

# WCGS NEWSLETTER

Washington County Genealogical Society of Texas

[www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org](http://www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org)

[www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas](http://www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas)

## Information

mailing address:  
2211 South Day St.  
Suite 105  
Brenham, TX 77833

1.979.633.4848  
link to email

**Use this link to  
subscribe or to renew  
your membership.**

## 2017-18 Officers

President:  
Jan Kelm

Vice-President:  
Geraldine Johnson

Secretary:  
Vanessa Smith

Treasurer:  
Lu Hollander

Newsletter Editor:  
Susan Lake  
genealogy@susanlake.net

## Don't Forget

There's still time to renew your WCGS membership. Dues are \$12 for a single and \$18 for a couple. Make our treasurer's life easier. Bring your check to the next meeting or mail it to Lu Hollander at the following address:  
2211 South Day St.  
Suite 105  
Brenham, TX 77833

## What You Missed

WCGS met at January 8. There were twenty people present, three of whom were visitors .

Geraldine Johnson was the speaker for the evening's program. Before her talk began, she invited the audience to respond with any additional information on the history of Washington County and also to suggest future topics of talks for our meetings.

Ms. Johnson's source for the evening was a timeline of Washington County, provided by O. Z. White, P. H. D., in his book, *The History of Brenham and Washington County*, which began with the 1500s and continued through 1947. A few highlights of history:

1824-Washington County organized by the Mexican government. Saltillo was the capital

1834-our area was a part of the 3rd Dept. of Texas, with the capital at San Felipe

1820s-1840s-Stephen F. Austin began his colonization of Anglo Saxons, the Old 300, many of those from the Southern states.

1836- Washington on the Brazos, first county seat

1843-44 Hickory Grove town renamed Brenham, for Dr. Richard Fox Brenham, hero of the Mier Expedition; Brenham becomes the county seat

## Looking Forward

The next meeting will be February 5 at **7:15 P.M.** in the Blinn Student Center. The program is going to be in recognition of Black History month.

## 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 2018 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 2018 form.](#)

1850s-1890s, some communities begin and then disappear: like Silkville, where an experimental mulberry grove and silk producing farm was attempted and aborted  
1901- REA (Rural Electrification Act) brought the first electricity to the county

1947- the airport was dedicated

### *Business Meeting:*

Last meeting's minutes and treasurer's report approved as sent.

The board will meet in January to make plans for the next year. Linda Jurecka and Charlene Voskamp have agreed to join the board for this coming year. We still need two more people, so please consider becoming a member. It is hoped that fresh ideas will be engendered from the new perspectives of our newest board members. If you may be interested, contact Jan or Geraldine.

President Kelm then read an article from email that was titled, "All or Nothing-the Breaking of Resolutions" The gist of the article was that instead of giving up on doing something with your genealogy because the task looms too large; strive instead for progress and not perfection; don't look at the entire task and give up. Do just a part of it and you will have progressed.

Carol and John Muegge announced the next Brenham Read book title will be Train to Crystal City, that relates the story of an interment camp there of Japanese, Germans, Italians and non-American citizens. This has not been announced to the general public as yet, so you are getting a heads up on this title selection.

### *Tidbit:*

Teddy Boehm. Naturalization records may be found in various places including: the District Clerk's office, County Clerk's office, the tax office, or in the Heritage Museum. Audience question, "now that the museum is closed, where are the records? Answer: "Still in the museum." Ms. Boehm had a suggestion that perhaps WCGS hold one of our meetings at the Nancy Carol Roberts Library and use their genealogical collection and databases.

Next meeting will be February 5th, at 7:15. The topic will likely be in keeping with Black Heritage Month.