjunction with West Bell Genealogical Society in Killeen, we held one seminar in April 2003 that was a great success. We are planning another one in October 2004.

I believe our society is strong and growing. The membership is truly interested in family history research and committed to making our society one of the best in the state.

As I turn the reins over to Charles O. Davis, I know that he will do a great job as your new president. My choice not to run again was for but one reason: I think we need to change every couple of years to get new thoughts and ideas into the job. I have enjoyed being your society president and want to thank you all for the support that you have given me in the last two years. I know you will give Charles the same support, and our group will continue to grow and prosper.



**DON'T FORGET
VALENTINE'S DAY**

New Book List - Killeen City Library

Beverly Kittinger

BOOKS – REFERENCE

DAR Patriot Index, Volume I, II and III – 2003 ed.
Births, Deaths & Marriages From El Paso
Newspapers, Volume #2, 1886-1890, Volume #3,
1891-1895, Volume #4, 1896-1899

BOOKS – GENERAL -CHECK OUT

Ancestors: Guide to Discovery: Key Principles &
Process of Family Research

Discovering Your Family Tree

Family Names and Family History

Genealogies of Virginia Families from “The
Virginia Magazine of History & Biography”

Guide to Hispanic Genealogy

The 1930 Census: A Reference & Research Guide

Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook (2nd copy)

BOOKS - TEXAS – GENERAL - REFERENCE

Indian Wars & Pioneers of Texas

BOOKS – TEXAS – COUNTY - REFERENCE

Caldwell - Kin: The First 150 Years

Collin – Cemeteries of Collin County

Dallas – Genealogical Data From Early Cemeteries
of Dallas County

Marriages, Volume #I, A-E (1846-1877)

Marriages, Volume #II, F, G, H

Galveston – Ship Passenger Lists of Port of
Galveston, Texas, 1846-1871

Harrison – Birth, Death & Marriage Notices From
“The Tri-Weekly Herald”, Marshall, Texas, 1875-
1888

Harrison – Marriage, Birth & Death Notices from
“The Marshall Messenger”, 1890-1900 Marriage,
Birth & Death Notices from “The Marshall
Messenger”, 1901-1910 Marriage, Birth & Death
Notices from “The Marshall Messenger”, 1911-
1915, Marriage, Birth & Death Notices from “The
Marshall Messenger”, 1916-1920

Hopkins – Death Records, Volume 1, 1903, Volume
2, 1950-1987, Marriages, Book 1-6, 1846-1890

Johnson - Grandview Cemetery, Cleburne
Memorial Cemetery, Baker-Lain Cemetery, Rose
Hill Cemetery.

Panola - Marriages, 1846-1912

Sabine - Sabine County, Texas in the Civil War

CD'S – CHECK OUT

American Source Records in England, 1600's-
1800's

Genealogies of Mayflower Families, 1500's-1800's

Notable British Families, 1600's-1700's

English Origins of New England Families, 1500's-
1800's

Genealogical Dictionary of New England, 1600's-
1700's

Genealogies of Long Island Families, 1600's-
1800's

Connecticut Military Records: Officers & Soldiers,
1700's-1800's

Connecticut Local & Family Histories

Kentucky Land Records, 1774-1924

Maine & New Hampshire Settlers, 1600's-1900's

Maryland Genealogies & Marriages, 1634-1820

Maryland Settlers & Soldiers, 1700's-1900's

Massachusetts & Maine Genealogies, 1650's-
1930's

Massachusetts Genealogical Records, 1600's-
1800's

New Jersey Biographical Index, 1800's

Colonial New Jersey Source Records, 1600's-
1800's

New York in the Revolution & The War of 1812

Early North Carolina Settlers, 1700's-1900's

North Carolina Wills, 1665-1900

Ohio Vital Records, #1, 1800-1850

Ohio Vital Records, #2, 1750's-1880's

Pennsylvania German Church Records, 1727-1870

Rhode Island Genealogies

Early South Carolina Settlers, 1600's-1800's

Tennessee Marriages, 1787-1866

Colonial Virginia Source Records, 1600's-1700's

Virginia in the Revolutionary War & The War of
1812

Virginia Genealogies from “The William & Mary
College Quarterly”

Virginia Genealogies from “Tyler's Quarterly”

Early West Virginia Settlers, 1600's-1900's.

1904 Leon River Bridge

Barbara B. Trubee



This old river bridge was restored and rededicated in 1994. The Route once known as the Old Georgetown Road was in existence by 1854 and crossed the Leon River here in Gatesville, Texas, county seat of Coryell County. At this site was a ferry as early as 1854 and was owned by R.G. Grant, a local entrepreneur and land developer.



The bow-string truss bridge was damaged by two major floods in 1899 and 1900. The county commissioner's court authorized the building of another bridge. This new one was built here in 1904 by George E. King

Company of Des Moines, Iowa, which includes steel construction, wood decking, original lattice railings, pin connected members and elaborate stone abutments. The overall length of 141 feet from end to end allows for the 4-foot depth of masonry piers supporting the bridge. It is a 137 foot Pratt through truss span with a 5-foot timber approach span and is one of few such bridges surviving in Texas.

This 1904 bridge served as a major East-West artery for Central Texas. The road became a part of state highway 7 in 1917 and was renamed U. S. Highway 84 in the 1930s. (*Texas Historical Landmark, 1996; photograph by Barbara B. Trubee*)



Old Area Photographs

If you have any old photographs of places or people that relate to the history of Copperas Cove and Coryell County, please consider them for publication in a future issue of Five Hills Heritage. Any photographs submitted

will be scanned and returned to the owner undamaged. If you have a story to go along with it, all the better. If it is a picture that you need to identify a person or place, we can publish it and see if anyone can identify it.

