



Kingsbury Texas <kingsburytexas@gmail.com>

**Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - December 13, 2020**

1 message

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Sun, Dec 13, 2020 at 7:58 AM

**Kingsbury Texas**

*News & Information Newsletter*



*Dear Kingsbury,*

*Here's the latest on what's going on in Kingsbury!*

**Meteors!**

What could be one of the best meteor showers of 2020 is happening this weekend!

Year in and year out the Geminids are currently the most dependable meteor shower. Unfortunately, they are active in December when temperatures are often cold and skies cloudy in the northern hemisphere. This year however, there will be a New moon in the sky as the Geminids peak on the night of December 13/14. Fortunately this means that even the fainter meteors will be visible in the lack of moonlight and that total counts will be increased drastically.

So it may be **chilly** out, but if you bundle up and step outside over the next week, you'll be able to enjoy one of the most active meteor showers of the year! We should see about 60-100 (or more!) Geminids per hour.

To best see the Geminids you need to view as close to December 14th as possible. Like all meteors showers, there are many more faint meteors than bright ones. Eyes that had just came outside from indoors may not be able to see these fainter meteors. Give your eyes time at adjust to the darkness. It is also advisable to watch for as long as possible as meteor activity waxes and wanes throughout the night. There will be periods when little activity is seen and then other periods when meteors are falling constantly. These periods often last as long as 15 minutes so it is advisable to watch for an hour or more so that you witness several peaks and valleys and get a real feel of the meteor activity.

In order to view for that long, you need to be comfortable so a lounge chair is recommended. Lie back and view at a 45 degree (halfway up) angle to see the most activity. In the northern hemisphere be sure to have a blanket (hot beverages recommended!). You can face in any direction as Geminid meteors can be seen in any part of the sky. No matter what part of the sky they appear, they will all trace back to the radiant near the bright star known as Castor. You don't have to know where Castor is located, but you will soon learn as meteor after meteor will shoot forth from that direction.



**There's A Day For Everything**

In case you didn't already know ... there's something every day to **celebrate!**  
Here are some of the fun, unusual, or forgotten holidays this week:

**December 13 - National Cocoa Day, National Violin Day, National Day Of The Horse, Pick A Pathologist Pal Day, National Guard Birthday**

**December 14 - National Bouillabaisse Day, National Alabama Day, Monkey Day**

**December 15 - National Cupcake Day, Bill of Rights Day, Cat Herders Day, National Wear Your Pearls Day**

**December 16 - National Chocolate-covered Anything Day, Barbie and Barney Backlash Day**

**December 17 - National Maple Syrup Day, Wright Brothers Day**

**December 18 - National Twin Day, National Roast Suckling Pig Day, Answer The Telephone Like Buddy The Elf Day, National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, Underdog Day**

**December 19 - National Hard Candy Day, National Oatmeal Muffin Day**



**Christmas Shop At Market Day!**



There will be a Farmer's Market / Market Day in **downtown** Kingsbury today and every Sunday, weather permitting. The event will be in



***Downtown Kingsbury  
From noon to 3  
Every Sunday***



The event will be outside so you will be able to have the 6 foot safe distancing that is recommended and still be able to pick up farm fresh eggs and produce. Homemade pies, cakes, and other baked goods are also usually available.



Plant starts, fruit trees, herbs, Kingsbury T-shirts, food, drinks, lemonade, homemade soaps, and colorful face masks are usually on hand also.



### **Volunteer Work Days at Pioneer Flight Museum**

The Old Kingsbury Aerodrome and the Pioneer Flight Museum are on Pershing Lane just off of FM 1104 in Kingsbury.

They usually have one or two days a month where they invite **volunteers** to come and help with the buildings, grounds, planes, vehicles, and other equipment.

The next Volunteer Work Day will be

**Saturday, December 19th**

There's always projects that should pique a variety of interests: the WWI Dodd Field Hangar and Car Barn, are still "works in progress", plus there are always aircraft and Model T's that need TLC. Please consider joining and helping out!



