



KINGSBURY
ROOTS RUN
DEEP IN
TEXAS

See PAGE 5 >



INSIDE:
CITIZEN
OF
KINGSBURY



See PAGE 3 >

SPRING 2016

INDEPENDENT

VOL. 3 NO. 1

KINGSBURY TO ADOPT A BILL OF RIGHTS

Staff Writer

KINGSBURY— “Texas is being Californianized and you may not even be noticing it,” Governor Greg Abbott said at a public policy forum last January. “It’s being done at the city level with bag bans, fracking bans, tree-cutting bans. We’re forming a patchwork quilt of bans and rules and regulations that is eroding the Texas model.”

“Now think about it,” Abbott said. “Few things are more important in Texas than private property rights, yet some cities are telling citizens that you don’t own some of the things on your own property that you have bought and purchased and owned for a long time — things like trees...This is a form of collectivism.”

So how do Texans protect themselves from the overreach of municipal government? Residents of Kingsbury may not have to wait for the Legislature to pass reforms. Mayor Shirley Nolen of Kingsbury told the Independent, “the Kingsbury City Commission will be

drafting and enacting a residents’ Bill of Rights to ensure individual liberty and provide for limited municipal government.”

The term “Bill of Rights” comes



from the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution which were adopted as a compromise to ratification. The Bill of Rights amendments add certain safeguards of democracy—specific guarantees of personal freedoms and rights, clear limitations on the government’s power in judicial and other proceedings, and explicit declarations that all powers not specifically delegated to Congress by the Constitution are reserved for the states or the people—to the Constitution.

Similarly, the leaders of Kingsbury envision their Municipal Bill of Rights will add safeguards from excessive taxation, public debt and over regulation.

think it would have been great for Kingsbury to have been the first Liberty City in Texas, but the bill did not pass. I think the idea of our elected officials doing it ourselves is even better.”

The City Commission will be working with City Attorneys Art Martinez de Vara and Sam Drugan to develop a draft. Martinez de Vara served as Chief of Staff for State Sen. Burton in the last legislative session and was the lead drafter of SB 710. The City will conduct public hearings to gather citizen input and make changes based upon that input.

Martinez de Vara told the Independent, “SB 710 contained provisions to safeguard against many of the practices that have become common in Texas cities. For example, there is currently a ceiling under which a city may raise taxes without voter approval and by a simple vote of the city council. Far too often cities adopt the practice of raising taxes each year by this threshold amount regardless of

The idea of a Municipal Bill of Rights was first proposed by State Sen. Konni Burton, whose Senate Bill 710 would have created a limited government form of municipality in Texas, called a “Liberty City.” Texas law currently has no provision for a limited government municipality. Residents of Kingsbury testified in favor of SB 710, but the bill failed to move out of the Texas Senate.

Bob Grafe, who testified in favor of SB 710 told the Independent, “I

Continued on Page 2 >

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMISSIONER ALISON HEINEMEIER

By Bob Grafe

The next few editions of the Kingsbury Independent will each include a “Spotlight” article on a member of the Kingsbury City Commission.

Everything is new ... at least once! And that was what crossed my mind as I and about another 80 or so friends and relatives of Alison Heinemeier watched as she raised her right hand and repeated the oath of office, administered by Guadalupe County Judge Kyle Kutscher, as one of the first three elected officials of the newest liberty city in the State of Texas now known as the City of Kingsbury.

The taller than typical willowy Texas transplant, with that natural southern smile, never displayed even a hint that for the majority of her adult life she resided in New York City as a visual artist.

No, Alison is not one of them there

“Yankees” ... and, my guess is that her artistic talent, friendliness and natural work ethic made her a valuable contributor to her part of the Big Apple.

But, still, sort-of-Yankee to country girl to darn near a pure, if morphed, Texan is at least unique to some eyes. And, the local eyes of Texas were certainly upon her when she swore that oath of office to the City of Kingsbury a couple of months back.

Begs the question ... why? Why a City of Kingsbury Commissioner?

Simple answer from a talented and complicated New York transplant: “In a small town, everyone needs to do their part.”



Commissioner Heinemeier taking the oath of office

And when you think of the city that never sleeps—New York City—with its wide array of five boroughs and loosely designated villages, everyone really does need to “do their part” to keep some semblance of cohesion and unique identity for their individual communities.

It seems that this never-quite-citified young lady with an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Purchase State University in New York and a master’s degree in fine arts from the School of Fine Arts in New York City, found her soul mate/ husband, Shane, where her heart was—in art—and they just happened to meet in “the city!”

As Alison and Shane began to share their lives together, they quickly realized that their combined interest in

the arts coupled with their growing love for the open spaces of many parts of the State of Texas (where Shane grew up), had developed into a strong magnet pulling them to a small part of the earth’s surface near the small but independent community of Kingsbury, Texas located on FM 1104—part of Shane’s original family farm for many years.

Now known as “Habitable Spaces,” a developing arts residency facility with a focus on permaculture and all-around sustainable living possibilities, Alison and Shane pour equal amounts of sweat equity into the unique program that has attracted dozens of artists from around the U.S. and abroad.

Alison’s visual arts (painting, sculpting and drawing) have developed into a very gifted focus on sculpture. The side benefit to that talent is her equally talented abilities when it comes to constructing everything from habita-

Continued on Page 7 >

FROM THE MAYOR

By Shirley Nolen

I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about the feedback from the survey that Kingsbury has been running. The survey can be found on the Kingsbury website at www.kingsburytexas.org and will continue to be accessible for some time into the future.

The survey was started to get an idea of what is most important to the citizens of Kingsbury and the area. It consists of six statements and allows the user to rate each one on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being Very Important and 10 being Not Very Important. It also allows the user to enter in an item of importance to them that isn't already in the list.

