

WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

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From Our May Meeting

Our June "How To" presentation was a success. Beth Rothermel, County Clerk and member of WCGS, presented a much praised program to the members and guests present on June 3rd. Beth logged on to Washington County website and showed the audience how to locate information in the County Clerk's office from the comfort of their homes.

During the presentation, Beth shared a handout on the information that is available in the clerk's office. The handout included dates of records that are available as well as restrictions to the records, particularly those that are not available on the website but require a trip to the office.

Beth has agreed to do two small group tours for members in August. There are a few slots still available. If you are interested contact Geraldine Johnson at gerri12542@gmail.com for more information.

Numerous people commented on the helpful program. As always Beth's presentations are interesting and we are grateful for her expertise.

Second Summer "How To" Programs Scheduled for July 1

The next WCGS "How To" Program is scheduled for July 1st at 1 P.M. at the NCRM Library and will be presented by Michael Addicks assisted by Mary Kubeczka. It will demonstrate the process of doing genealogy on the free website Family Search.

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New Members

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

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

Second Summer “How To” Programs Scheduled for July 1

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Michael will project the steps on the large screen and the audience can follow step by step. Anyone who is starting to do genealogy or has not used this website will find the meeting helpful. Charlene Voskamp will provide those present with forms and information for recording that are useful while doing family research. The forms were compiled by Charlene and Vanessa Smith for instruction purposes in 2018.

Time to Volunteer to Hold Office

President Geraldine Johnson will be announcing a nominating committee in September to seek nominations for the officers of WCGS. On the advice of an Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee, Geraldine has been requesting that members consider holding an office and make their willingness to serve known to her so that she can share these names with the nominating committee. This process allows individuals to think about the positions prior to receiving calls or requests from the committee that many times result in an immediate “no”.

In May, she announced that the average amount of time required to fulfill the minimum duties of each office according to the By Laws is approximately three hours or less per month. She stated that more time is required at the beginning of each year because plans and projects are formulated by the President and Executive committee, but the average is still minimal. Most officers however have spent more than the average time because they voluntarily take on tasks and research to make the organization as interesting and informative as possible.

Serving has been a pleasure states Johnson because she enjoys genealogy and history as well as the planning that is required to meet the needs of the organization. She has served as both Vice President and President.

Please consider serving and let her know your desire by email or in person . (979-203-3131, call or text, Gerri12542@gmail.com)

Officer Descriptions continue on page 3

Officer Descriptions

President shall: 1. Preside at all meetings of the Society and Executive Committee 2. Perform such duties as set in By Laws and adopted parliamentary authority 3. Appoint all committees 4. Serve as Ex-Officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee 5. Perform other duties as usually pertain to the office of President

Vice President shall: 1. Preside at meetings of the Society and Executive Committee in the absence of the President 2. Responsible for regular meeting programs 3. Perform duties requested by President or Society 4. Receive payment for Membership in the absence of the Treasurer 5. Succeed to the office of President in the event of a vacancy in the office

Secretary shall: 1. Record the proceedings and provide copies 2. Perform duties requested by President or Society

Treasurer shall: 1. Receive and be custodian of all funds and keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements 2. Expend money only by order of the Society 3. Send dues notices to members in October of each year and follow up as necessary 4. Maintain an up to date roster of all members in good standing



Question: Rosemary Baisey contacted us through Findagrave because she had seen we had posted information about her gg grandparents, Joe and Rhoda (Ellis) Jackson, in Flat Prairie Cemetery. She was thanking us for that information and then said she wished she could find information about their parents, her grandparents. She didn't name them.

Answer: We could not find anything substantial on the family of Joe Jackson, mostly because he had such a common name and we were unable to establish where he might have been. We researched Rhoda Ellis and found her in 1870 in Washington County with her parents, Zachary and Ruth Ellis, and 5 or 6 siblings. Zachary was 75 and Ruth was 45. We found them again in 1900 in Lee County living with their son, Armistead, who had been 5 on the 1870 census. Zachary was born about 1790 so he was 110 years old. Ruth was born in 1820 and was 80. We felt these were the grandparents that Rosemary was looking for. We found that

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Armistead was buried in Sweet Home Cemetery in Lee County. We suggested to Rosemary that it could be very likely that Zachary and Ruth are also there.

