

WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

Volume 14, Issue 4

April 2019

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From Our March Meeting

Fred Coles Kettrick, a descendant of John P. Coles (one of Austin's Old Three Hundred), presented at our March meeting. Mr. Kettrick, who was attired in authentic period clothing, related how his ancestor came from NC to Texas about 1822 and founded Coles Settlement; Coles Settlement later became the town of Independence following the Texas Revolution. He displayed the sword and scabbard of another of his ancestors, Jesse Lyndsey McCrocklin. The sword is thought to have been used in the Battle of San Jacinto.

Pastor Phil Hassell, of Independence Baptist Church, shared the history of his church, which began its services in August of 1839 and has the honor of being the oldest continually serving Baptist Church in Texas. Among the early members were Sam Houston and his family, whose names are even carved on their personal church pew. Pastor Hassell is also associated with the Texas Baptist Historical Museum in Independence, TX. More information on the museum can be found at <https://texasbaptisthistoricalmuseum.weebly.com/>

Camptown Cemetery

Camptown Cemetery Association has scheduled a workday for Saturday, April 27 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the cemetery for the purpose of continued restoration. The cemetery is located at the end of Mangum Road in the city limits of Brenham. The location has been designated a historical location where former Washington County slaves and African-Americans have been buried. Anyone wishing is welcome to assist with this work. Volunteers are encouraged to bring tools such as a rake, shovel, clippers, etc. (story continues on page 3)

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members:

Marilyn Ullrich
Sameerah M Dunkley

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

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.](#)

The WCGS is a proud member of the Texas State Genealogical Society and the Washington County Chamber of Commerce

May Program

The May 6 meeting of the Washington County Genealogical Society will feature a program titled Genealogy DNA. Trish Cooke, Sheran McCants, Merlene Schumacher, and Vanessa Smith will present the program. The presenters all have experience with DNA and understand the process to different degrees as well as having used the information they have received. In addition they attended a DNA eConference sponsored by the WCGS at the Nancy Carol Memorial Library in January. It is anticipated that information will be presented on such aspects as the use of GEDmatch, finding family with DNA and tree building to better help us understand our DNA.

The public is invited to attend the meeting at 1 p.m. at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library on May 6 to learn about DNA and its use in genealogy.

Left to right : Sheran McCants, Trish Cooke,
Merlene Schumacher, Vanessa Smith



Washington County Genealogical Society Calendar

April 23	Advisory Committee	1 p.m.
April 27	WCGS Camptown Presentation	9:30 a.m.
May 6	WCGS Meeting	1 p.m.
May 14	Executive Committee	1 p.m.

All meetings and presentations will take place at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library in Brenham.

Camptown Cemetery (cont.)

The Washington County Genealogical Society will be making a monetary presentation at 9:30 a.m. that morning to assist with funding the arch and fence for the cemetery. All members and interested parties are invited to attend. This contribution is a 2019 project of the WCGS.

According to waymarking.com “This burial ground is the oldest predominantly African American cemetery in Brenham. It dates from the 1860s and historically has been associated with the nearby Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church. After the Civil War former Washington County slaves, many of whom also organized Mount Rose and St. John A. M. E. Churches, relocated to the wooded area of what became known as the Camptown Addition. The name is derived from the federal troops who camped here from 1865-68 to keep peace between emancipated blacks and landowners. A surveyed map of the post dated July 1868 shows the cemetery already in use, just north of the Washington County Railroad near Hog Branch.

The 17th Infantry troops maintained a sense of community with the residents of Camptown, offering their dining hall to host worship on Sundays. Among the estimated 400 burials here may be soldiers who were victims of yellow fever outbreaks in 1866-67. At least 40 former slaves are known to be buried in Camptown cemetery, including several from the Seward Plantation. Caroline Seward (1811-1902) is also buried here, as is Waltman Bynum (1873-81), whose headstone has the oldest marked date. The cemetery is still in use, but activity declined over the years as additional burial options for African Americans (Walker Cemetery, 1895; Home Improvement Community Cemetery, 1900; Willow Grove Cemetery, 1915) became available. In recent years, after the site had become overgrown and neglected, Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church has taken a more active role in the cemetery’s restoration and maintenance. Camptown Cemetery remains hallowed ground and a precious record of the early history of the community. “

Upcoming Events

June 10-14, 2019

Texas Institute of Genealogical Research
Crown Plaza Austin, TX

Education opportunities in instructional classroom and field trips
For more information go to www.txsg.org



From Sharon Yervasi regarding early history of Fink family.

Copies of pages from books about Washington County regarding the Bnai Abraham congregation and Fink Bros dry goods and grocery store, as well as a map showing location store were sent to Sharon.