So what's most important to us? The top four items that got the most #1 votes are:

1. Having a minimal amount of city code requirements.
2. Annexation of historic down-

town Kingsbury.

3. Keeping our taxation rate low or having no taxes at all.
4. Allowing for the annexation of surrounding homes/properties/businesses that want to join Kingsbury.

For anyone living in the Kingsbury area, I don't think this is any kind of surprise. In fact, it affirms how most of us feel that have chosen to live here—we don't want government intrusion either through taxation or codes and statutes, we want the town to include everything we've always considered to be part of Kingsbury, and we want to be part of that town ourselves.

The Kingsbury City Commission has been working since day one to accomplish just that. And, actually, prior to "day one", the Kingsbury Incorporation Committee was formed to ultimately achieve these same goals through incorporating

the City of Kingsbury. Rest assured, we will continue to work toward the goals identified as the most important by the people of Kingsbury.

As I mentioned, the online survey also allows the user to type in anything they feel is important that may not already be in the survey. We have gotten a lot of input there and even some well wishes.

Several people suggested restoration of buildings, especially downtown buildings and the school. The City of Kingsbury currently does not include the downtown area since that is still in the Seguin ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction). I would love to see area buildings look better, but there is not much we can do about that right now.

Another suggestion that came up several times in the survey is having more events in the downtown area. I love this idea because it gets the area residents together. We get busy in our daily tasks and don't often get



the chance to gather and have a little fun together, talk, and meet your neighbors. The Fall Harvest Festival is an annual event in November, and this past year we had a "Birthday Party" for the new city of Kingsbury. We would love to hear your ideas for some fun events downtown!

Keep letting us know what's on your mind and what is key to you as a citizen of Kingsbury so that we can keep focus on what's important.

BILL OF RIGHTS (Continued from Page 1)

whether they need the revenue or not. Under a Municipal Bill of Rights, this could be changed to require that all tax increases require voter approval. Frankly, if you cannot convince a majority of voters that the higher taxes are necessary, they probably are not. A Municipal Bill of Rights could prohibit some practices altogether, such as involuntary annexation. Other protections could include removing certain subject areas from the City's jurisdiction, such as removing the ability to enact certain land use restrictions, fire arms restrictions or bag bans."

At its February regular meeting, members of the City Commission discussed the need to solidify a limited form of government into law. The consensus was clear that the current elected officials intend to operate the city in accord with limited government principles, but concern was raised about future City Commissions.

City Attorney Martinez de Vara said, "We have seen other Liberty City's lose steam. In Von Ormy, for example, since its original leadership left office, the city has drafted back to-

wards typical small town policies. I think the founding fathers understood this tendency of government to grow and for political officials to grab power, which is why they insisted on a Bill of Rights. Likewise in Kingsbury, the residents may trust that their current officials are of like mind as them, but in order to ensure that the people's rights and liberties will be safeguarded well into the future, those rights and liberties must be guaranteed in the law."

Kingsbury was incorporated in 2015 by residents seeking to preserve its way of life and stave off encroachment by Seguin and San Marcos. Nearly all supporters of the new city have expressed a desire to maintain a limited form of government. Among the first activities undertaken by the new city government in Kingsbury was to survey residents on various topics, including taxation, city services and their view of the role of government. The feedback received will have a significant role in drafting Kingsbury's Municipal Bill of Rights.

Under a Municipal Bill of Rights, residents would still have to abide by all Federal and State laws State and regulations, but would not have additional regulations from the city. It

would also provide additional protections against excessive public debt and taxation. Such an achievement in the preservation of individual liberties would be a significant event in public discussion of municipal overreach in Texas. With a Municipal Bill of Rights, Kingsbury is on the vanguard of the Liberty City movement in Texas — which seeks to reign in municipal governments and maximize individual rights.

Residents are encouraged to share their ideas and thoughts by contacting members of the City Commission and/or bringing them to the March 21st meeting where the Bill of Rights will be discussed. Contact information can be found at www.kingsburytexas.com

Martinez de Vara said, "If you want to live in a place with high taxes and regulation, you can move to Austin or San Antonio. But where in Texas can you move to where your individual liberties are guaranteed and the government is limited? That place may soon be Kingsbury."



A Lone Star Community Newspaper

Published quarterly (more or less) since 2014.

Volume 3, Number 1 February 2016

Editor-in-Chief: Bob Grafe

For advertising information:

Phone: (210) 622-0323

NOTICE OF MEETINGS REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE KINGSBURY CITY COMMISSION

Regular Meetings of the Kingsbury City Commission are scheduled for the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Kingsbury Baptist Church located at 6901 FM 2438, Kingsbury, TX 78638

These meetings are open to the public. Come learn more about your government and the future of our community.

For more information, visit us at www.kingsburytexas.com

CITIZEN OF KINGSBURY

JOHNNY HARBORTH

What is your full name?

"My full name is John Wayne Harborth, but everyone calls me 'Johnny'."

Where did you go to school?

"I went to the Kingsbury school for six years and then to school in Seguin for six years."

What is your current occupation?

"I am currently semi-retired. I own and operate the Circle 2 Cedar Company here in Kingsbury."

Alaska or Hawaii?

"Alaska. I like the Inuit people."

Houseboat or ski boat?

"Ski boat. I can fish out of a ski boat. A bass boat would be better!"

RV or tent?

"Tent. I have a two-man teepee that is great. We also use it when we're cooking for the fire department Bar-B-Q."

Who would you want with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

"Well I'd hate to be stranded on a desert island to start with! But I guess it would be somebody that could feed me!"

Where would you like to go that you have never been?

"Oregon. I've heard a lot about it and I've heard it is beautiful up there."