Question: From Steve J. Cline: Hi, I am looking for the burial place/cemetery of Moses Leonidas Cline, born 1811 and died March 9, 1893 in Washington County, Texas. He was married to Nanette Emeline Word. Any information would be helpful. Thanks!

Answer: Attached obit from the Brenham Daily Banner of Friday March 10 1893. I've not found one for Nanette. Also attached Word Document. It is information on the Cline burials in Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. It includes both M. L. Cline and Mrs. N. E. Cline. They do not have stones. There are also two jpg files showing locations in Prairie Lea Cemetery where those burials would be. Note that they would be fairly easy to find because in the PL map S3-R2 red.jpg, it shows D. C. Giddings plot in the upper right corner. This is a large stone and very prominent on the main road in the cemetery. The Prairie Lea map red.jpg gives you a good location of that area in the cemetery. We thank Quin Kroll for all of his cemetery work; the Cline information was in his digital Prairie Lea folder.

Question: Guy Anderson asked about Augustus F. Anderson and his wife Susan. There was at least one son Benjamin Courtney who married Dollie Moses, daughter of Leander Goodman Moses and his wife America. Augustus, Susan and Benjamin may have died here before 1900. Dollie and the children are in San Antonio in 1900.

Answer: We found the family in the Washington County 1880 census in Burton. Deed records confirmed that they owned lots in Burton. Probate records were checked in the courthouse but none were found for any of this family.

Question: Mrs. R. E. Pennington was in 1913 in possession of the original Muster Roll as described in the Kemp Sketch of Captain William Warner Hill. There was supposedly a photostat copy made for the Texas State Library and Archives, but they are currently unable to locate it. So I thought I would try to track down the original. Do you know what happened to Mrs. Pennington's collection of historical materials? I understand she wrote history books on Brenham and Washington County. My 4th Great Grandfather was John Files Tom, one of the men on the muster roll in question.

Answer: We do not know where these papers are. We've sent emails to various people who we thought might have some knowledge and are waiting to hear further.

We continue to respond to those who ask for more specific information or have suggestions to include on our Findagrave memorials. We also continue to respond to photo requests from Findagrave.

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

Meet Our Newest Members

Meet Patsy McLaughlin from Houston, Texas. She has been traveling to our meeting each month since joining our organization.

Most of Patsy's maternal ancestors first settled in Washington County and many are still buried here. She indicated she wants to learn more about WC in order to aid her research. Patsy became interested in genealogy when she was 18 and met descendants of her maternal 3rd great-grandfather from Pennsylvania. The relatives told the story of his leaving or as she stated "abandoned" his family in PA when he moved to TX. She wanted to prove the story was true, so she began researching long before DNA was an option.

She is a member of The Humble Area Genealogical Society. Her hobbies and interests that consume her time include genealogy, reading and scrapbooking. She states that she values her education not only for the knowledge she has gained but also the improvement of her critical thinking skills. If she could become an instant expert in something it would be land records and military records.

And what about that bucket list? She would travel to Australia, Hawaii, Japan, ancestral homes in Germany, Switzerland and Scotland.

Patsy is researching these family lines to name a few: McLaughlin, Sullivan, McIntosh, Russell, Mueller, Christ, Grabow, Neumann. She wants you to know that she is willing to help with research; she is shy until she get to know you and she calls herself an introvert.

Welcome Patsy McLaughlin!

Meet Dana Ribble from Houston, Texas.