## Christmas Boxes

Every year the Kingsbury VFD Auxiliary puts together and delivers some awesome gift boxes/baskets/bags for the people in their fire district that are shut-in or at least 85 years young. The Auxiliary delivered to over 40 people this past Saturday with Christmas bags that included fruit, candy, snacks, fun Christmas items, and homemade **cookies**. Each bag also included a beautiful Christmas card.

It's a wonderful Christmas tradition that means so much to both the givers and receivers!

It's just one of the many things that the KVFD Auxiliary does for our community. Thank you for all you do Auxiliary!



## Days Until Christmas

There are only  
**011** days **16** hours **06** mins **25** secs  
until Christmas!

## Kingsbury News Past

All the **news** that's fit to print about what *was* happening in Kingsbury . . .

The February 19, 1876 Saturday Morning edition of the *San Antonio Express* had quite the "article" regarding the competing stagecoach lines that ran between Kingsbury (the western end of the railroad in 1876) and San Antonio. The Scott's Line (with "fine, large American horses") and the Finucane Line were the main stage companies since the El Paso Stage Co. "burst up some time ago." The gentleman writing this article really gets into it with the Scott's line saying that they don't pay their agent enough to "board in a fifth class boarding house." He also berates the Scott line for charging "\$4 from San Antonio to Kingsbury and \$5 from Kingsbury to San Antonio" and that even if Mr. Scott "lives to be as old as Methuselah" he won't be able to explain those



high rates!



**INTERESTING FROM KINGSBURY.**

Kingsbury, Texas, Feb. 14, 1876.  
EDITORS EXPRESS :

In your desire to deal fairly and impartially with both parties you allowed yourselves to be taken advantage of by Mr. Stanselle, by publishing his letter, which was nothing more or less than an advertisement of Mr. Scott's line, worth at a low rate \$50. I, in my letter, confined myself solely to criticising the manner in which Scott and his agents are in the habit of taking advantage of the public whenever an opportunity presents itself, in contrast to the fair dealing of the attaches of the Finucane line; and giving my views on the impropriety of making any particular stage line a monopoly. But Mr. S. goes into ecstasies over the superior advantages of the Scott line, their fine, large American horses, experienced drivers, etc., and draws a contrast between that line and the Finucane line not very complimentary to the latter. Mr. Scott does not advertise in the Express. Mr. Finucane does, yet I did not presume to write an advertisement for the latter, or say anything about the facilities, the merits or demerits of either line. I must say that I do think the Express did not defend the interests of an advertiser, as in duty bound. Mr. Frank Stanselle dubs himself "Passenger Agent El Paso Stage Co." There is no such Stage Company in existence; that company bursted up sometime ago, and C. Bain & Company, F. C. Taylor, and Samuel T. Scott

represent the remnants of that defunct institution. The El Paso stages are now run by the Texas and California Stage Company under the management of E. C. Kerens of St. Louis. Because Sam Scott was once employed by the El Paso Stage Company, and now uses their old worn out coaches and antiquated "plugs" does not give him the right to adopt that company's name. I do not wish to be personal in my remarks, but I must enlighten the public in regard to who this gaudiloquent gaseous individual is, and what is his connection with Sam Scott's Line. Mr. S. is well known here and in Luling, and has been connected with the railroad lining hall for something over a year. He was once in the employ of T. D. Finband as assistant agent at this place. About a month ago he was employed by Scott's agent as assistant in fact a man of all work, which position he occupies, and his field of "Passenger Agent El Paso Stage Company" is decidedly rich and refreshing. It is considered a good joke among people here who are acquainted

counts for the latter, being still a poor man while Scott is rich. Finucane does not believe in allowing his agents to work for nothing, and his agents have no desire to work for glory. I cannot appreciate the glory in working for a little forty mile stage line when there is no salary attached to it.

Mr. Stanselle is not a believer in the truth of that good old adage "that brevity is the soul of wit," and his newspaper correspondence is as full of "gab" as his conversation; he is like a soap bubble, all wind; prick it with a pin and it is gone. He is seeking notoriety and has a mania to see his name in print. I suppose he is satisfied.

If he expects to prove to the satisfaction of the traveling public that it is fair and honest to charge \$8 fare from one end of a line and \$11 from the other, or \$4 from San Antonio to Kingsbury and \$5 from Kingsbury to San Antonio, he has undertaken a Heronlean task, which, if he lives to be as old as Methuselah, he will fail to accomplish.