What is your favorite memory?

"Oh, I have a lot of favorites! I guess one of the best is when I won the bull riding event in Austin in 1961. It was the first time I had entered a bull riding event and I ended up winning."

Do you have a favorite author or book?

"*Carry the Wind*. It's a book about mountain men. The author is Terry C. Johnston and I've read everything he's ever written."

What has been your biggest challenge?

"I guess that would be getting out of the Marine Corps and getting started in life. I didn't have any

idea on what to do or how to do it."

What has been your biggest success?

"I guess that would be kind of getting to where I'm at now. All the kids are alive and well and doing good. And I have a great bunch of grand-kids."

What one thing would you change if you had it to do over?

"Probably a bunch of stuff! But I guess I wouldn't throw my Dutch oven grill off the pier at Port Mansfield."

(I'm sure there's quite the story behind this answer, but that is for another time.)

If you could travel back in time, what year would you travel to?

"Probably about 1966. I was getting out of the Marine Corp and everything was brand new for me. I had my own piece of land and it was a new era for me—a new start."

How would your friends describe you?

"Depends on which friends! They'd probably say I'm always looking for a good time—bad times ain't nothing to have!"

What do you do off the clock just for fun?

"I fly racing pigeons. I belong to a racing pigeon club and I train homing pigeons. You start by taking them out just a short ways from home and they get kind of a map of the area. Then you start taking them out farther and farther. I have some pigeons that have won 500 mile races."

What is your favorite TV show and movie?

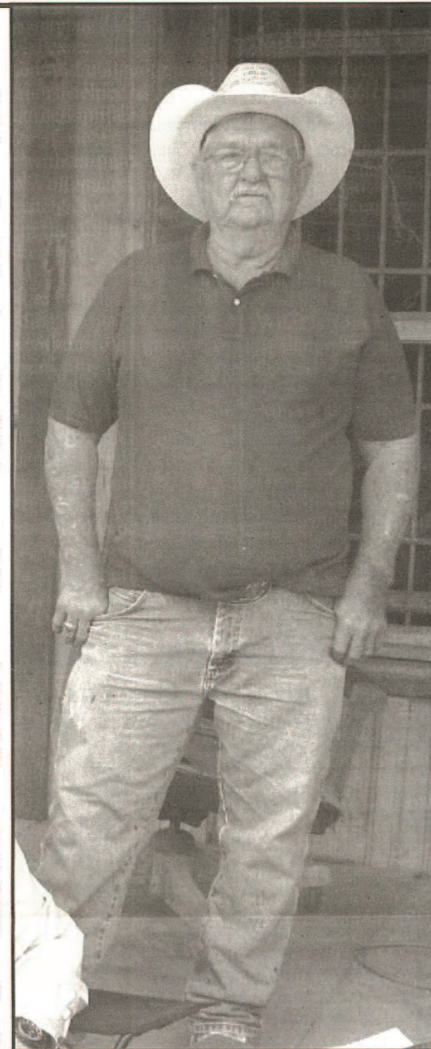
"Everybody says *Lonesome Dove* so I think I'll say *Jeremiah Johnson* with Robert Redford. That is such a fascinating story and I have a friend that is Crow, which is the tribe that had the ongoing feud with Jeremiah Johnson. The Crow still don't like to talk about Johnson."

What is something about yourself that others may not know?

"What people don't know about me ain't worth tellin'! 'Doc' Schmidt would say that you're getting downright personal now."

What is the best advice you have ever received?

"The thing about advice is that by the time you find out if it's good or bad advice, it's usually too



late."
(That's what you call advice about advice!)

BLAKE BERTLING

Equipment Rental & Repair

851 E. IH 10
Seguin, TX 78155
Office (830) 372-2610
Cell (830) 560-6292



STEPHEN JOHNSON
Owner
www.kirbyskormer.com
Kirbys Kormer on Facebook

606 N. 123 Bypass
Seguin, Texas 78155
830.379.6031

2220 N Hwy 46
Seguin, Texas 78155
www.agrimartah.com



GRAY MOSIER

830-372-5252
fax 830-372-5254
cell 512-694-0120
sales@agrimartah.com

KINGSBURY CAFE
Texas T-Wang
830-639-4303

Bring this coupon in for a FREE half appetizer with purchase of One adult entree!

Valuation Service Company

Real Estate Appraising & Consulting
Serving Guadalupe, Bexar, and surrounding counties

Robert E. "Bob" Grafe - Managing Appraiser

State Certified General Appraiser
Email: reg@valuationservicecompany.com

P.O. Box 218
Kingsbury, TX 78638
Cell: 830.743.3399

800 Broadway
San Antonio, TX 78215-1517
Office: 210.858.1304

SONG RIDERS STUDIO



Ladd Nolen: Owner
Larry Nolen, Jr.: Engineer

512.557.9959
songridersstudio@gmail.com
www.songridersstudio.com

LIFE IN KINGSBURY

By George Hext

It was a hot day in July, 1997. My family and I had just moved into our new brick home in Kingsbury. Our furniture and other items had been delivered. Our garage was packed with boxes. Our living area was slightly in disarray. We had moved our piano the day before into the spot close to our front door. My wife and I were in our bedroom when we heard the musical tune of "Fur Elise" sound throughout the hallway. The tune was familiar to us because our eldest daughter had played that tune numerous times on our piano, and she was living now in Boise, Idaho. My wife and I looked at each other, and we both appeared spooked. We both thought it was really strange that we had heard the

tune, seemingly from our piano. We cautiously emerged from the bedroom and walked toward the piano. The tune had stopped but, as we approached the piano the music started again. To our relief we realized that it was our door bell. So, I walked over to our front door and opened it.

