

# WCGS NEWSLETTER

Washington County Genealogical Society of Texas

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

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

## Information

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1.979.633.4848  
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  
[genealogy@susanlake.net](mailto:genealogy@susanlake.net)

## What You Missed

WCGS met on Monday, November 5, 2018 at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library at 7:00PM. There were fourteen members present and three visitors.

Geraldine Johnson introduced the evening's speaker, Head Librarian of the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library, Andria Heiges. Ms. Heiges, a graduate of Texas A & M, who received a degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering, came to Brenham from Fort Davis. She took a job as a clerk in the library and later went on to acquire a master's degree in Library Science from the University of North Texas.

Ms. Heiges began the evening introducing her staff; one of whom, Ms. Betty Thiel, was also present for our meeting.

Accessing the library's resources from home is easy: sign in with your library card number and your phone number (no dashes).

Library cards are free to Texas residents and are easily renewable when expired.

From home, card holders can access some TexShare genealogical databases; some of these are:

Heritage Quest - managed by Ancestry; used for census searches, (one must know the head of household for census searching; the library's copies of the microfilmed census is currently in storage); other research materials for tracing family lineages

Texas Digital Sanborn Maps - maps of selected cities for the purpose of fire insurance and prevention; historical large-scale plans of selected cities (Brenham is included); used to trace development and history of cities

Texas Reference Center - full text periodicals, journals and newspaper articles

At the library, patrons can access two useful genealogical databases:

Ancestry - Library Edition-data differs from a private subscription; searchable databases and members' trees; (patrons cannot create a tree with the library version)

Newspaper Archives - largest historic newspaper source online; searchable newspapers dating as far back as the 1700s

Ms. Heiges next led WCGS members into the Genealogy Room

## Note Change of Meeting Location for December

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 3 at the Blinn Student Center at 7:00 P.M. Unlike previous years, no refreshments will be served.

## 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.](#)

and spoke about the contents of this collection—a partial list includes:

Brenham Banner Press, newspapers, 1876 to present; microfilm  
Volksbote, German newspaper; microfilm

There is a ScanPro machine that allows you to adjust the microfilmed image and save it to your thumb drive. You must sign up for this machine at the front desk. Then take the thumb drive to the printer if you wish to print a copy at the library.

Family histories, county histories and church records, cemetery books and more

NEW\*\* Birth, engagement, marriage announcements and obituary notices from various area newspapers; see: vertical files (not all labels on folders yet)

Not everything in the Genealogy Room is indexed and there are many opportunities for volunteers to help with indexing and labeling projects.

\*\*Ms. Heiges and the staff request that when you are using any materials, to please leave them on the table when you are finished with them. This is a way for staff to account for collection usage; usage statistics generally are indicators of the value of a collection and may play a part in the future of the genealogy room.

### Business Meeting.

The minutes were sent out by email. No corrections or additions. Minutes approved as sent.

The treasurer reports that WCGS received \$36.00 in dues and a \$100 donation for email research by Jan Kelm. We had a \$50 expenditure for the Family History Fair prize winner. The total balance is \$13,703.78.

### Committees.

Camptown Cemetery. Judge Eddie Harrison. We are still waiting for a deed to part of the cemetery land.

Library Liaison. Geraldine Johnson. Our award has been given to the Family History Fair winner. The genealogical Lock-In was attended by a number of the WCGS members and interested visitors. Thank you to all that contributed and came to the event.

Nominating Committee Report. Teddy Boehm. The nominating committee was unable to produce a slate of officers for 2019. President Kelm asked for nominations from the floor. Geraldine Johnson was nominated for President, Mary Kubeczka for Vice-President, Lu Hollander for Treasurer and Vanessa Smith for Secretary. All were elected by acclamation.

Old Business: A general discussion ensued relating to a time change and/or day change for meetings. Pros and cons and potential meeting times were discussed but nothing was decided

until all the member surveys have been received. The executive committee will ultimately decide with member's input from the surveys in mind.

Tidbit: Although Susan Lake has done extensive research on thousands of her genealogical relations, she recently realized that her own children knew virtually nothing about her own personal history. She shared some examples of how she has begun compiling simple records of her important life highlights, and how she will share the annotated copies of pertinent documents with her family.

## December Program

Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz will present the December 3 program of the Washington County Genealogical Society. He is with the A&M Agri Life Extension Service and active in the Polish American Council of Texas. The evening will be spent discussing Polish traditions and especially Polskie Koledy which is a traditional Christmas caroling event. Dr. Mazurkiewicz will acquaint us on Polish traditions that were followed in Texas and Washington County.

## Queries

### November 13

Thanks to your website, I have discovered that my great grandmother is buried in a family cemetery called Eichholt Family Cemetery. She was Louise Wiese Loesch Gruber. It appears to be on private property. Do you know who I could contact to come visit this site? Thanks for any help.

Sidonia Wilson

### Reply from Jan Kelm

We're so glad to know that you found some information on our website. Jan provided the landowner's contact information. However, since many people no longer have land lines, it is possible that this is not a working number. If that is the case, you can write to him at the address listed here. I would suggest that you do not just drive up to that address asking for information, but that you do contact them ahead of time to make any arrangements. I think they will be very receptive to having you have access to the cemetery, but it is important to respect their privacy.

## Research Tip

Visit FamilySearch.org – a free repository of documents. You must have a sign in, but there is no cost.

Explore the Family Search catalog. There are digitized collections that aren't linked on the search page. You can only find them through the catalog. To find the catalog, hover over "Search," then click

"Catalog." Explore it by place first. Select the online availability to limit your choices to those you can see. When you find an item of interest, click on the title. If it has been digitized, it will have one of two icons. A camera icon means that it's viewable by anyone.

If it has a camera with a key over it, it means that it is viewable only at a Family History Center or at an affiliate library. More and more public libraries are becoming FamilySearch affiliates. To find an affiliate library or Family History Center near you, go to the Contact Us page on FamilySearch and enter your zip code or town in the locator box.