Our next issue will be in April 2004, and I need your submissions for that issue.

Copperas Cove Library Book List

The genealogy book list of new books in the Cove Library was not available for publishing in this issue. We hope to have a complete updated list for the April issue. There are a number of new books available to use.

COPPERAS COVE HISTORY

Linda Ledger

This is the second in a series of articles that will appear in our newsletter over the next several issues. These articles were written by Linda Ledger and gracious permission is given to reprint them here.

The Journey to Texas

In 1854 almost 600 Wends left from 65 German cities to found a Wendish colony in Texas. Many descendants of these hardy and determined emigrants make their home in Copperas Cove.

The ship register rings familiar to our ears with the names Teinert, Knippa, Schulze, Neitsch, Falke, Ritter, Richter, and Kokel. Perhaps as many as 100 Cove residents can trace their Wendish ancestry to that ship.

Also, on the ship was at least one non-Wendish family, that of Michael Mickan, who was German. Family research done by Cornelius Lottman of Houston states that Michael Mickan, grandfather of Carl and Alfred Mickan of Copperas Cove, and his family were aboard. The register corroborates this account.

An abstract of the original ship register is included in Anne Blasig's 'Wends of Texas'. The original document is located in the University of Texas archives.

According to John Kilian, pastor and leader of the group, an actual 588 made the trip. About half of the group were children.

The 80-day journey of the Wends was a dangerous one. It was made on the Ben Nevis, a ship constructed in Canada and owned by British merchants. According to an article in the 'Giddings Time and News', March 28, 1968, the ship was 162 feet long and 34 feet wide. The three-deck craft carried a registered tonnage of 1,347. (A picture of the ship was printed in the previous newsletter).

Mr. John Teinert, who lived in Copperas Cove before his death in 1933, was 13 when the voyage

was made. He gave the following account of the journey.

"We arrived at Liverpool. There fourteen died. While we were sailing the cholera broke out, and many became sick. Twenty-two died. Because many were sick we docked at Ireland, Queenstown harbor. There we all had to leave the ship and go on another, while our ship was washed and fumigated.



Karl Tienert and his third wife. Tienert was a leader in the Wendish church back in Lusatia, when Wends rebelled against a decree unifying the Lutherans with the Reformed Churches. He helped in immigration plans and on the way to America, his second wife was buried at sea. Through their 15-year old son, John, who saw his mother buried, there remains a record of the courageous trip. (*Killeen Daily Herald, September 1, 1974*)

Then we boarded our ship again and traveled on. (October 22, 1854) Thirty more had died dur-

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The Journey to Texas

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ing quarantine.

We sailed a long time, and then one afternoon a fierce storm came up which threatened to destroy the ship. The captain gave the command that a pair should go up on the mast-beams and loose the sails. But no one wanted to climb up there in the storm. Then the captain took off his coat and went up there himself. A sailor climbed up following the captain.

When all this was completed the captain and sailor came down. The captain was real pale. He could not walk alone to his room or bunk. He had to be carried by some of his men.

So we sailed on. A few more were still sick and some died. One night my mother also died. In the morning, I went out on the deck and looked into the ocean and suddenly noticed how some men shoved a corpse into the water, and how slowly it went down into the deep. This was my mother. This I could never forget.

We sailed always onward until we saw sandy bars or dunes. There we held anchor for a couple of days because the big calm had set in and it was quite warm. One night a wind came up again and so we traveled onward until we could see the island of Cuba. That meant that it was not very far to America.”

The account of John Teinert is found in his undated letter, Ein Brief, which is located in the University of Texas archives.

The journey took its toll; seventy-three died on the trip, fifty-five of cholera. At Queenstown, Ireland, thirty-one were buried, fourteen at Liverpool, eight in the sea channel between England and Ireland, eighteen at sea, one at Hamburg, and one at Houston.

The ocean was crossed. Ahead was Galveston. Besides yellow fever lurking on the shore, a strange new environment was ready to test the mettle of these pioneers.

Get A New Computer For Christmas?

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and received all of the gifts that they wanted. Now, I know some of you received a new computer and are just now learning how to get the most out of it. I wish you luck.

One program that probably came with the computer is a word processor. Now you can type those letters, papers and newsletter articles and not have to worry about making spelling errors, right? But, before you put too much trust in Mr. Gates' technology, please put the following passage into your spell checker and see how many mistakes it finds. Good luck - hope to see you online soon!

Spelling Checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer.

It came with my pea sea.

It plainly marques four my revue

Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word

And weight four it two say

Weather eye am wrong oar write.

It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid

It nose bee fore two long

And eye can put the error rite.

Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it.

I am shore pleased two no

Its letter perfect awl the weigh.

My chequer tolled me sew.

-- Sauce unknown

**Some days you're the dog;
some days you're the
hydrant.**

FHGS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you are interested in becoming a member of the **FIVE HILLS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, just fill in the blank form below and return it with \$12/individual or \$15/family. Send this to **Five Hills Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1723, Copperas Cove, TX 76522**. The Society meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Grace United Methodist Church, and is open to the public. Please make checks payable to: **Five Hills Genealogical Society**.

Name: _____ Email _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Researching:

SURNAME

STATE

COUNTY

Five Hills Heritage

**P.O. Box 1723
Copperas Cove, TX 76522**

***Newsletter of the Five Hills
Genealogical Society***
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txfhgs>

George H. Ballentine
Editor