There, standing was an older gentleman with a slight grin on his face and twinkling eyes, and he said, "Hello, my name is Vernon. I need to tell you something about newspaper delivery. Let's walk over to the mailbox."

I thought to myself, yeah, I should know where my paper would be delivered. So, we walked in silence to the mailbox which was located by the road near the front entrance. The elderly gentlemen had parked his car on the side of the road. His wife was in the car pa-

tiently waiting for her husband, I surmised.

Then, Vernon turns to me and said, "See those two white boxes under your mailbox. That is where MY newspapers are delivered. And, if it is raining, I would appreciate it if you would place the newspapers in that mailbox attached to that mesquite tree."

I cannot describe my expression of surprise. Here I was standing by my mailbox and this elderly gentleman was telling me what was expected of me concerning his newspaper deliveries. I looked where he had pointed, and on my side of the fence was this mesquite tree that leaned close to my fence line. There, just above the fence was an aluminum mail box attached to my tree.

I was shocked, and I must have mumbled "okay."

Vernon grinned and then said, "I belong to the Methodist Church here in Kingsbury. Why don't you come by and visit."

I told him that I was Baptist. Then to my surprise he said, "That's okay, services start at 9:00 a.m. We're out by 10 o'clock, and we beat those Baptists to breakfast every Sunday."

I couldn't help myself, and I laughed. He grinned, climbed into his car and drove off. So, that is the story I have of my reception into the Kingsbury community, and how I became a Methodist for 15 years, and I am sticking to that story. Vernon and I became friends and brothers in Christ.

Ode to the Gardens of Winter

By Bob Grafe

*Our not so quite chilly winter of 2016,
Is now almost mere history,
Or so to the gardener it might be;*

*With today's warming breeze,
Now nearing 75 at 5 past 5 degrees,
Barely alive now my poor broccoli;*

*The cabbage, the onions, parsley,
Cauliflower, brussel sprouts, a medley,
Now harvested, our bounty aplenty;*

*I'm in awe of my long winter companions,
And inwardly dread their final abandons,
They and the bee to be kept me healthy;*

*But the warmth of Spring is closing in,
Carrots, beets, lettuce, been a plant 'n,
And more, soon to germinate, you'll see;*

*So, thank you dear vegetable friends,
You delight in asking little as you end,
A bit of God's mystery, you must be!*

RECIPE CORNER**Caicio e Pepe (Cheese & Pepper)**

Kosher salt
6 oz. pasta—angel hair works great
3 Tbsp unsalted butter, cubed
1 tsp freshly cracked black pepper
3/4 cup finely grated Parmesan
1/3 cup finely grated Pecorino

Bring 3 quarts water to a boil in a 5 quart pot. Season with salt; add pasta and cook, stirring occasionally, until about 2 minutes before tender. Drain, reserving 3/4 cup pasta cooking water.

Meanwhile, melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large heavy skillet over medium heat. Add pepper and cook, swirling pan until toasted, about 1 minute. Add 1/2 cup reserved pasta water to the skillet and bring to a simmer. Add pasta and remaining butter. Reduce heat to low and add the Parmesan, stirring and tossing with tongs until melted. Remove pan from heat, add the Pecorino, stirring and tossing until cheese melts, sauce coats the pasta, and pasta is al dente (add more pasta water if sauce seems dry). Transfer pasta to warm bowls and serve.

Add a salad and crusty bread for a great meal!

Crusty Artisan Bread

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons kosher salt (not table salt)
1/2 teaspoon dry yeast (active dry or highly active dry work best)
1-1/2 cups lukewarm water

Special cookware needed: Dutch oven or any large oven-safe dish/bowl and lid.

In large bowl, stir together the flour, salt, and yeast. Stir in water using a wooden spoon until the mixture forms a shaggy but cohesive dough. Do not over-work the dough. The less you "work" it, the more soft fluffy air pockets will form.

Cover bowl tightly with plastic wrap.

Let dough sit at room temperature for 8 to 24 hours. Dough will bubble up and rise.

After dough is ready, preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place your Dutch oven, uncovered, into the preheated oven for 30 minutes. White Dutch oven preheats, turn dough onto a well-floured surface. With floured hands, form the dough into a ball. Cover dough loosely with plastic wrap and let rest.

After the 30 minutes are up, carefully remove Dutch oven. With floured hands, place the bread dough into it (you can put a piece of parchment paper under the dough if your Dutch oven isn't enamel coated). Replace cover and bake for 30 minutes covered. Carefully remove cover and bake for 7 to 15 minutes more, uncovered. Carefully remove bread to a cutting board and slice with a bread knife.

Pineapple Dessert

1 box yellow cake mix
1 Tbsp Crisco
1-1/2 cup water
2 large or 3 medium eggs

Mix all above and pour batter into greased cookie sheet or jelly roll pan. Bake in a pre-heated 350 degree oven, until light brown. Cool.

1 large box vanilla Jello pudding
2 cups milk

Bring both to a boil. Cool.

1/2 cup butter
3/4 cup white sugar

Beat together butter and sugar until sugar is dissolved. Add the cooled pudding and combine. Spread mixture over cake and refrigerate.

Prior to serving, top with one can of drained pineapple filling and sprinkle with nuts.



Congratulations
 To the
new City of
Kingsbury and the
inaugural City Commission!

— From the Schmidt Family

Leonora Kuhn, Margaret Taylor, Jackie Ball, ViVi Pennington

KINGSBURY ROOTS RUN DEEP IN TEXAS PAST

Compiled by W.D. Medlin

The City of Kingsbury, incorporated in the year 2015, in Guadalupe County, Texas, traces its beginnings from Texas' colonial period to the times around the formation of the Republic of Texas, through the Battle of the Alamo, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and into more modern times to the present with its incorporation into a small town that is prepared to grow and resist being taken over by the surprising and rapid expansion of a neighboring city.

