

# WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

Volume 14, Issue 1

January 2019

## Queries

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

## Facebook

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

## Business and other inquiries

[bluebonnetgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:bluebonnetgenealogy@gmail.com)

979-633-4848

## Mailing address

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Suite 105  
Brenham, TX 77833

## 2019-2020 Officers

### President:

Geraldine Johnson

### Vice-President:

Mary Kubeczka

### Secretary:

Vanessa Smith

### Treasurer:

Lu Hollander

### Membership Chair:

Charlene Voskamp

### Communications Chair:

Patricia (Trish) Cooke

### Finance Chair:

Eddie Harrison

### Newsletter Editor:

George Zemanek

## From Our January Meeting

Rosa Telford Newsome, who was born and raised in Chappell Hill and graduated from Brenham High School in 1972, presented at our January meeting. She currently lives in the Sauney Stand Community of Austin County. Mrs. Newsome participates in many local organizations, some of which include: Washington County Cattle Women, the Red Hat Society, Mount Zion Missionary Church in Buckhorn, and is also a volunteer with the Honor Our Seniors Appreciation Day. Rosa was instrumental in obtaining the designation of a Historic Texas Cemetery for one of her family's cemeteries--the Motley-Cummings Cemetery of Washington County and expects to receive the marker in March of 2019. Mrs. Newsome then listed the names of the owners and the types of businesses that she remembered from her youth and association with her grandmother in Chappell Hill. Generally, these businesses were in operation from the late 1880s until the 1940s. Some of those mentioned were (with locations given for many): Harris's Blacksmith shop, Mr. Fat Jack's BBQ, a beauty shop, the Wilbur Brothers Mechanic Shop, and Otis McCrea's Grocery Store. She also gave the names of many black cemeteries and schools, such as the Armstrong School. Mrs. Newsome brought one of her books that included a map showing the locations of some of these businesses.

## February Program

Michael Addicks will present "Tripping Thru History and Where it has Taken Me." Our Tidbit will be presented by Doss H. Pruitt. In recognition of Black History Month, he will relay his personal story about his difficult tracing his ancestry as a black man.

## Looking Forward

The next meeting will be February 4 at 1:00pm at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library.

## New Members

We would like to welcome our newest member, James Beard, who joined the WCGS in January.

If you know of someone with an interest in genealogy, tell them about us! They can join anytime.

## 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.](#)

## Of Interest to Members

Rosa Telford Newsome will be speaking at the Chappell Hill Museum on February 26, at 6PM, about the Allwise Missionary Baptist Church.

The Texas Czech Genealogical Society is meeting at the Caldwell Texas Civic Center on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 8am-4pm. The program is titled "Exploring Resources for Discovering Our Roots."

## Random Thoughts From President

Our name sounds so formal for the down to earth purpose that our organization has. We are about a mixture of locating our roots or genealogy and understanding the history of their times. These factors allow us to put together our story, our family history. As Eddie Harrison says, "There is more to the story."

So where are you in the spectrum? Do you need help getting started? Do you need help getting past a "brick wall"? Do you want to preserve the information you have gathered?

We have volunteers who will work with you on a one to one basis with your particular interest and needs. Just contact me.

Geraldine Johnson

## WCGS Calendar

Jan. 22	Finance Committee	10:30 AM-12:00	Library Room B
Feb. 4	WCGS Meeting	1:00 PM	Library Meeting Room
Feb. 12	Executive Meeting	10:30 AM	Library Meeting Room
Feb. 15	Communication Committee	7:00 PM	Blinn Student Center Rm 1
Mar. 4	WCGS Meeting	1:00 PM	Library Meeting Room

## **WCGS Meeting Minutes,**

**January 7, 2019**

Washington County Genealogical Society met on Monday, January 7th at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library at 1:00PM. The pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags were recited, led by President Geraldine Johnson. There were 28 members and visitors present.

Vice President, Mary Kubeczka, introduced the meeting's speaker, Rosa Marie Telford Newsome (see front page of newsletter).

### **Business Meeting:**

President Johnson: Announced that as the minutes are now included in our Newsletter that they will no longer be read at the meetings. She asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. The minutes were approved as published.

Lu Hollander-Treasurer's Report. She reported that the number of members at 66 with individual memberships at 42, and couples at 12. The current balance: \$13, 783.78. 2019 dues are due and a membership year is from January 1—December 31. Dues are \$18.00 per couple and \$12.00 for individual memberships. Lu announced that members could pay her tonight or mail them to our address at 2211 South Day, Suite 105, Brenham.

Charlene Voskamp- Membership Committee Chair. No Report.

Patricia Cooke-Communication Committee Chair. Trish stated that this committee oversees the newsletter, emails, publicity, website, and social media. She said that the committee is still organizing and deciding who will be responsible for what. One new change is that the minutes will now be added at the end of the newsletters instead of at the beginning.

