The Genealogical Society of Kendall County

The First Families of Kendall County

Purposes: To recognize the direct living descendants of persons instrumental in the founding and settling of the area encompassed by present-day Kendall County, Texas, and To preserve the history of their families and of Kendall County.

Eligibility:

(1) To qualify for a **Founding Families Certificate**, the applicant must be a direct blood-line descendant from an ancestor who settled by December 31, 1862, in the area now encompassed by Kendall County.

(2) To qualify for an **Early Settlers Certificate**, the applicant must be a direct blood-line descendant of an ancestor who settled in Kendall County during the time period of January 1, 1863 to December 31, 1900.

(3) The applicant must be able to prove direct descent from the ancestor (male or female) by an official record, or records, for each generation, including vital record proof for the applicant.

(4) Exceptions: (a) A Memorial Certificate may be awarded for a proven deceased descendant of a Founder or Settler provided an application has been made for them. (b) A legal adoptee of a candidate for First Families designation may apply, and if qualified, receive an Adoptee Certificate.

(5) The applicant must provide proof that the Founder or Settler (and/or a spouse) resided in Kendall County, Texas by the above dates. Land or tax records are acceptable only if they specify that the individual was a resident of Kendall County, since many early landowners never lived in the county in which they owned land.

(6) The Applicant does not need to be a member of the GSKC; or a current Kendall County resident to apply. However, applicants who are not current members will get a $10 discount for an individual or family membership for the first year.

Instructions for Completing the First Families Application

The Application must be completed on the .pdf fill-in form, saved, and printed. All pages must be on letter size paper. The First Families Application packet may be found on the Society Website by searching through Google or another browser for Genealogical Society of Kendall County website.

PROOF OF DESCENT: To ensure that the First Family Certificate is the result of credible genealogical research, copies of the following original source documents are deemed acceptable: Government vital records (birth, marriage, and death); probate records; all census records (local, state, and federal); land or court records stating relationships; and Bible and baptismal records that were made **contemporary to the time the event occurred.** Documents that have altered information are not acceptable.

Secondary sources that may be cited as circumstantial evidence (which may require more than one such source to prove the claim) include tax, military, church, cemetery, tombstone, obituaries, funeral notices, letters, and diaries. Supplemental resources are encouraged but may not be accepted as proof of lineage: newspaper clippings; published family histories; published county histories; published biographical records; and city and county directories. Private papers and personal records such as letters, diaries, journals, and reminiscences will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Documents written or printed in a foreign language must be accompanied by a translation into English and the translation certified as a true translation by the translator (not the applicant or a family member.)

Complete all information for each generation. **Dates should be listed as in the form: 9 Dec 1860. Places should be listed with the county name, as in Comfort, Kendall, Texas.** You must have a valid document proving each vital record statement. You must have a document that proves the link between parents and child of each generation. After about 1900, birth certificates do this. Linking documents prior to birth certificates may be probate records, Bible records, census records, deeds, etc. Bible record proofs shall also have title page of the Bible showing the date Bible was printed. The name and address of the current owner of the Bible should be written on the back of the copy.

Preparation of the application:

1. **Underline in red pencil** all pertinent data on each proof document. Please d**o not highlight** with a marker.
2. Please **do not staple** any of the material. Use paper clips to attach documentation pages. Clip documentation for each generation together behind the family group sheet for that generation.
3. Please write your name and the Generation # on the bottom right-hand corner of the **back of each page** submitted.
4. **Do not submit original documents.** Submit a photocopy or other facsimile copy of pertinent materials. Assistances in scanning documents and photographs is available upon request.

Citing the proofs:

You may use the following **abbreviations** to save space:

BC–birth certificate DC – death certificate MC- marriage certificate or record.

Census records citation should include following:

1870 Kendall Co. TX, Page # and Line #.

Probate records and wills should cite the name of the record book, the number, and the page, for example: Probate Minutes 12, pg 344-348, Kendall Co. TX.