When Stephen Fuller Austin, known as the father of Texas and also as the Father of The Texas Rangers, arrived in Texas in August of 1821 to take over his father's commission as land empresario (settlement agent) in Texas, there was no incorporated City of Kingsbury nor any other incorporated city. But the first colonists were already arriving.

James Jones, brother of Captain Randall Jones, was a native of Georgia and arrived with his brother at the original colonial camp on the west bank of the Brazos River on January 1, 1821. More of the Jones family followed. These first settlers and the ones that arrived soon after have come to be known in history as the "Old Three Hundred." Jones was granted land in Fort Bend County and later in Guadalupe County, near what was later to become Kingsbury. Some of the Jones family remained in the Kingsbury area. Today, almost 200 years after the first arrival, Sandra Watts (maiden name Jones) one of the direct descendants of James and Hetty Jones calls Kingsbury home. Sandra's sister Colleen Jones Harborth (deceased), Colleen's children Pam Berry and Sheryll Briggs, Sandra's grandson Gray Mosier, and Gray's three boys are all direct descendants.

One of James Jones' sons, Austin Jones (named for Stephen F. Austin) served in the Civil war. The narrative here jumps ahead from colonial times, but it is told best at this juncture. From Texas Genealogy:

"During the civil war the Jones boys made good soldiers. No better sons of the South followed the stars and bars than they. Austin was wounded at "Gaines' Mill," and he also has the distinction of being the man who turned General Lee's horse around and led him back from the front at the Wilderness. At the time, this incident was a most critical one. The battle of the Wilderness was a fearful engagement. Men were falling by thousands on both sides, and the day seemed to be going against the Confederates. General Lee was very solicitous as to the result, and forced his way on horseback ("Old Traveler") to the front, and halted between the contending lines. The Texans discovered him and commenced crying out, "General Lee, to the rear! General Lee, to the rear!" and refused to charge as long as he was thus exposed, and continued to cry out as above stated. General Lee sat his horse unmoved while the whizzing bullets filled the air around him. At this juncture Austin Jones dropped his musket to the ground and, deliberately advancing to the General, seized his bridle by the bit and led his horse back to the rear. He then picked up his gun, resumed his place in the ranks, and the Texans moved off through the smoke with leveled bayonets upon the Federal line." This writer takes quiet pride in knowing some of the Jones family descendants.

Back to the colonial era. Another early colonist was Jacob Calloway Darst. Jacob Darst was granted land along the Guadalupe River in 1831 and also held land along Darst Creek where he pastured cattle. Darst Creek and Darst Field (where there are quite a few oil wells now) and Darst Field Road are within watermelon seed spitting distance of present day Kingsbury. It is definitely conceivable that Mr. Darst rode in these Kingsbury lands and fed his family from their bounty. He died in March of 1836 fighting for Texas in the Alamo. He is claimed as a citizen of Gonzales, Texas, for his house was there. There was no city of Kingsbury

then, but we all know he was once here. An artist's rendering of his likeness is hanging on my living room wall.

One Kingsbury resident whose family tree is rooted in the Republic and the Alamo is Mr. Roger Hurt, a direct descendant of George C. Kimble (1803-1836). From Murray Montgomery's Diary: "George C. Kimbell, Alamo defender and officer of the Alamo garrison, was born in 1803. He traveled to Texas from New York in March 1825 and settled in Gonzales, where he owned and operated a hat factory on Water Street in partnership with Almeron Dickinson. He received title to one-quarter *sitio* of land on November 28, 1831. On June 26, 1832, he married Prudence Nash; they had two children. On February 23, 1836, Kimbell was mustered into the Gonzales Ranging Company of Mounted Volunteers as a lieutenant and commander of the unit. On March 1, 1836, he entered the Alamo with his company and returning members of the Alamo garrison. He took with him fifty-two pounds of coffee from Stephen Smith. Kimbell died in the battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836. Kimble County is named in his honor." Also, Mr. Roger Hurt is a fine neighbor who can hit a golf ball all the way across Highway 90 and almost into Hays County.



In addition to carrying out his empresario duties, Stephen F. Austin created the Texas Rangers. This was no small task. He was informed by the government of Mexico (Texas was a part of Mexico at the time) that he would have to provide his own protection for new settlers. He did so by raising two companies of armed men that he paid out of personal funds. After Stephen Austin's death in 1836, President Sam Houston continued to appoint Texas Rangers. Two of these individual Rangers were friends Samuel Hamilton Walker and Captain John Coffee "Jack" Hays fought in a large number of skirmishes and battles against both Indians and the Mexican Army (in both Texas and Mexico) during the 1830's and 1840's.

After Stephen Austin's death in 1836, President Sam Houston continued to appoint Texas Rangers. Two of these individual Rangers were friends Samuel Hamilton Walker and Captain John Coffee "Jack" Hays fought in a large number of skirmishes and battles against both Indians and the Mexican Army (in both Texas and Mexico) during the 1830's and 1840's. Both were wounded repeatedly over several encounters, Walker so many times that his friends called him Unlucky Walker. These men are brought up at this point because one of them (Walker) rode and soldiered with William Gilliam Kingsbury during the Mexican War, a war in which Kingsbury (who was serving as a dentist) was also wounded.

KINGSBURY, WILLIAM GILLIAM (1823-1896). William Gilliam Kingsbury, dentist, agriculturalist, and immigration agent, was born at Booncillo, Oneida County, New York, on November 6, 1823.