From Andrew Fawcett regarding information on the Randermann family and origin of Randermann Road.

Local Randermann family contact information given to Andrew.

From Diane Stuart requesting location of home of her Kowalski/Urbanik ancestors who lived in Washington County 1900 through early 1920s.

Deed records checked. None found. Censuses reviewed shows ancestors rented several different homes in county. A contact name currently living on one of the roads was given to Diane to help identify a photo.

From Patsy McLaughlin requesting help in finding death record of 2nd great grandmother, Emilie (Amelia) Augusta Trettin born in 1858. Emilie married Albert Mueller in Washington County and died between 1900 and October 1903.

Article about birth of a son, 3 baptismal records, and information about the family were found in various church records.

From Carolyn Wilkey Contella requesting information on her great grandmother, Alice Farnum, who was living with two brothers in Chappell Hill in 1880. Brothers operated a saloon. Alice married Willis Benjamin Wilkey in 1881 in Washington County and later moved to Falls County.

Carolyn was referred to a website for deeds of the Farnums to a lot in Chappell Hill. Probate File for C. W Farnum was found and couple photos of important documents sent to Carolyn. Jan suggested Carolyn contact County Clerk's office for remaining documents in file and referred Carolyn to The Portal to Texas website.

Greetings, from the WCGS Executive Committee



Seated left to right Geraldine Johnson, President; Mary Kubeczka, Vice President;

Back row left to right Lu Hollander, Treasurer; Trish Cooke, Communication Chair; Vanessa Smith, Secretary; Eddie Harrison, Finance Chair; not pictured Charlene Voskamp, Membership Chair

Washington County Genealogical Society executive committee evaluated the first quarter's progress and participation at a recent meeting. Discussions continued on ways to reach other interested people. It was noted that 12 new member as well as an estimated 55 visitors have attended the meetings during the first quarter. The Communication Chair is currently working on a brochure to assist in making others aware of the organization and its purpose. The organization encourages new members and welcomes visitors and feels the main 2019 goal of increasing membership and participation is being met.

In addition to other business, the group discussed the 2019 Projects and the progress that is being made on each. WCGS will repair 5 previously identified stones in the Fischer Cemetery. It has been reported that the cemetery has been mowed and the stones will be repaired in the near future. A check for \$500 will be presented to the Camptown Cemetery Association for their fence and entry arch project on April 27th, their cemetery workday. Other cemetery projects on the slate for 2019 are researching ways to spend monies allocated for the old Spencer Cemetery in Gay Hill and determining how to spend funds allocated for the Washington Cemetery that were given by the defunct Washington Cemetery Association.

The organization will continue to answer genealogical queries and Find a Grave questions as well as GPS school locations in the Washington County as they are located. Members are volunteering in the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library Genealogy Room and will Co-Sponsor the Library's Lock-In Workshop in October. Volunteers for the education projects of the organization will be involved in planning the summer meetings for the first Monday of each month. There will be no business sessions during the summer.

WCGS Minutes, 1 April 2019

WCGS met for a regular meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019 at the NCRML at 1:00 PM. The pledges to the U. S. and Texas flags were led by President Geraldine Johnson. There were 19 visitors and 32 members in attendance. Membership committee member, Linda Jurecka, recognized visitors by reciting their names and asking them to stand. President Johnson welcomed the new members from March in the same manner.

Vice President, Mary Kubeczka, introduced the afternoon's speakers: Fred Coles Kettrick, a descendant of one of Austin's Old Three Hundred, John P. Coles and the second speaker, Pastor of the Independence Baptist Church, Phil Hassell. Mr. Kettrick, who was attired in authentic period clothing, related how his ancestor came from NC to Texas about 1822 and founded Coles Settlement; Coles Settlement later became the town of Independence following the Texas Revolution. He displayed the sword and scabbard of another of his ancestors, Jesse Lyndsey McCrocklin. The sword is thought to have been used in the Battle of San Jacinto.

Next, Pastor Hassell told a brief history of his church, which began its services in August of 1839 and has the honor of being the oldest continually serving Baptist Church in Texas. Among the early members were Sam Houston and his family—their names are even carved on their personal church pew. Pastor Hassell is associated with the Texas Baptist Museum which is open to visitors from 10-4:00 Tuesday—Saturday. The McCrocklin and J. P. Coles houses are also open to the public.

Business Meeting:

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as sent. President Johnson apologized and announced that in the last Newsletter that the "lin" was omitted from John McCrocklin's name in error.

Treasurer Lu Hollander reported that with the receipt of the latest dues that our balance is currently \$14, 329.23 and that our membership is 66.