There is a determined effort being made by Scott and the Texas Express Company to induce Mr. Pierce to run Finucane off the line. It was to expose that little game that I wrote what I did in my previous communication, I did not intend it for an advertisement of the Finucane line.

In other 1876 news, the Sioux, Arrapahoes, and Cheyennes are preparing "for an outbreak", get your seeds from the new 1876 Catalogue, the "Phunniest man in America" is at the Literary hall (that's all they said - I want to know who that is!), and Gen. Tom Thumb (an extremely well known performer in 1876) will "appear in this city".

Also, the "Settled Without Bloodshed" story is (I believe) about a duel in New Orleans where both men apparently intentionally missed their opponent and called the matter done, the inmates of the St. Louis jail are upset that "crooked whisky dealers" are to be sent there and "in the name of decent roguery" protest being housed in the same jail as "government officials" because "the line must be drawn somewhere." (that's quite the insult!), four trains are heading to Texas from Arkansas with "seven hundred souls", and poor Mrs. Sullivan is a widow and mother living in a "house of ill fame" and apparently couldn't take it anymore so she "suicided, through the agency of morphine."

Elsewhere, the City is supplying "Readers" and "Spellers" to the public schools, poor Mr. Webster was found in a ditch where is horse might have thrown him and he drowned, another item on the rivalry of the "Scott and Finucane Lines of stages between San Antonio and Kingsbury", and a \$100 reward for information on anyone tampering with the "Military Telegraph lines leading to the frontier post."



# TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

Associated Press Dispatches.

DOMESTIC.

NOON DISPATCHES.

AN OUTBREAK APPREHENDED.

Omaha, Feb. 18—It is officially stated that the Sioux, Arapahoes and Cheyennes are making preparations for an outbreak in a few weeks.

**S M M D S**

**Buy Directly of the Grower and Get good Stock.**

Send for our new Catalogue for 1876, free to any address. Farmers, Rockford, Ill. GEO. S. HASKELL, & Co. Seed

**S M M D S**

—The Phenolest man in America, at the Literary Hall to-night.

—Still they come. Gen. Tom Thumb, the funniest little genius in the country with a whole company of curious little dwarfs, will appear in this city, at the Alamo Literary Hall, on the 29th and 29th inst. The troupe is of world-wide renown, and will be largely patronized in San Antonio.

**KILLED WITHOUT BLOODSHED**

New Orleans, Feb 18—The difficulty between Hon. George Dupree and Mr. J. N. Stoutmeyer, of the Times, was this morning amicably adjusted in the field, in a manner highly creditable to the principals and satisfactory to the friends representing them respectively.

One of the inmates of the St. Louis jail, hearing that New Orleans crooked whisky dealers were to be sent to St Louis for trial, sent to the *Republican* the annexed protest: A rumor is current in here the New Orleans whisky ring are to be transferred to St. Louis for trial. In the name of morality and in the name of decent roguery, the prisoners in this jail protest against being obliged to associate with the government officials of Louisiana— the line must be drawn somewhere."

The Arkansas Democrat says: Four passenger trains went out on Thursday, bearing seven hundred souls, bound for Texas.

Mrs. Sullivan, a widow and mother of several children, one of of which, a mere child, was residing with her in a house of ill-fame, suicided, through the agency of morphine in Denison, last week.

—The City is supplying the public schools with a full set of new books. The University Series of Readers, Spellers, and Arithmetics, and Maury's Geographies, constitute the supply.

