

WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

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From Our April Meeting

Vice President, Mary Kubeczka, introduced the speakers on DNA Genealogy: Trish Cooke, Vanessa Smith, Merlene Schumacher, Sgt. Todd Ashorn, Brenham City Police Department, and Sheran McCants. Trish gave an abbreviated history of the discovery of DNA, discussed the eConference speakers, and presented an outline of the presentation. Vanessa defined DNA, explained the three DNA types and uses of each, and described the process of submitting a sample. Merlene gave the names of some companies that test and spoke about the many uses of DNA including its use to solve criminal investigations. Sgt. Ashorn elaborated on the use of DNA for crime solving by giving some specific examples. He mentioned that the police use CODIS, or Combined DNA Information System to help apprehend offenders. Sheran gave four useful website addresses for DNA; two for information: ISOGG.org, dnaadoption.org; and two for tools: genesis.gedmatch.com, dnainter.com. She shared some visual examples of her matches with dnainter and how she was able to determine some relationships using these tools.

WCGS Involved in Cemetery Preservation

The Washington County Genealogical Society continues to recognize the value of those who have come before as we search out our past and the past of others. As a result cemetery preservation is a continuing project of the organization. Restoration of five known stones at the Fisher cemetery located on FM 390 has begun.

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New Members

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



Have questions about your family history? Contact us at wcfgs@bluebonnetgenealogy.org

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Member Jan Kelm has researched a great deal about the area and indicated that David Fisher, who has the primary stone in the cemetery, was one of the first Baptist preachers in this area. Some of the graves in the cemetery are from the early 1800's. Jan and Roy Kelm, Gertrude Schroeder, Greg Appel, Lowell Herzog and others had worked on the overgrown cemetery in 2012. In 2013 Lowell Herzog with the help of Jan and Roy Kelm restored David Fisher's stone along with two others. During the cleanup process five stones were found which are broken. WCGS voted to repair these five stones this year.

Camptown Cemetery Association has accomplished a great deal in its clean up and restoration of the Camptown Cemetery located on Mangram Street. The neglected area came to the attention of Mt. Rose Baptist church of which WCGS's Eddie Harrison is a member. As a result of his initial effort the Camptown Cemetery Association was formed. Because of the historic significance of the cemetery, people from outside of the county have become involved in the project. Camptown is known as a slave cemetery and it is believed that some Union soldiers are buried there. The area is the location of the Union soldiers' camp from Brenham's history. The cemetery is named after the area. Research on the people buried in the cemetery and the cemetery history continues. The Association is seeking a title to the property and a fence around the cemetery will be required. WCGS voted to donate \$500 toward the fence and proposed archway.

Washington County Genealogical Society President Geraldine Johnson indicated there are additional funds for restoration of cemeteries in the county. She states that cemeteries should be more than a pile of broken stones, not only from the genealogical and historical aspect, but from respect and reverence.

Recent WCGS Cemetery Preservation Efforts



(Clockwise from top left)

WCGS's Lowell Herzog removes the base of broken stone at Fisher Cemetery located on FM 390 in the county. Members Vanessa Smith and Trish Cook observe the process

WCGS's Trish Cooke, Vanessa Smith and Lowell Herzog stand by the stone of David Fisher which was up righted and restored in 2013.

WCGS's Lu Hollander presents check to Camptown Cemetery Association Treasurer Cheryl DeBera for a fence and archway at the local cemetery on Mangram Street. Observing are Ray Mildren, Cemetery General Manager on left and Eddie Harrison, President on the right.

WCGS Summer Programs 2019

“How To” related to genealogy and history

“Touring Fun” in our County

Visitors Welcome

Prepared by Education Project Committee members Michael Addicks, Tina Henderson, Geraldine Johnson and Mary Kubeczka for WCGS education on genealogy, research and history through classes, seminars and programs.

June 3 1 PM Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
What to find in the County Clerk’s office / How to find it
Beth Rothermel , County Clerk

Opportunity to sign up for small group tours at County Clerk’s Office
Dates and times to be provided at meeting

July 1 1 PM Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
How to use “Family Search” program Michael Addicks
Designed to teach those who are getting started in genealogy
Research on a free computer program

Opportunity to sign up for individual or small group classes in beginning genealogy

July 15 Historical Tour of Independence Area

Visit or discuss such sites as Baptist Church and Museum, Baylor Sites, Fisher Cemetery, Mrs. S. Houston’s home and grave, Independence Cemetery, area known as Jerry’s Quarters, Seward Plantation, etc.

Bus tour fee \$10.00. 4 hour travel and tour on BISD bus beginning at 9:30 AM.

Reservation form should be brought to WCGS Summer Programs or mailed to Geraldine Johnson, 1601 Morgan Street, Brenham, Texas 77833

August 5 1 PM Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
What to find in the District Clerk’s office / How to find it
Tammy Brauner, District Clerk

Opportunity to sign up for small group tours at District Clerk’s Office
Dates and times to be provided at meeting

Historical Tour of Independence Area
Sponsored by Washington County Genealogical Society
July 15, 2019
Visitors Welcome

Visit and/or discuss such sites as Baptist Church and Museum, Baylor Sites, Fisher Cemetery, Mrs. S. Houston's home and grave, Independence Cemetery, area known as Jerry's Quarters, Seward Plantation, etc.