Reports on our projects:

Scanning obits is continuing with Lydia Heins cutting them out, Lu Hollander scanning them, and then Susan Lake puts them on our website. President Johnson invited others to participate in this program.

Jan Kelm reported that the Fisher Cemetery was mowed. Lowell Herzog said he would begin repairing the stones.

Vanessa Smith reported that the NCRML is poised to send the first 15 rolls of Banner Press film to UNT for digitizing but that the head librarian will need to select the rolls in order to avoid duplication and will also need to advertise which rolls are unavailable to prevent someone coming in to view film that is temporarily on loan for processing.

Tidbit: WCGS Member Sheran McCants reported on the "Texas DNA Project." Mention of this project appeared in an article which was published in Stirpes, the magazine of the Texas State Genealogical Society. Participants contribute their DNA results which is added to a searchable database in order to determine if they are descendants of documented early Texans. But anyone can use and search this database, even those who don't have early Texas ancestors. There are two ongoing projects: one for descendants of the Republic of Texas and another for ancestors that arrived in Texas by 1900. Those who are interested can go to the txsgs.org website, look under projects and programs to find out more.

Announcements:

President Johnson invited members to contribute a program or tidbit in our meetings.

She shared that the Communications Committee is working on a brochure about our organization that can be left at venues and distributed at meet and greet events. Let us know if you can attend some of these gatherings to help us to get the word out about who we are and what we do.

Ms. Johnson asked for volunteers to help set up chairs before each meeting.

Lowell Herzog will be giving a tour of the Old Independence Cemetery on Thursday at 1:00 PM. The public is invited.

The next meeting will be held on May the 6th at 1:00 at the NCRML. Trish Cooke, Vanessa Smith, Sheran McCants and Merlene Schumacher will be presenting the program, "DNA Genealogy."

Calendar:

April 9, Executive Meeting, NCRML at 10:30 AM to evaluate our first quarter progress.

April 23, Advisory Committee Meets (Teddy Boehm, Jan Kelm, and Bill Thane) at NCRML, at 1PM

May 6 WCGS Regular Meeting, NCRML at 1:00.

May 14, Executive Committee Meeting, NCRML, 10:30

Adjourned. Submitted by Vanessa Smith, Secretary

Executive Meeting Minutes, 9 April 2019

The meeting was called to order. The Treasurer, Lu Hollander reported the names of the new members as of the April 1st meeting: D. Davis, S. Dunkley, Otto Fuchs (returning member- actually not a new one), Mae Dell Hanath (also a returning member who will again be mailed the Newsletter), R. Ullrich.

Trish Cooke, Communications chair reported on the options for the arrangement of the WCGS brochure: a single fold and double-sided, or a tri-fold. She felt that we did not have enough information to justify a tri-fold. Discussion was held and all agreed on the information to be placed on the single-fold option. It will cost \$25.00 for the design, 6 cents a sheet for colored paper and 35 cents per side. (Examples of color choice were shown, and a bright yellow was chosen by the board as the most eye-catching). To purchase a ream of paper (five hundred sheets—which will yield three brochures each) would be the least expensive choice. It was agreed that 300 brochures should be initially printed. Trish will email us with the actual cost for printing. (Following the meeting, Trish emailed that the cost of the brochure for printing would be 27 cents each and \$81.00 for the first 300 copies. A proof will be made for approval before the printing is done. We were asked to vote yes or no to this in an email).

A discussion took place concerning summer activities for members of WCGS. President Johnson suggested that it might be useful to visit our cemetery projects. Eddie Harrison said maybe a talk on “Lick Skillet” and explained the significance of that term. Ms. Johnson also said that she believed that the Education committee members should tackle this subject and come up with a plan for activities.

A member has asked that we publicize the fall programs in our Newsletter.

Member Eddie Harrison was asked about WCGS donating a sum of money for the fence at Camptown Cemetery. He said that yes, the money would be welcome. President Johnson asked if \$500 would be a good amount to help with the fencing project. Mr. Harrison said yes. He also

mentioned that there will be a work day for the cemetery on Saturday, April 27th, from 8:30-2:30 and all are invited to participate. Donuts will be served in the morning and lunch later. He displayed a flyer about the workday. (This flyer was later emailed to members).

President Johnson wondered if the nominating committee would be able to get a slate of officers together for next year, given our difficulty with this for the past two years. It was suggested that the committee replace two officers who have served the longest, instead of all four; this might be easier to accomplish. It was also mentioned that we begin to ask to our members to consider stepping forward to help fill the offices. We will look at this subject again at another meeting.

Calendar: Executive Meeting on May 14, 10:30 NCRML. We will discuss ways of attracting 2020 slate of officers. Adjourned. Submitted by Vanessa Smith, Secretary.