

WCGS NEWSLETTER

Washington County Genealogical Society of Texas

www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org

www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas

Information

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link to email

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2017-18 Officers

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Jan Kelm

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Looking Ahead

Our first meeting after the summer break will be Monday, September 10 at 7 pm in the Blinn Student Center in rooms 2-3 (rather than the auditorium). This is a week later than usual because Labor Day falls on our normal meeting date. Your executive committee has been busy all summer keeping things going. Come see what's been going on.

The September program will be given by George A. Zemanek (one of our new members). He will be sharing "From Germany to Texas: The Story of the Jaeger Witte Cemetery." The Jaeger-Witte Cemetery dates back to 1895 when land was set aside by Heinrich von Bieberstein for burial purposes. Since then, the cemetery has been used by the Witte and Jaeger families. Henry Jaeger Jr. founded the Jaeger Witte Cemetery Association in the 1980s. Following his death in 2004, the Jaeger-Witte Heritage Cemetery Association was formed and now functions under the guidance of four cousins who serve as officers, Jeff Featherston, Steven Jaeger, Debbie Byrd, and George Zemanek. George encourages our genealogy members to view their website at www.jwhca.com.

Have you "saved the date" October 19, 2018 for the Genealogy Lock-In that will be hosted by the Nancy Carol Roberts Library? There will be programs every hour to meet the needs of a wide variety of researchers. Stay tuned for more details.

Queries From Website Visitors

It's been a busy summer with lots of questions coming our way. Would you like to be part of the process?

May 16

For 26 years I haven't been able to locate a death date or burial for Margarethe Charlotte Marten Husemann. The

Looking Forward

We will be starting back up the Monday after Labor Day.

Family History Fair Links

[Details](#)

[Flyer](#)

[Forms](#)

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.](#)

courthouse record shows her husband, Wilhelm Husemann's Declaration of Intent/Citizen has him arriving in Texas October 1875. His son, Bernhard, 2 daughters, one married Louis Eichholt 1873 and one married Priesmeyer, 1880 were living here. I have been back and forth with Willie Niermann in Wehdem, Germany by emails trying to figure out this mystery. Have narrowed it down to her coming with husband 1875-1879 because he married Engel Schroeder in Dec. 1879. I find no records anywhere in any church of a death or burial. In 1880 the children signed a quit claim to any property that Wilhelm and their deceased mother, Charlotte had obtained. I know there are some records missing at the Bethlehem Lutheran, Wm. Penn back then. I have found no obit either. None of us relatives have been able to locate anything. In Zionsville Lutheran records I found a Margarethe Husemann as sponsor in 1876, but I don't know if it is her because it was the opposite side of the county where the others lived. That is the only record I can find near her name. Something keeps telling me she might be buried in the Eichholt Cemetery, but I don't know where to find a record. I know that everything can't be found on the internet and have personally researched records in libraries, churches, courthouse, etc.

Vanessa Smith's response: The short answer is that I did not find any evidence of her death or burial. We have many Lutheran churches in Washington County and they are really not far apart as our county is small so that I believe the Margarethe who was a sponsor for Petty Schwacher baptism was probably yours.

It seems that Wilhelm Husemann belonged for a time to Salem Lutheran Church as did his second wife Engel. Although some of his married children belonged to other area Lutheran churches.

I checked many courthouse records, Lutheran Church books at the library, and subscription and free databases. The only item I found that might be of interest would be the death and probate notice of a Wilhelmina Husemann in 1874, Washington County. One card said "will" but there was no actual will. Could this be Margarethe under a different name?

A Henry Husemann applied for letters of administration. In looking at the census records, the immigration years are always reported differently than 1875 for the family, although Wilhelm's is shown as 1875 at the courthouse.

Perplexing folks!

I found Ben and Louisa's daughter, Sallie applying to be a guardian for her younger siblings after their parents's deaths. Sorry, not what you were hoping for.

May 26

My name is Jim Locke and I am the grandson of Joseph E Routt, the great Aggie who was killed in WWII. As my wife and I return to Chappell Hill to build our home we have been researching a lot of the Routts buried here and came across your work on the Bouldin Routt Cemetery. I was curious if you had the actual layout drawn out for the burial plots or just the listing I found online of different people buried there?

As the graves get older and older the stones are starting to fade and I think it is important to preserve that part of history.

Jan Kelm's response: It's wonderful to hear of your interest in the Bouldin Routt Cemetery. It's one that I have never been to. We began our research and documentation in 2005 in a plan to update *Cemetery Records of Washington County Texas 1826-1960* by Judy & Nath Winfield, Jr. I have not had anything turned in to me about Bouldin Routt, but there is one person who may still have some information about it. I'll check with her.

I'm assuming you've seen the information about the cemetery on Findagrave. There is a photo of information about it which says it is being taken care of by a trust. I've looked up the cemetery on the Washington County Appraisal District website and there is a property shown as R46230 which is the Bouldin Routt Cemetery. It shows that it is 2 acres and gives no information about a property owner. However, just east of that 2 acres is 1.009 acres owned by the Bouldin Trust, R17730, and gives an address for that trust as [1800 Mountainbrook Dr SE, Huntsville AL](#). You can find this info on [washingtoncad.org](#). I can also highly recommend Lowell Herzog who has a business conserving gravestones. It is his love and passion. I believe that you can see that when you look at his website. <http://www.texasgravestoneconservation.com>

Jun 18

I have really enjoyed browsing your website and the info on the birthplace of Texas as I can now say that is also the birthplace of my roots. took me 10 years before I could say that. I swear I was on my last 2 weeks of Ancestry (after 10 year brick wall) when an 80 year old man from Brenham messaged me regarding Eickenhorst name. He told me to try FamilySearch and WOW! .. Found them come in at Galveston, and found them in 1870 in Brenham Tx.