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH.**

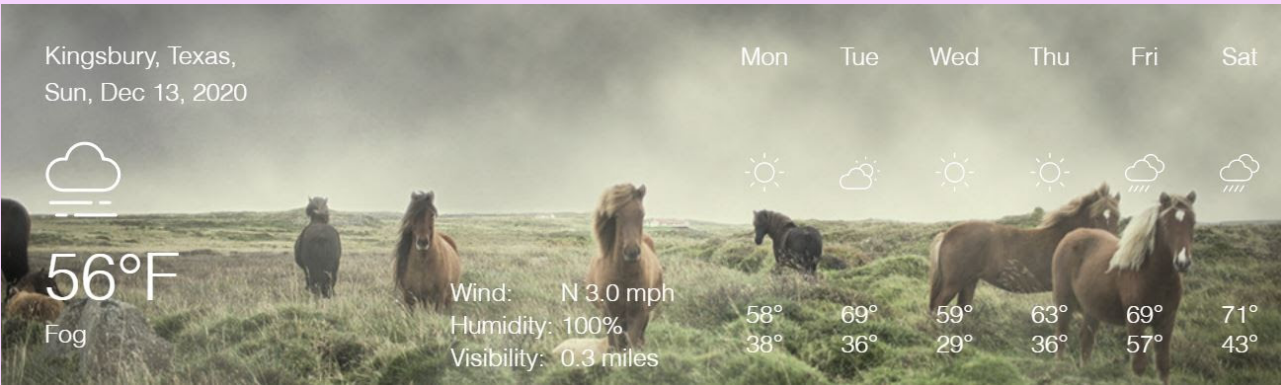
George Webster, manager of the Kentucky State Lottery, was found dead in a ditch, this morning, near his residence. His horse and buggy were near by, and it is thought probable that he was kicked into the ditch by his horse and drowned.

The Scott and Finucane Lines of stages between San Antonio and Kingsbury, the present terminus of the Pierce Railroad, are rivals, and their agents have got into a sharp little controversy in the *Express*. They are both good writers, and are making it interesting to our readers, and, we trust, beneficial to the traveling public. If they keep their temper, and contend in knightly style, they will do themselves honor; if they quarrel personally they will become disgusting, and will find no place in the columns of the *Express*. And we advise them not to try to edit the *Express* as well as write for it. Nor do we need advice. We know our own business, and propose to manage it our own way. We represent the traveling public as well as our "advertisers," and "defend the interests" of both.

A standing reward of one hundred dollars is offered for information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of any person who may unlawfully tamper with, cut or interfere with the United States Military Telegraph lines leading to the frontier post.

## Kingsbury Weather

Kingsbury weather for this week. You can always get the latest **weather** in Kingsbury on the Kingsbury website under [Calendar](#).



For current temperature, rainfall totals, wind speed, etc. just click on the bar at the bottom to go directly to the Baker Ranch weather station in Kingsbury. You can view local conditions and all the other weather stations in the TexMesonet network.



[Click here to check out the Texas Water Development Board "Baker Ranch" weather](#)

## A Christmas Carol

This week in history, on December 17, 1843, Charles Dickens' classic story "A Christmas Carol" is published.

Dickens was born in 1812 and attended school in Portsmouth. His father, a clerk in the navy pay office, was thrown into debtors' prison in 1824, and 12-year-old Charles was sent to work in a factory. The miserable treatment of children and the institution of the debtors' jail became topics of several of Dickens' novels.

In his late teens, Dickens became a reporter and started publishing humorous short stories when he was 21. In 1836, a collection of his stories, "Sketches by Boz", later known as "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club", was published. The same year, he married Catherine Hogarth, with whom he would have nine children.

The short sketches in his collection were originally commissioned as captions for humorous drawings by caricature artist Robert Seymour, but Dickens' whimsical stories about the kindly Samuel Pickwick and his fellow

