

WCGS NEWSLETTER

Washington County Genealogical Society of Texas

www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org

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Information

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[Use this link to subscribe or to renew your membership.](#)

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Veterans Research

Below is a list of WWI veterans from Washington County. The Washington County Historical Museum is looking for WCGS members who are interested in researching the lives of these men. Your research will be compiled by the museum staff as part of their commemoration of the centennial of the war. If you are interested, email us at wcgs@bluebonnetgenealogy.org and we will compile a list to give to Doug Price.

Veterans who survived the war:

- Otto and Willie Jurries
- Thomas Sweed
- Gus Fink
- Willie Blum
- Michael Krolczyk

Gold Star Veterans who did not return:

- Henry Fieseler, Jan 29, 1896-Oct 24, 1918
- Hilliard Murray, Aug 31, 1895-Oct 1, 1918
- Edwin Guthmann, April 12, 1894-Nov 10, 1918 (died the day before the armistice)
- Henry Schaer Jr., July 26, 1886-Sept 8, 1918
- Hillary Dupree, Dec 2, 1887-Oct 10, 1918

What You Missed

The WCGS met at Blinn College Student Center at 7:15 on Monday, April 3, 2017. There were 24 in attendance.

The speaker for the meeting was Doug Price, Director of the Washington County Historical Museum who spoke on "Brenham and Washington County in World War I." Some points he shared included:

- Many of our later veterans of WWI and WWII received

Looking Forward

The next meeting will be May 1 at **7 P.M.** in the Blinn Student Center. The program will be Pioneer Women of Washington County given by Vanessa Smith and Beth Rothermel who will be presenting the program in character and costume.

Queries

We are delighted to post any research questions you may have. Contact us here.

New Members

If you know of someone with a genealogy interest, tell them about us. They can join at any time.

Memberships

Texas State Genealogical Society

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Dues Reminder

Please give Lu Hollander your 2017 dues or mail them to 2211 South Day St. Suite 105 Brenham, TX 77833. The cost is \$12 for a single person or \$18 for a couple living at the same address. [Click here for the 2017 form.](#)

their combat experience during 1912-1920's border violence with Mexico's Pancho Villa and his troops.

- Texas A & M College contributed more soldiers to the WWI battlefields than any other university.
- A famous group of patriots were the Harlem Hellfighters, a black unit from Central Texas; if your soldier was African American, he may have fought with this group.
- Major General William Graves, a Texan, was put in charge of the Expeditionary Force in Siberia, Russia and he and his men ran the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Most Americans were not aware of our participation in this campaign, as it was kept secret.

•German Americans were greatly affected as the War progressed. The KKK and Federal Government publications such as "How the War Has come to America" (translated title) were factors instrumental in discouraging the use of the German language, customs, newspapers, and restaurants. Many German Americans began to change the spelling and pronunciation of their names and gave their organizations, like churches and cemeteries new American-sounding names.

•Some of the local names of men who served in the War will be familiar: Captain Murski, Lonnie Sheppard, Fannie Foote (one of 14 black women who served in the US Navy), Kruse, Giddings, Rothermel, Hodde, Ehlert, Schroeder, Addicks, Lockett, Vieras, Winkelmann, Krause, and many others. The museum has a restored version of the book of World War I soldiers of Brenham, originally compiled by the Prairie Lea Cemetery Association, available for \$10.00. Many photos are contained in the book. There are about 50 copies left. Contact Mr. Price at the Museum if interested in a copy.

•The museum is working on making available materials for the placement of WWI Heritage Monuments. The cost will be approximately \$400. Purchasers must install the monuments and are responsible for securing permission before placement on public property.

Business Meeting

Camptown Cemetery: Eddie Harrison. Making progress on getting the deed. Most cemeteries in Texas have no deeds. Solved the issues of the cemetery boundaries. Next will come the survey; then to court.

Washington Cemetery: Jan Kelm. Six people came to help and worked on the areas that were cleaned previously. April 29 is another scheduled work day if you or friends can come to help.

Cemetery Tour: Geraldine Johnson. The committee will meet again on May 9 at noon at Yumms, and anyone who is interested is welcomed to join us. We will try to come up with a new plan.

Schools: Roy Kelm. Our meeting with Christine was rescheduled.

Old Business. Jan Kelm. The museum has given us a list of names to research concerning WWI. Let her know if you are interested in working on this (see the list above).

New Business. John Muegge suggests that if any of us know some WWI veterans' burials in local cemeteries, to contact Doug Price at the Museum. Doug is very interested in finding the two burials of the men who served the Kaiser that have German crosses on their tombstones and are buried in Washington County.

Genealogy. Susan Lake announced that a new version of Family Tree Maker is due to be released tomorrow. It is now owned by another company who is making changes and will support the product. Upgrades are about \$30 and new versions are about \$80.

Tidbit. Jan Kelm shared a Brenham newspaper editor's account of the 1914 Easter Monday celebration at Prairie Hill. This was a day long affair and was a special community gathering of area school pupils, teachers, parents and organizations such as the shooting club and local choirs. Educational programs were given and a march from the school to the Prairie Hill Hall was held. Children were given useful gifts such as pencils, US flags and handkerchiefs. This Second Easter gathering was continued well into the 1950s; Jan shared some photographs of the event which included her father. Many Brenham residents today remember their own Easter Monday celebrations.

Old Washington Cemetery Workday

We are planning another cleanup day at Washington Cemetery on Saturday, April 29. More information will be forthcoming during the week prior to the event. Think about inviting friends who are interested in county history or cemeteries. They don't have to be members of WCGS to participate.

Member Note

Members only will be receiving a separate email right before each of our meetings that will include the official minutes and treasurer's report. Please read over these before coming to the meeting noting any corrections or additions. We will NOT be presenting this information at the meeting to allow time for a genealogy research segment to be added to our regular program.