I guess my question is , Was there a process (documentation) to change your last name back then or you just did it?

1868 passenger list on Ship Iris , spelled Zenn

1870 census Zehn

1871 Will Penn baptismal Wilhelm Karl Zehn (my Ggrandfather)

1891 Washington county marriages Charles William Sain to Anna Wehl

Charles William Sain was born in Texas and ended up in Shiner and I know a lot about him from newspapers and census.

But now that I know he had brothers and sisters I don't find anything on them.... even with findagrave... nor DNA hits

So I don't know if everyone else changed their name or only Charles or ..

Anyway, again I appreciate your website and what you guys do as it makes me proud to say that's where they began their new life

Mark Sain. Premont Tx.

Jan Kelm's response: I've looked at the resources I have and was not able to come up with anything more on the names you gave me.

There may have been some people who legally changed their names, but most of the changes came about due to pronunciation. The Anglos often heard the Germans, the Polish, the Czechs, etc,

pronounce their name and the Anglo would spell it like they thought it sounded. Then in time the whole name evolved into a different sound and spelling.

If there were others in Washington County with that name, I did not find them. That doesn't mean they weren't here. There are some deed records that I can't get online and I also can't get probate online.

Jun 26

I am trying to get information about my grandfather John M Hannah. He lived in Brenham in the 1800s. He was married to Julia Allcorn. They had my grandfather, George William Hannah. John was the postmaster at the Wren post office in 1876. He died in 1900. Julia died in 1874. I do not know where he came from and where they are buried. I have searched Ancestry.com with no luck. Do you have any suggestions for me to be able to find out more? Thank you
Nancy Jackowski

Jan Kelm's response: I did find some deeds online for Julia Allcorn and for John Hannah. You can find them on edoctecinc.com. Directions for searching for them are on our WCGS website at bluebonnetgenealogy.org. From my knowledge of the county leagues, I believe that the property that belonged to John Hannah was next to the Allcorn Family property. There is an Allcorn Family Cemetery on what was the Allcorn Family property and I would suspect that both Julia and John Hannah are buried there. I have been to that cemetery but they do not have stones. There is evidence of unmarked graves.

Regarding John being postmaster at Wren - Although I haven't heard of the Wren post office before, the info online gives me an idea where it was and I would say it was probably at least 5 miles from where I think John's property was, maybe even more. Seems a little far for back in those times.

Wren: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvw87>

June 28

Martha Brauns was buried in the Cedar Hill Baptist Cemetery in Brenham, Texas in 1891. She was the wife of Rev. A.F. Brauns who was the pastor of the German Baptist Church in Brenham. I would very much like to find her grave. Any help you can give me on the location of Cedar Hill Baptist Cemetery will be greatly appreciated. Carol Oster

Jan Kelm's response: Since there are 4 family cemeteries in the Cedar Hill area, I was unsure which one might have been known as Cedar Hill Baptist Cemetery. I know where the church was, but none was exactly at that location. In about 1960, there was a book written by Nath and Judy Winfield documenting the cemeteries of Washington County. They did an excellent job, however, there were times that they did not know the name of the cemetery they were researching. So they gave it the name of the most prominent family in the cemetery. I had a hunch which one it might have been. So I looked up some of the names that were listed in what the Winfields called the Eichholt Cemetery. I found 7 in the newspaper and they were said to be buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery. So I think this is probably where Martha Brauns is buried.

I found an obituary for Martha and also for their daughter. I will be sending those to you in separate emails. I also will send you a map of where the cemetery is. It is attached to this email. You will see it marked as Eichholt Cemetery. There are no stones for Martha and her child, but if you want to visit the cemetery, let me know and I'll give you contact information for the property owner surrounding the cemetery. There is no public road to the cemetery. I just put the yellow pin in today to show you the approximate location where the church was. It could be a little north or a little south. I don't have the info to put in for the exact spot.

Jun 28

I am connected to James F. Walker, Sr. and his son James F. Walker, Jr. Anything you can share about these men and their families would be greatly appreciated. I have been told that James Sr. is buried in Peach Creek Cemetery, however there is no tombstone for him or his wife Catherine. I was told that at one time there was a citizen of Texas medallion on his gravestone, but it is gone. Any ideas of where to look for death information?

James F. Walker, Sr. died May 29, 1837 Washington County
Catherine E. Walker died about 1855, not sure of her death date
Sherry Spell

No research has been done yet by our members. Maybe you'd like to give it a try?

Research Opportunity

2018 GTHS Conference

Anyone interested in Texas Germans is invited to attend. Please see registration information at either www.germantexans.org or www.germantexans.org/events/annual-conference.

The 2018 German Texan Heritage Society Conference will be held Sept. 14-15th, Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy St., Galveston, TX. Conference details are available at www.germantexans.org/events/annual-conference, or by emailing the GTHS office at office@germantexans.org; phone: [\(512\) 467-4569](tel:5124674569).

We have great speakers lined up as well as welcome bags and fantastic door prizes. We hope you will take this opportunity to visit Galveston, a major port of entry for many of our ancestors. Hope to see you at the conference, Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor, GTHS and 2018 GTHS Conference Committee

New Website Material

Thanks to Mary Thornhill we have a huge collection of documents from the Judy and Nath Winfield family. Come see what's there at [this link](#).

Jan Kelm and Sherri Underwood have been busy trying to unravel a family mystery which includes a move to Mexico by some ancestors. Come read about the process and what they have found at [this link](#).