

# 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

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link to email

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## 2017-18 Officers

President:  
Jan Kelm

Vice-President:  
Geraldine Johnson

Secretary:  
Vanessa Smith

Treasurer:  
Lu Hollander

Newsletter Editor:  
Susan Lake  
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## What You Missed

The society met at Blinn College Student Center September 10, 2018. Twenty one members and one guest were in attendance. The program speaker, George Zemanek, presented the history of this family cemetery that was collected by his grandfather, Henry Jaeger. The Jaeger-Witte Cemetery was previously known as the Hagedorn-Witte Cemetery. No one knows when the first burials took place or who they were, but the family has two suspects. Mr. Zemanek shared photos of the cemetery and family members, documents, and plats and related the ongoing project. The history of the cemetery can be read online at their website: <http://jwhca.com>.

### *Business Meeting:*

The minutes were read and approved. There was a request for the minutes to be sent out by email also.

Cemetery Tour Committee - Geraldine Johnson. It was decided to disband for now and to revisit the cemetery tour at another time due to lack of support and non-response from the board of Prairie Lea Cemetery.

Family History Fair - Geraldine Johnson. On October 13, 2018, the library will display the winner of our fair's genealogy exhibit.

Library Liaison - Geraldine Johnson has assumed the new volunteer position as library liaison, to help coordinate our organization's link to the Nancy Carol Roberts Library. We will man a table at the library's Lock-In on October 19, 2018. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers. On the table, we will have flyers explaining who we are and what we do and also a sign-up sheet for people wanting our help with getting started in genealogy or for help with a specific brick wall problem and an attention-getting family tree decorative item. If you can volunteer to sit at the table for an hour or so that day, please let Ms. Johnson know.

Announcements: Carol Muegge reminded us of the *Train to Crystal City* events and upcoming talk by a survivor. Lowell Herzog mentioned that the Blinn College Library has a machine that reads microfilm (newspapers) and that those documents can be saved to pdf.

## Looking Forward

October 19, the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library in conjunction with the WCGS will host a free Genealogy Lock-In. It is an "all day" event which allows you to choose which presentations you would like to attend (and you won't be "locked in"). There is no cost, and this is a great opportunity to begin the family history research process or to learn more.

[Link to the Program of Events](#)

## 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 2019 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 2019 form.](#)

Tidbit. Linda Jurecka related the history of some of her family members during the Civil War. They emigrated about 1852-1855 from Germany and lived in the Berlin area near Brenham. She shared many photos and stories such as the time two of the young men hid in a hay stack trying to avoid conscription, but when the pitch forks were jabbed in, they came out!

Next meeting. 7:00, Monday, October 1, Lowell Herzog will present "Gravestone Conservation and Genealogy: The Connections That Can Be Made Between Gravestones, Printed Materials, Web Resources and Descendants."

## Query

### September 17

Findagrave Question from Marcus Hill. There's another memorial created for Addie Allen in Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Fayette County, TX. I'm not sure which burial is correct as there's no grave photo on either memorial and the D/C states "Carmine Cemetery."

Jan Kelm Response: Thanks for the information. St Matthew Cemetery was also called Carmine Cemetery. I've been told this and there are also some death certificates that say Carmine Cemetery and the stones are found in St. Matthew near Carmine.

My suspicion is that the Allen memorial that WCGS put on Findagrave is the correct one. The death certificate says she lived in Carmine. The St. Matthew Church in Fayette County is way down by Ellinger so it seems she would have been buried in Carmine. In some cases, there is no way to know which one it is, but I do feel strongly that we have it correct in this case.

There is another person in St. Matthew in Carmine who is listed on Findagrave in Carmine Cemetery in the Town of Carmine. It is a white cemetery. That person died many years ago and I'm sure a black person wouldn't have been buried in a white cemetery back then. I believe there was even a stone for him in the St. Matthew in Carmine. I sent a suggested edit to the person maintaining the memorial in the white cemetery, but I never was able to get a reply nor did that person change it.

## Research Opportunity

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More than [300 historic Texas documents](#) from SMU's [DeGolyer Library](#) are now available online in the [Texas: Photographs, Manuscripts and Imprints](#) digital collection. Specifically, the documents comprise historic, promotional literature, 1866-1936, that was designed to attract people to move to all areas within the state of Texas. The documents are freely accessible and downloadable, thanks to the generous support of the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) through a grant to the [Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#) as part of the [TexTreasures](#) program.

We believe these promotional materials will be of great interest to Texas genealogists. Often funded by railroads and local chambers of commerce, these pamphlets and booklets were designed to encourage Texas immigration, especially along train routes. Some documents cover broad geographical areas of Texas, while others focus on specific cities, towns, and counties. Brief biographies of Texas citizens, individual portraits, and photographs of the area are frequently included. We think the descriptions and photographs of geographical areas, individuals, and Texas life will be useful to Texas genealogists who are searching for more information about the lives of their ancestors. Your members may very well find pertinent information in these materials, because so many Texas communities participated in the promotional campaigns of this era.

Just to give one example: [Homes in Texas for everybody: valuable information](#), ca. 1887, describes 51 Texas counties and lists land for sale in each county with the names of landowners and general descriptions of the properties. The 51 Texas counties included are Anderson, Angelina, Atascosa, Bandera, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brown, Burnet, Cherokee, Comal, Coryell, Dimmit, Freestone, Gillespie, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Leon, Liberty, Llano, Madison, Matagorda, Medina, Milam, Montgomery, Polk, Robertson, Rusk, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Travis, Trinity, Uvalde, Walker, Webb, Williamson, Wilson, Wood, and Zavalia.

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## New Website Material

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Ancestry gives us access to billions of genealogy records. But there are some features that are often overlooked — features that can make our research more productive. Amy Johnson Crow highlights five features on Ancestry that you might be missing. Read about it [here](#).