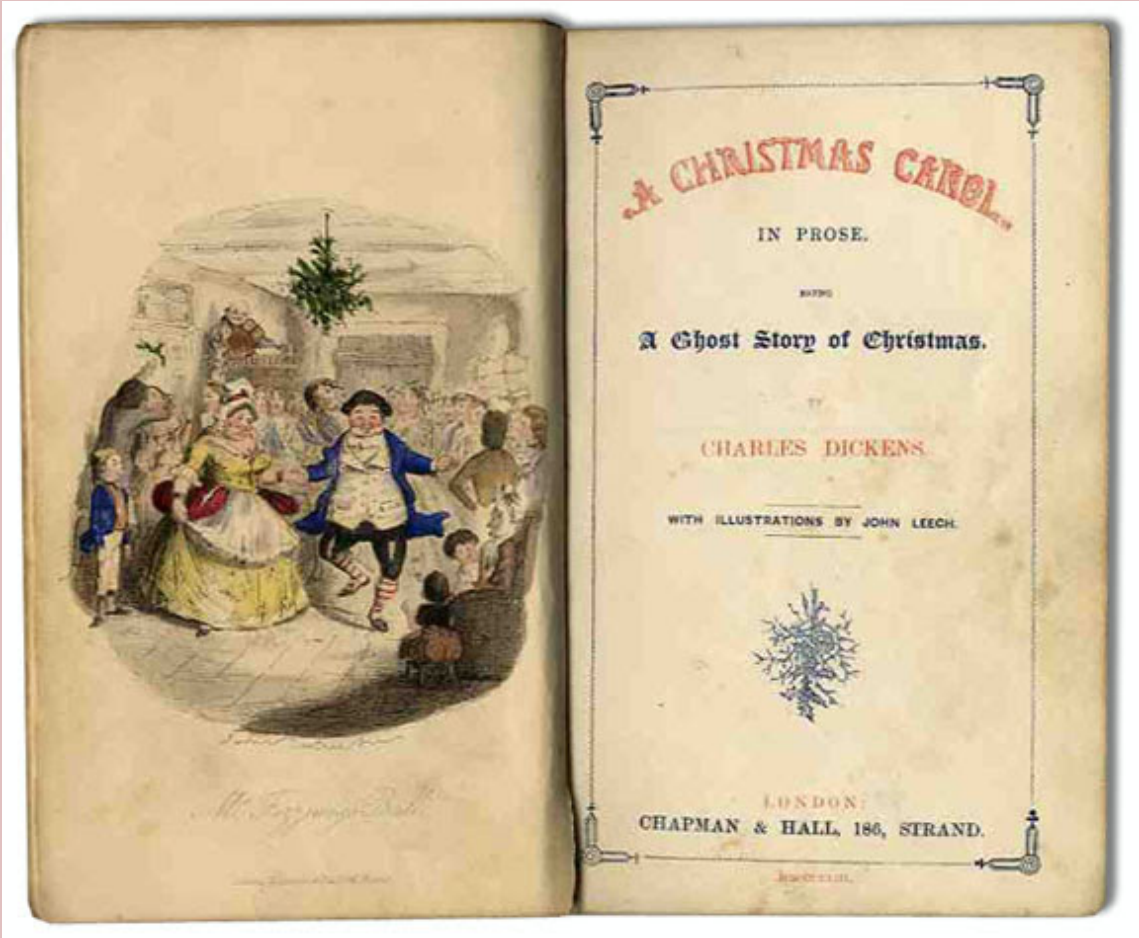


club members soon became popular in their own right. Only 400 copies were printed of the first installment, but by the 15th episode 40,000 copies were printed. When the stories were published in book form in 1837, Dickens quickly became the most popular author of the day.

"A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost-Story of Christmas", commonly known as "A Christmas Carol", is a novella first published in London by Chapman & Hall this week in 1843. "A Christmas Carol" tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an old **miser** who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. After their visits Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol at a time when the British were examining and exploring Christmas traditions from the past, such as carols, as well as new customs such as Christmas trees. He was influenced by experiences from his own past, and from the Christmas stories of other authors, including Washington Irving and Douglas Jerrold. Dickens had written three Christmas stories prior to the novella, and was inspired to write the story following a visit to the Field Lane Ragged school, one of several establishments for London's half-starved, illiterate street children.

Published on 19 December, the first edition sold out by Christmas Eve; by the end of 1844 thirteen editions had been released.



### A Stack Of Kingsbury Girls

Four young Kingsbury girls in front of the school in the early 1940s. It looks like it must have been a **summer** or nice spring day!

From top to bottom: Joyce Hurt, Gloria Halm, Dorothy Chessher, and Leonora Schmidt.



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Send them this email! All they need to do is go to the [Kingsbury website](#), click on the weird little **dog** at the bottom of any page, and fill out their name and email address. It's so easy! Let's get everybody to be "in the know" about what's going on in their community.



Thanks!  
*Kingsbury News & Information*

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