He attended the district school and a seminary at Cazenovia and studied dentistry in Baltimore. In January 1846 he moved to Texas to set up practice. One of his acquaintances there was the Texas Ranger Samuel Hamilton Walker, whom he accompanied to Mexico in the Mexican War; although he went along as a civilian dentist, Kingsbury received several wounds during that conflict. After the war he practiced dentistry in various West Texas towns and finally settled in 1851 in San Antonio, where he practiced for the next twenty-five years.

His writings about Texas caused the governor to appoint him commissioner of immigration, and as long as the Bureau of Immigration existed he was stationed in St. Louis. He represented several railroads in Europe; with headquarters in London from 1875 to 1884, he also used the title of

Continued on Page 6 >

REMEMBERING KINGSBURIANS WE'VE LOST

Dorothy "Dotti" Mae Contreras — "Dotti" Contreras, 70, of Kingsbury, passed away on December 20, 2015. Dotti, who graduated from University of Maine, Presque Isle, began her teaching career in Limestone, Maine, teaching 6th grade. It was in 1983 that she met the love of her life, Dr. George Hext Contreras, a United States Air Force pilot. They married in Caribou, ME in 1984 and left for Panama. While in Panama, she taught at Curundu Elementary, a Department of Defense Dependent School as well as courses at Panama Community College. In 1988, the couple moved to Rome, New York where Dotti earned a Masters Degree from Syracuse University as a counselor in Vocational Rehabilitation which she used as a teacher and counselor

at the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, Utica, NY. In 1995, they moved to Kingsbury and Dotti went to work teaching at Stockdale ISD where she eventually retired. As a teacher she instilled in her students the mottos "Integrity" and "Attitude Determines Success." During her summers off, Dotti would go back to Hermit Island, ME to camp, hike, and visit her children and grandchildren in Portland, ME & Voorheesville, NY. Dotti is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her loving husband of 31 years, George; children John F. McDonald, Jeffrey P. McDonald and wife Muriel, Shauna Worthley and husband Mike, Barbara Leigh Davis and husband Will; grandchildren Sydney Worthley, Christopher Worthley, Anastasia McDon-

ald, Brenden Davis, Conway Davis, and Ryan Davis; siblings, Jeannie Daniels, Barbara Packard, Stephen Packard, as well as numerous other loving family members.

Becky A. Guelker — Becky A. Guelker, age 84 of Kingsbury, passed away on November 27, 2015. A private interment was held at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. She was born November 26, 1931 in Greenville, Texas to Charles Isreal Polk and Lola Jane (Love) Polk. She is preceded in death by her loving husband Jack Guelker and her parents. Survivors include her sons, David G. Guelker, William Heins, and Patrick B. Heins and wife Melissa; six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

KINGSBURY ROOTS (Continued from Page 5)

Texas land and emigration agent. He is credited with having induced thousands of people, largely from England, Ireland, and Scotland to immigrate to Texas by his speeches, pamphlets, articles, and books, published in several languages.

Editions of his pamphlet *A Description of South-Western and Middle Texas* were published in London in 1878 and 1883. Kingsbury was also active in the field of agriculture and stock raising and wrote articles on these subjects. He served as corresponding secretary for the Agricultural, Stock-raising, and Industrial Association of Western Texas in the 1870s and pioneered ideas on the silo system of storing feed. In 1872 Governor Edmund J. Davis appointed him one of three representatives of Texas at the 1873 Vienna World's Fair. Kingsbury and his wife, Elizabeth, had three sons. He died on September 11, 1896, and was buried in the City Cemetery in Boerne. Kingsbury in Guadalupe County was named for him. (from: William Kingsbury in The Texas State Historical Association.)

According to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Museum, during the 1840's one of the men who served with William Gilliam Kingsbury in the Mexican war, Capt. John Coffee "Jack" Hays, a surveyor of land who surveyed enormous tracts of land on what was then called the "southwest frontier" which at the time (1840's) was in central Texas. There was no settlement of Kingsbury as yet, but land surveying was happening, and there was a trading post. The Ragsdale Trading Post that appears on the Commemorative Map of The Republic of Texas 1845 is in the location of the present day Kingsbury postal zip code area, and the Ragsdale Trading Post is mentioned in Genealogy.com as being set up on land issued as payment by the state of Texas to one Peter C. Ragsdale for surveying services in 1846. Descendants of Peter C. Ragsdale from this area were Clyde and Garland Powers, his maternal great grandsons. Interestingly, there was a Powers' Corner containing a Powers Store that burned in a fire in the town of Kingsbury in the early 1900's. It is mentioned in documents, and shown in a photograph, all in the possession of Kingsbury citizen Margaret Taylor and is in the handed down verbal history repeated by Kingsbury's respected senior citizens. That store was very possibly the original trading post or an extension of it, making what was to be Kingsbury a frontier trading post in 1845 or before.

Another link to Kingsbury's history is Captain John H. Rogers (1863-1930) listed in The Texas Rangers Hall of Fame web site and born in Kingsbury. Rogers first enlisted in the Rangers in September 1882 serving under Capt. S. A. McMurray in Company B. He served until December of 1883. In the spring of 1884 he reenlisted. This time he was serving in Company F under Capt. Joe Shely. In 1889 he was promoted to sergeant and to Captain on October 1892.

In 1885, Rogers was involved in his first close Ranger encounter with outlaws. Capt. Scott and Company F were ordered to Brown County to try and put a stop to the fence cutting activities in the area. Coming upon a group of outlaws in the act of cutting a fence, the Rangers opened fire, leaving two fence cutters dead.

Later, a shoot out with the Conners gang would leave Rogers, Scott and Sgt. Brooks wounded and Ranger Jim Moore dead. Rogers was again wounded in the line of duty in Laredo where he was enforcing quarantine regulations during a smallpox epidemic. This wound to his shoulder required the removal of a short length of bone from his arm. To compensate for his shortened and weakened arm, Rogers carried a specially constructed Winchester.

