

WCGS NEWSLETTER

Washington County Genealogical Society of Texas

www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org

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Information

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What You Missed

The WCGS met at Blinn College Student Center at 7:15, Monday September 11, 2017. Two of the visitors were Charles and LaJuana Murray of Fayette County who invited our members to come to LaGrange this weekend to attend the Texas Heroes Day celebration there and also to experience the Quilt Museum.

The evening's speaker, author and lawyer, John Schmutz gave a history of Hood's 5th Texas Infantry Brigade. This brigade contributed 10 companies of soldiers from East Texas who fought for the Confederacy. Mr. Schmutz mentioned the names and short biographical information of some of the Washington County troops. Just a few of them were: Rufus King Felder, of Chappell Hill; Virginius E. Petty, lawyer of Brenham; John Harrison Roberts, Thomas Anderson Baber; Leonard Gross Gee; Bolling Eldridge, owner of a grocery store in Brenham after the war and notably, the last survivor of Hood's Texas Brigade; William R. Lott, hotel and general merchandise owner- a white bean survivor of the Mier Expedition; John Nathaniel Henderson-became a lawyer and then a district Judge after the war; Burl Brown Hutcheson-a cotton gin operator who died in Brenham in 1875 and many others. Some of the engagements of Hood's Brigade were the Second Manassas, Sharpsburg at Little Round Top, and the Battle of the Wilderness. Hood's Texas men were acclaimed for their fearlessness and courage facing overwhelming odds and overcoming significant loss in their ranks. The speaker, John Schmutz, displayed and signed copies of two of his four volumes for purchasers. For those who wish to know more about his books or acquire copies them, his website is johnschmutz@sbcglobal.net.

Committees:

Adopt a Cemetery. Eddie-still working on getting the deed to

Looking Forward

The next meeting will be October 2 at **7:15 P.M.** in the Blinn Student Center. The program will be given by Sue Kaufman from the Houston Clayton Library.

Meeting Time

Our meeting time has been adjusted to 7:15 (from our previous 7 pm) to allow the class using the room ahead of us to leave and to allow time for our speakers to set up.

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.](#)

Camptown Cemetery.

Cemetery Tour- Geraldine-Our group will meet again soon to discuss possible alternative cemeteries in which to give tours such as Independence or Old Washington. In the meantime, it might be a good idea to do some favorable public relations with the Prairie Lea Cemetery board members. If you know any of them, put in a good word for our organization. Their names are: Andy Anderson, President; Karen Anderson, Jerry Kohring, Paul Ehlert, Billy Holle, Wayne Giese, Teddy Boehm, Jason Janes, David Wellman, and Clarence Gerke.

New Business- Jan is selecting people to serve on the Nominating Committee for officers for 2018. Please consider serving.

Genealogy Time- Susan Lake announced that the 2017 version of Family Tree Maker is up and functioning well. It now syncs with Ancestry data and trees. Jan mentioned that from time to time we get research questions on our website and we try to answer them. This service is also available to members as well. Also please let her know if you are interested in researching a soldier for the World War I museum project.

Announcements- Our next meeting will be Monday, October 2, at 7:15. Sue Kaufman, of Clayton Library in Houston is scheduled to speak to us. Her topic will be "Why Should I Drive to Houston to do my Family History Research?"

Tidbit- Gertrude Schroeder spoke of the use of Scrip (Script), also called Depression Money, used in the 1860s through the Great Depression. Printed on paper that could be cut apart, local businesses would issue and accept this instead of legal tender which was in short supply. She provided an example that was found at the local museum of a one, two, three dollar and fifty-cent scrip.

Washington County Historical Members Plan to Collect and Publish History of WWI Veterans

World War I – The War to End All Wars

Europe has been at war for two and one half years before the United States joined World War I in 1917. In one year, the United States expanded its military from 300,000 to more than 4.8 million soldiers. Search World War I (1917-1918) Military Records and find the history of your World War I soldier. As volunteers, and under the Selective Service Act, passed by Congress on May 8, 1917, 1100 men were enlisted from Washington County. Some saw service overseas and others served here and waited for their turn to go to the front. Thirty seven are listed as Fallen Heroes of World War I from Washington County.

Research Procedure:

1. Get communication to the people in Washington County.
2. Check cemeteries, church records, libraries, military records, etc. Collect pictures, life facts, burial site, etc.
3. Get permission for publication of the facts that you have collected.
4. Take a picture of the cemetery marker. Identify the cemetery and location.
5. Submit to Wilfred Dietrich, Washington County Historical Commission

Steve Baranowski
 P. D. Barnhill
 William Edmund Booker
 Mike Andy Brosch
 Joseph J. Cain
 Millary Dupree
 Henry Fieserler
 Sam Green, Jr.
 Edwin Guthmann
 Sigmund Gutowski
 Joseph Jalonick Harris
 Sam Levison Harris
 Martin E. Jaster
 Cornelius Jones
 Ignac Jonkowski
 Henry Kramer
 David W. Lasch
 Graham D. Luhn
 Robert E. Maass
 Henry Meyer
 Hugo W. Meyer
 Fred Mueller
 Hillard Murray
 Lee Murski
 Louis W. Prenzler
 William August Rosenbaum
 Edward F. Sander
 Henry Schaer, Jr.
 August R. Schweiss
 Lonnie Shepard
 Emmanuel Taylor
 Henry Tockhorn
 Adolph J. Wanger
 Frederick W. Weiss
 Alfred Wilson
 A. K. Wright