

WCGS NEWSLETTER

Washington County Genealogical Society of Texas

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**Use this link to
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Meeting Change

Because of a Blinn scheduling conflict, we have moved our meeting time 15 minutes later to 7:15 for the April meeting. In addition, the meeting will be held in the Blinn Student Center Banquet Room. This room is near our usual place. You will turn left as you enter the building instead of right. We apologize for any confusion this may create.

Website Warning

Some people have been getting a warning when trying to access our website. This problem has been resolved although it required making significant changes to our website. As a result some information may be missing until we can finish making the necessary changes.

What You Missed

The WCGS met at the Blinn College Student Center Banquet Room at 7:15 PM on Monday, March 6, 2017. There were 24 members present and no visitors.

The program's speaker was professional genealogist, Nick Cimino who spoke on "Drilling Deeper with GPS: Case Studies Demonstrating the Genealogical Proof Standard." He made these key points:

The purpose of the GPS is to show the minimums necessary for your work to be credible. The five elements of GPS are

1. Make a reasonably exhaustive search for evidence
2. Cite a source for each statement of fact.
3. Provide evidence that has been reliable and be skillfully correlated and interpreted.
4. Resolve contradictory evidence
5. Soundly reason and coherently write your conclusion

Any proof statement is subject to re-evaluation when new evidence arises.

Looking Forward

The next meeting will be April 3 at **7:15 P.M.** in the Blinn Student Center Banquet Room. Doug Price and Jo Ann Wolf will tell us about Washington County's participation in WWI as our program.

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.](#)

Cimino invited the audience to his website at www.ancestorpuzzles.com. He provided a list of good reference material to have on hand when working to prove a genealogical fact:

- *Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case* by Board for Certification of Genealogists;
- *Genealogy Standards* by Christine Rose;
- *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

Cimino then presented three puzzling cases concerning deaths in Texas, each with conflicting facts and discussed how the discrepancies might be resolved: Frank Little, Fredericka Brenner nee Eggert, and Reverend Robert S. Sloan.

Cimino cited the advice of Tom Jones found in his book *The Jigsaw Puzzle*, 2010:

- Do all the pieces belong to your puzzle?
 - Do you have all the pieces the right place?
 - With a majority of the pieces in place, a clear picture or reliable answer may emerge—even when pieces are missing.
 - Genealogical proof rests on the sum of the evidence.
- Cimino then left us with his own suggestions for success when resolving genealogical conflicting evidence:

1. Question everything.
2. Look for the original source for the fact.
3. Look for every possible source in all possible places.
4. Transcribe, analyze, and compare.
5. Write and rewrite the story based on available evidence at every phase.

Business Meeting:

Adopt-a-Cemetery.

Eddie Harrison reported making progress on the survey, deeds, and mapping of Camptown Cemetery. The mapping may be finished in March. Jan Kelm reported on the Palestine Cemetery experience; the work is being done by families of the Latter Day Saints and new tombstones were uncovered.

There will be a work day at Old Washington Cemetery Saturday, March 11. A brochure about it was handed out by JoAnn Wolf and Jan Kelm explained what equipment may be useful and personal items that might be needed for the work day. An alternate work day is March 18.

Cemetery Tour. Geraldine Johnson reports that there is still no word from Prairie Lea Cemetery board; she is inclined to interpret this as a “polite no” from them. The committee will meet again in April or May to discuss other options.

Schools. Roy Kelm will be meeting with Christine on Friday to compare and combine their knowledge about early schools in the area.

Executive Committee. The committee discussed adding a new segment to the regular meeting schedule of 10 or 15 minutes to include members’ genealogy questions. One way to add the time for this would be to dispense with the reading of the minutes and the treasurer’s report. Those reports would be sent to members by email instead. The comments were favorable for doing this.

Old Washington Cemetery Workday



We had a good day at the Washington Cemetery on Saturday, March 18. We concentrated on the part that had been cleared several years ago, mowing, weed eating, picking up logs and putting them on the pile to be burned. We discovered some stones that I’m sure had been uncovered at the last cleanup but they were covered again and were a new find for us. Lowell Herzog, our local gravestone conservator, will research to try to locate descendants of those whose stones need attention.



We are grateful to the Washington Volunteer Fire Department who will be taking the time to burn our brush pile. Several of us will continue to maintain the area that we cleared so that when we go out for a workday again, we will be ready to start in a new area. That will be the heavily wooded area that you see in the background in the photos.

Currently we are planning the next workday for Saturday, April 29. Times will be determined as we get nearer to the date and we will plan to keep you informed by email. Workers for this session were Steve Ambriz, John Barton, Trish

Cooke, Claire Goines, and Roy and Jan Kelm. We also had support from Jo Ann Wolf who provided water and other items but had to leave to attend a funeral. We hope some of you will plan to join us next time for a most rewarding day.



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.

Historical Marker



A Texas Historical Marker was dedicated on Sunday, March 19 for the Pleasant Hill School in the south part of Washington County. In the picture, Joyce Weiss is reading the inscription after the unveiling. Others who helped with the planning and the events of the day were Charles and Carolyn Sander and Donald Ray Ahrens. Several stories from the past were told. Donald Ray commented about how our communities were so tightly contained that there was a time when a bunch of kids piled into one of the teachers' cars (no seat belts) and drove "all the way to Wesley" to play ball with the kids from that school. He came

home and told his mother that "we went so very far away and I have no idea where we were." Another story was about how much kids learned simply from things other than our books. Playing dominos was a favorite of everyone and that's how many of us learned to add and subtract. It was a beautiful day and refreshments were held afterwards at the Salem Lutheran Church. This historical moment was such an incentive that some of us said "we're going home and work on a marker for our school." Think about it for your school.