Capt. Rogers resigned from the Ranger force in 1911. In 1913 he was appointed U. S. Marshall over the Western District of Texas. He served in this position for eight years. In 1927 he was recalled as a Captain in the Ranger service, a position he held until his death in Temple, Texas, on November 11, 1930. (From Texas Hall of Fame website)

Sam Neel, an agent for English settlers, built a home near the site of an already forming but unnamed Kingsbury in the early 1870s. The Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway came through in 1875 and a post office was opened that year with Mark W. Izard as postmaster. The townsite was laid out in 1875 and named for railroad official William Kingsbury. By the mid-1880s the settlement had a steam gristmill, a cotton gin, a general store, a church, a district school, and a population of 130. In 1904 the population had risen to 346, and the town had two one-teacher schools for fifty-nine black students and two schools and three teachers for 123 white students. (City of Kingsbury website)

Kingsbury has produced some excellent poets, and storytellers, and researchers of history. A few examples are provided here.

From researcher Margaret Schmidt Taylor and researcher and writer Margaret Donsbach and from the Wolfshohl diary we have this work cit-

ing the disastrous fire of 1911: "About 4 in the morning of December 21, 1911, a fire broke out in Martin Flynn's saloon in Kingsbury, Texas. Albert Wolfshohl wrote in his diary that a hundred men, women and children formed a bucket brigade to fight the fire, and recent rains helped limit its spread. Nevertheless, by six o'clock everything was burned to the ground from Mill's shop to Powers corner."

Luther Merriwether's and Martin Flynn's businesses burned, with no insurance to cover losses. Dr. Williams lost three buildings. Volunteers managed to save about \$300 worth of dry goods from Jesse Lynch's store, but most of his stock burned with the building. Insurance covered only a fraction of his losses.

The town survived. The day after Christmas, Jesse Lynch began building a new store over the burned remains of the old one. Four days later, on December 30, he opened with a few groceries for sale.

Marvin Jackson, a well-liked black cowboy and self-taught guitar picker, turned his memories of the night Kingsbury burned into this song. Leslie Baker, who heard him sing the song, has saved it for generations yet unborn by reconstructing it from memory and writing it down. "These may not be the exact words" Leslie says, "but they are as I remember hearing him sing and play."



Before the fire. Mr. Powers shown sitting at Powers corner.

THE NIGHT OLD KINGSBURY BURNED

by Marvin Jackson

Recalled by Leslie Baker

I was sitting on the corner
Picking my guitar
When I looked across the street
And the smoke was black as tar.

The moon would go away
And only the smoke seemed to stay.
Solid, yea.

Then people started screaming
And the town came alive
And all that saw said,
"We can't survive."

When the morning smoke had gone
And the day had come to be
Half the town was gone
What was left was sad to see.

A few folks were crying
Some just came to look
My guitar strings were broken
And the gin was kind of low.

There's nothing for me now
So I'll just have to go.

Kingsbury was already well known for its Bar-B-Q as long ago as 1910. In that year it hosted a very big Bar-B-Q for a series of political speeches by politicians leading up to the state wide elections. A poem was written for the event by George R. Dix, Justice of the Peace for Precinct One of Guadalupe County (largely a Kingsbury precinct). In 1972 Doc Schmidt of Kingsbury and County Clerk of Guadalupe county in '72 got this poem out of his scrapbook and gave it to the Seguin Gazette which published it. His father John Schmidt is said to have furnished the Bar-B-Q for the 1910 gathering. John Schmidt came to Guadalupe County in 1854 as an infant and to the Kingsbury area of the county in 1867, making him and his parents Johannes and Anna founding settlers of Kingsbury. There were 10 children of Johannes and Anna Schmidt. Margaret Schmidt Taylor, who researches Kingsbury history meticulously and tirelessly lives here now and is Doc Schmidt's daughter and John Schmidt's granddaughter. There are a number of Schmidt descendants in the area, including the first mayor of the newly incorporated City of Kingsbury, Shirley Perryman Nolen, Margaret's niece.

Portions of Mr. Dix's lengthy poem are included here.

KINGSBURY BARBECUE
George R. Dix

Along the S.P. Road there stands

Continued on page 7 >

KINGSBURY ROOTS (Continued from Page 6)

A progressive little town;
Tis filled with energetic folks
And rich land all around.
Its well filled stores and cotton gins,
A lumber yard as well
A drugstore and barber shop,
A blacksmith and hotel.

July the 19th, in the morn,
The birds their songs did sing;
From north to south, from east to west,
Glad tidings to all did bring
For Kingsbury with open arms did say,
Come to the sumptuous feast,
I welcome young, I welcome old,
From great, down to the least....

Now some expected, failed to come,
I'm sure I don't know why,
Unless they thought that Kingsbury town
Would be too awful dry.
The tent was filled up to the brim,
Of every rank and station;
But where o where was our honored friend,
The old time Carrie Nation?
The piled up plates of juicy beef,
Were placed along the table
And every one could stand and eat
As long as they were able....

Local resident Kathy Dix Brady is a descendant of the poet George Dix.

And to current resident of the City of Kingsbury, Johnny Harborth, we owe our thanks for this first hand account of an authentic Kingsbury Bar-B-Q back in the late 1940's:

"SCHMIDT SOP"
By Johnny Harborth
August 2015

"The Kingsbury VFD Bar-B-Q is unique in one way – the sop. The sop story is one hundred years old and more.

"I received the recipe from Mr. Frank (Doc) Schmidt who got it from his father John Schmidt. Doc Schmidt gave me the recipe and instructions on cooking it about thirty years ago when he became ill. He was glad that someone wanted to carry on the tradition. There were a few critics at the time that didn't care and some who wanted to get rid of it entirely, but not many.