Bus tour fee \$10.00. 4 hour travel and tour on BISD bus beginning at 9:30 AM.

RESERVATION FOR WCGS INDEPENDENCE AREA TOUR JULY 15
9:30 AM departure from NCRM Library for 4 hour round trip tour on BISD bus.
Please arrive at least 5 minutes before departure.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Each person attending must complete a registration form. Visitors welcomed.

_____ bus tour for \$10 (if checked agree to payment regardless of personal circumstances that may prevent your attending)

Reservation should be brought to June 3 or July 1 summer program meeting or mailed to Geraldine Johnson, 1601 Morgan Street, Brenham, Texas 77833.

Washington County Genealogical Society assumes no responsibility for injury or accidents during scheduled tour event. An additional waver form will be provided for signature.

Signature: _____ Date _____

WCGS Minutes, 06 May 2019

President Geraldine Johnson called the meeting to order and led the pledges to the U. S. and Texas flags. There were 3 visitors and 22 members present. Ms. Johnson thanked everyone who has made suggestions regarding future programs and projects. She welcomed new members; the membership chairman, Charlene Voskamp, read the names of the day's visitors and asked them to stand.

Program. Vice President, Mary Kubeczka, introduced the speakers on DNA Genealogy: Trish Cooke, Vanessa Smith, Merlene Schumacher, Sgt. Todd Ashorn, Brenham City Police Department, and Sheran McCants. Trish gave an abbreviated history of the discovery of DNA, discussed the eConference speakers, and presented an outline of the presentation. Vanessa defined DNA, explained the three DNA types and uses of each, and described the process of submitting a sample. Merlene gave the names of some companies that test and spoke about the many uses of DNA including its use to solve criminal investigations. Sgt. Ashorn elaborated on the use of DNA for crime solving by giving some specific examples. He mentioned that the police use CODIS, or Combined DNA Information System to help apprehend offenders. Sheran gave four useful website addresses for DNA; two for information: ISOGG.org, dnaadoption.org; and two for tools: genesis.gedmatch.com, dnapainter.com. She shared some visual examples of her matches with dnapainter and how she was able to determine some relationships using these tools.

Business Meeting. The previous minutes were published and were approved as there were no corrections or additions. The treasurer reported that we had two \$50 donations for research. After expenses, the balance is \$13, 904.23. President Johnson appealed for volunteers for scanning obituaries. Library staffer, Betty Thiel, related that the library's printer can scan and there is no cost if volunteers wanted to use it for this project. Several members took some home to scan for our website. Jan Kelm gave a brief report on the status of the Old Gay Hill Cemetery donation and said this is on hold for now as there has been some opposition by those in charge of the cemetery, so we cannot proceed. She said that during the Adopt-A-Cemetery Committee meeting, it was revealed that there

has been some damage to Old Washington Cemetery—part of a fence and deep ruts in the soil. It was proposed to attempt to put up a pipe fence to keep out vehicular traffic. It was also decided that the name and function of Adopt-A-Cemetery should be merged into the other WCGS projects. Everyone agreed. President Johnson next described the ongoing Fisher Cemetery restoration work with Lowell Herzog and that it was very interesting to see the actual work in progress. President Johnson then mentioned the Summer genealogy programs:

1. George Zemanek will continue to publish a Newsletter during the summer.
2. We are working on a tour and maybe a bus to the Independence area. Watch the May and June Newsletters for further information.
3. June 3, County Clerk, Beth Rothermel will tell us what and where to find information at the Courthouse. You will be able to sign up for a small group tour of the building and records.
4. July 1, at the library, will be a program on Family Search by Michael Addicks.
5. August 5, District Clerk, Tammy Brauner will talk about records that can be found in her office.

President Johnson asked the membership to please consider serving your organization in 2020 and 2021 as an officer of WCGS.

Tidbit. Librarian Andria Heiges demonstrated how to access and use the library version of Ancestry.com. She announced that WCGS volunteers' index of Haaskarl's, Brenham, Texas, has been completed.

Announcements: One of our members, Patsy McLaughlin (patsy.mclaughlin@gmail.com) announced that she will be leading a trip to SLC with the Humble Area Genealogy Society members and others are welcomed to join them, May 24—31st 2020. Contact her if you are interested.

Calendar: May 14 Executive Committee, at the library, at 10:30

May 17-18 Austin Gen. Society Program, "Filling the Social Gaps"

www.austintxgensoc.org or 512-470-0860

June 3 Summer Session, "What to Find in the County Clerk's Office/How to Find It," Beth Rothermel, County Clerk, 1:00PM, at the library.

Meeting Adjourned. Submitted, Vanessa Smith, Secretary.