President Johnson-New Business. She stated that we had difficulties finding officers to serve in 2017 and 2018. The attendance was down to an average of 17.2 members at a meeting and 2 visitors. President Johnson said that our organization needs some new members and more participation.

The Membership and the Communication committees each need one more volunteer, so if you are interested, please let her know. If you have some thoughts about how we can increase member participation, please let her know.

President Johnson-Finance Committee. She said that this committee will be meeting at the end of January and will be working on an audit for 2018 and a budget for 2019. If anyone has any suggestions about how our money should be allocated, contact Eddie Harrison before then.

Susan Lake- Tidbit. Susan thanked everyone for coming. She then gave us a tour of the WCGS website contents and showed how to navigate through the pages. She said that genealogy items of interest may be added to the website.

Announcements:

Executive Committee Meeting, January 15, at 10:30 at the Library (officers and 3 committee chairs as voting members). Anyone may attend.

Lifetime Learning-John Muegge for Carol: Jim Ellison's son, will speak about his book, "The Presidents and Their Generals" at noon at Blinn College, January 18.

Finance Committee Meeting, January 22 at 10:30, Room C, at the Library. Will work on an audit and prepare a budget for 2019.

Regular WCGS Meeting, February 4 at 1PM at the Library. Michael Addicks' presentation will be, "Tripping Thru History and Where It Has Taken Me"

Communication Committee Meeting, February 15, 7PM, Blinn College Student Center, Room 1.

Rosa Telford Newsome will be speaking at the Chappell Hill Museum on February 26, at 6PM, on the All Wise Church.

Meeting adjourned. Submitted by, Vanessa Smith, Secretary, WCGS

# **WCGS Executive Meeting Minutes**

**January 15, 2019**

Present:

Officers- President Johnson, VP Mary Kubeczka, Secretary, Vanessa Smith, Treasurer, Lu Hollander.

Committee Chairmen- Membership, Charlene Voskamp; Communications-Trish Cooke; Finance, Eddie Harrison.

I-II. President Johnson called the meeting to order and asked that the secretary record the meeting. Ms. Johnson stated she felt that it was important for everyone in the organization to know what we do and find ways for members to contribute to our projects.

The goals of the projects undertaken by WCGS are to:

- Promote interest in family history and genealogical research
- Preserve Washington County History by continuing our cemetery research, documentation and preservation
- Collect, record, preserve and publish material and records of Washington County
- Enrich the genealogical resources of the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library

III. Discussion ensued to select the important projects that reflect these goals for 2019. Decision made to include and proceed on the following projects:

- a. Repair of the 5 stones in the Fischer Cemetery that were previously identified and obtain a current bid from Lowell Herzog.
- b. Contribute to the cost of a fence for Camptown Cemetery.
- c. With Adopt a Cemetery Committee, research how to meet the Spencer's request for spending their money on the old Gay Hill cemetery.
- d. With the Adopt a Cemetery Committee, determine how to spend the funds of the now defunct Washington Cemetery Association on the Washington Cemetery.
- e. Answer genealogical queries and Findagrave questions.
- f. Educate individuals on genealogical research by classes, seminars, programs, etc.

- g. GPS location of schools in Washington County as they continue to be located.
  - h. Volunteer in the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library Genealogy Room.
  - i. Co-sponsor the Library's Genealogy Lock-In webinar.
- IV. Membership Committee-Charlene, proposed that we have new name tags printed. She brought a couple of samples with our logo and suggested we get them professionally printed. She asked if we should have any other information on them. Vanessa suggested our website address instead of our mailing address. Lu suggested that the first name be larger than the last name. There was a discussion on the design of our sign-in sheets for the meetings and what they should include.
- V. Communication Committee- Trish and Geraldine. The Newsletter will come out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Information to be included must be sent to Trish by the Wednesday before so that she can forward it to George.
- VI. Treasurer Lu Hollander reported on the number of members to date and gave Geraldine a current list.
- VII. Finance Committee- Eddie and Geraldine. Will meet on Jan 22 to work on the 2018 audit and the 2019 Budget. Any request for moneys to be spent on our projects must be forwarded to Eddie by then.
- VIII. Discussion on membership to TSGS and Chamber of Commerce membership. Members agreed to both. President Johnson has turned in requests to the finance committee for an amount to be set aside for promotion of the organization, such as tables at events, advertising, donation of books to the library, binding of books, etc.
- IX. Discussion of ways to encourage member participation and membership increase. (This is tabled for the next meeting as we ran out of time).
- X. Next Executive Meeting set for February 12 at 10:30 at the library.

Adjourned.

Vanessa Smith, secretary