"The recipe was formulated back in the days when fed cattle were not like what we get today. They killed a calf or calves when

a celebration was to happen. Sop has tenderizing properties that make it possible to have tender Bar-B-Q off of a good fleshed range animal. It has a combination of good fresh vegetables and spices and, after the meat is cooked done, it is poured over the bite sized chunks. The meat in pots with the sop thru and thru is kept simmering on the pit and continues to cook and make a gravy and becomes more tender, keeping the wood-cooked flavor that makes good Bar-B-Q. The recipe for 35 gallons has not changed one lemon slice since I have been putting it together with the help of my kids and friends for the last thirty plus years.

"My first memory of a Doc Schmidt Bar-B-Q was sometime in the forties at a cattle dipping at the dipping vat south of Kingsbury. Where is the dipping vat? If you'd asked me that in the 50's, I'd of said, "It's down there just past the end of the pavement." (pointing) Not many people are left who know where that is. At that time the vat was owned by the county and people brought their cattle there and ran them through a chute that ended where the animals were jumped off into a concrete vat with insect killer. The cattle would go under and get totally wet and climb a ramp on the other end. There were other vats all over the county built by the government in an effort to get rid of the fever tick that was a problem back then. People got together, brought their cattle and had a community dipping. It was quite a show.

My first dipping to go to is still clear, as my mama took me and my little sister there for dinner. That's before dinner got moved to supper time. (I hate that.) I remember going by the trench on the North side of the pens, where Mr. Frank Schmidt and crew were cooking the Bar-B-Q, and then going back to the dipping area. Mama had us kids in tow watching the cattle go through. Towards the end of that bunch of cattle a little 150-200 pound calf (Hereford) was urged in and went under. This got my attention. What made it more interesting was the next animal was the biggest Durham looking bull I'd ever seen. The bull jumped over the calf sending dip (water with tick killer) up in the air. My mama screamed, causing everyone to look in our direction. It probably didn't embarrass anybody but my dad.

"Now you are wondering what happened to the little calf? Well the bull scrambled onto the concrete slab in the out pen, and up bobbed the calf to everyone's relief (mainly mine), and he also crawled out onto the slab.

That was the tail end of the dipping and we went back to the Bar-B-Q where everyone was gathering. As I recall the beans and the Bar-B-Q were cooked there and people brought the other sides and desserts. That was my first time to sample Bar-B-Q made with "Doc Schmidt 'SOP.'" Please don't confuse sop with sauce because this design of Bar-B-Q is put together to be eaten just this way. The red sauce you see there today arrived after Mr. Frank was gone, and that's another story."

That sop, good readers, is a part of what makes the annual Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department Bar-B-Q so great today.



It's been said that this is the first picture taken of Kingsbury. The dog sleeping on the porch does not appear impressed.

SPOTLIGHT (Continued from Page 1)

ble buildings, to fencing, to drainage berms, to barns and much more.

While husband Shane currently puts in many hours weekly at the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, his "free" time is devoted to helping to care for their growing number of farm animals, gardens and orchard. And with the remainder of his "free" time, this husband and soulmate to one of the two City of Kingsbury Commissioners is Alison's number one partner in the planning and developing of Habitable Spaces—when Shane is not on duty with the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire De-



Commissioner Heinemeier with poultry at Habitable Spaces

partment.

Does Shane ever sleep?

From the very beginning of the thought process of what was to become the Kingsbury Incorporation Committee, and then later, by local citizen vote, the City of Kingsbury, and then by election to office, Alison Heinemeier exemplifies what an important part of U.S. citizenship really is; where "everyone needs to do their part."

And that's our KI Spotlight on our new City of Kingsbury Commissioner, Alison Heinemeier.

MAYOR TO RECEIVE

COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD

The Kingsbury Lodge #887 has resolved to award the Community Builder Award to Mayor Shirley Nolen, the first mayor of Kingsbury, Texas. This award was designed by the Grand Lodge Texas to recognize outstanding non-Masons who have distinguished themselves through their service to the community, to the local, state, or national government, to their house of worship, or to humanity.

As it happens, Mayor Nolen's great-grandfather, Joseph Jefferson Mansfield, lawyer, county official, and congressman, was the Grand Master of Texas Masons in 1912-1913.

Kingsbury Lodge #887 is a Regular and Recognized masonic lodge and was founded on December 8, 1904.



WANT TO KNOW MORE
ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN
KINGSBURY?

Check out the Kingsbury website at: www.kingsburytexas.org

• Pictures

• Facts About Kingsbury

• News Articles

• Kingsbury Weather

• Blog / Journal

• Kingsbury Independent Newspaper

• Upcoming Events



• Online Survey

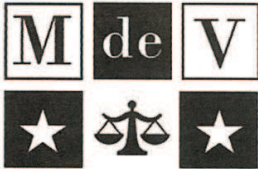
• Kingsbury Calendar

• Contact Information

• City Commission Schedule &
Agendas



Click on the little dog at the bottom of any page to sign up for the Kingsbury eMail Information Newsletter!



THE MARTINEZ DE VARA
LAW FIRM, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

CALL (210) 622-0323 TODAY FOR CONSULTATION

Business Law

Real Estate and Deeds

Wills and Probate

Contracts and Collections

Landlord/Tenant

Family Law

Criminal Law/DWI

Traffic Tickets/CDL

Personal Injury

Immigration

(210) 622-0323 | 13940 Benton City Rd., Von Ormy | www.mdv-law.com



TO ADVERTISE IN THE KINGSBURY INDEPENDENT

CALL 210-622-0323 TODAY!