Land and other deed records may be cited DB 4- pg 103 Kendall Co. TX.

Citations of records in books should have title of book, author, and page number.

If a source is used in more than one generation, cite previous generation such as

1870 Census (Gen 3) rather than re-writing complete citation.

Family Group Sheets, Pedigree, and Biography. In addition to the Application, each packet contains a Biography Page, a Family Group Sheet Form (from which you can make more copies), and a Pedigree/Ancestor chart. We ask that you complete a Family Group Sheet for each generation and a Pedigree chart beginning with you. A short **biography** summarizing your ancestor's story and recording other information or stories about your ancestors is encouraged for inclusion in the family books we prepare, although it is not required for the application.

Family group sheets and Pedigree charts may be computer generated from a Genealogy Database Program as long as they contain all the required information.
Submitted Materials: The Application, proof documents, family group sheets, and other submitted data and photographs will be available for public perusal in a First Families Notebook prepared by the First Families Committee. **Copies of official documents on living persons will not be included in the information available to the public. They will be kept with the original application in a locked filing cabinet.** Applicants are encouraged to include a Pedigree Chart, relevant documents and pictures of family members and historic structures such as homes, schools, and stores, and other biographical information on their early Kendall County ancestors. All applications and verifying material become the property of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Texas.

Eligibility of an Applicant will be determined by the First Families Committee, appointed by the Genealogical Society of Kendall County. Incorrect or incomplete applications will be returned for corrections and/or additions and the Applicant will be encouraged to re-submit the application.

In order for an application to be considered for the current year, all proof documents and the application must be compete and submitted by July 15. Any received after that date will be held for presentation the following year. The application forms and photocopied documents may be delivered to The Family History Place, 114 East Blanco, Boerne, TX 78006 or mailed to:

Attn: Hal Harwell
Chair of Kendall County First Families Committee
Genealogical Society of Kendall County
P.O. Box 623
Boerne, Texas 78006-0623

An application fee of $40.00 is required along with the documents. Applicants who are not current members of GSKC but would like to join will get a $10 discount for an individual or family membership for the first year.

If you have further questions, you may contact:

Hal Harwell at (210) 887-5030 or FirstFamilies@gskctx.org

A short **biography** summarizing your ancestor's story and recording other information or stories about your ancestors is encouraged for inclusion in the family books we prepare, **although it is not required for the application**. A biography is a history written in narrative form. It may include occupation, military service, religious preference, and family traditions. You may use this form(s) or your own format, and the biography does not need to be limited to one page.

BIOGRAPHY OF ANCESTOR (S)

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

Complete this supplementary form or a similar family group sheet for each generation.

FATHER'S FULL NAME: _____

EVENT DAY MONTH YEAR	CITY TOWN OR PLACE	COUNTY	STATE
Birth			
Marriage			
Death			
Burial			
Places of Residence			

Occupation _____ **Church Affiliation** _____ **Military Service** _____

Other Wives _____

Father's Name _____ **Mother's Maiden Name** _____

MOTHER'S FULL NAME: _____

EVENT DAY MONTH YEAR	CITY TOWN OR PLACE	COUNTY	STATE
Birth			
Death			
Burial			
Places of Residence			

Occupation _____ **Church Affiliation** _____ **Military Service** _____

Other Husbands _____

Father's Name _____ **Mother's Maiden Name** _____

CHILDREN	EVENT: DAY MONTH YEAR	CITY TOWN OR PLACE	COUNTY	STATE
1.	Birth			
	Mar			
Spouse:	Death			
	Burial			
2.	Birth			
	Mar			
Spouse:	Death			
	Burial			
3.	Birth			
	Mar			
Spouse:	Death			
	Burial			
4.	Birth			
	Mar			
Spouse:	Death			
	Burial			
5.	Birth			
	Mar			
Spouse:	Death			
	Burial			
6.	Birth			
	Mar			
pouse:	Death			
	Burial			