Dana's great great grandmother, Julia Ann Evetts, was born in Brazos County in 1843. Her parents were James Harrison Evetts and his second wife, Julia Ann Price. She knows nothing about Julia Ann Price and very little about James Harrison Evetts. She knows he was the son of Samuel Givens Evetts and was thought to have been one of the blacksmiths living at Washington on the Brazos when the Declaration was signed. He did go to San Jacinto with Sam Houston. He is thought to be buried in Bonesville but there is no marker. However, his sister Margaret Foley is buried there. She has been struggling for years to prove this and desires to break through these brick walls. She is hoping that joining WCGS was a start to chipping away at the walls.

Dana's interest in genealogy began when she had to write a research paper on her family history for a freshman college English class. At the time three of her grandparents were still living and she was able to learn what they knew about their families. She stated that was 45 years ago and she wishes they could see what she has learned about their ancestors.

She has had success at applying for lineage societies including the Colonial Daughter of 17th Century, National Society of Sons and Daughters of Pilgrims, Continental Society of Daughters of Indian Wars, National Society United States Daughters of 1812, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Daughter of the Republic of Texas.

Modestly she states that she knows a bit about computers and that she builds and maintains websites. She has had a little success at repairing photos. Her friends tell her that she is good at research but feels she may just be very lucky. If she could become an instant expert her desire would be a genealogy expert at breaking down brick walls. Dana builds decorative family trees for others and she continues to ponder the best way to display circular trees with more than 10 generations.

She has been a part of Clayton Library Friends, Young County Historical Commission (chair), Bay Area Genealogy Society, Houston Genealogical Forum, Texas State Genealogy society, National Genealogy Society, Walker County Genealogy Society and Friend of the Texas Room.

Her bucket list items include going on a genealogy cruise and spending more time in NYC with her grandson. She wants you to know that she is a hermit and that explains why her bucket list is short.

Welcome Dana Ribble!

Meet Ronnie A Weiss from Austin, Texas.

Ronnie has joined the WCGS because of his interest in family research and many of his ancestors lived in Washington County. He started doing research when he retired and found that he liked it.

Ronnie was an IT director and has computer skills. He claims to not have a lot of skills and talents yet we find that he gardens and does genealogy research. In addition, he enjoys reading and traveling.

He states his education broadened his horizon and he stated that he learned to think. He says most importantly his education got him a job. But if he could become an instant expert in something, he would choose history.

Ronnie has been a board member for the Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Assn, a member of the German Texas Heritage Society, Austin Genealogy Society, and German Genealogy Society (Minneapolis).

What's on Ronnie's bucket list? He wants to travel to national parks, mountains, New England and maybe Germany for ancestors' locations.

Welcome Ronnie A Weiss!

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.

- 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, Mrs. S. Houston's home and grave, Location of Sam Houston's home, Independence Cemetery, Liberty Baptist Church, area known as Jerry's Quarters, Seward Plantation and life of John Seward, Asa Hoxey, historical residents of the area, Sam Houston's baptismal site etc. Hear about the pioneers whose spirit and culture built a community that played an outstanding role in Texas History. Additional details to be announced.

RESERVATION FOR WCGS INDEPENDENCE AREA TOUR JULY 15

9:30 AM departure from NCRM Library for 4 hour round trip tour on A/C Durham bus (BISD). Please arrive at least 5 minutes before departure.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY NUMBER: _____

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 may be brought to summer program meeting July 1 or mailed to Geraldine Johnson, 1601 Morgan Street, Brenham, Texas 77833. Reservations will be accepted until bus is full.

Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement

I Release, Waive, Discharge and Covenant Not to Sue the Washington County Genealogical Society, their officers, servants, agents or employees (releasees) from any and all liability, claims, demands, action and causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death that may be sustained by me or to any property belonging to me, whether caused by the negligence of the releasees while participating in this activity while in, on or upon the premises where the activity is being conducted.

I am voluntarily participating in the activity and I voluntarily assume full responsibility. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the releasees. It is my intent that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement shall bind the members of my family and spouse and shall be deemed as a release waiver, discharge and covenant not to sue the above releasees.

In signing this release, I acknowledge and represent that I have read the waiver and hold harmless agreement. I am at least eighteen years of age and fully competent.

Signature_____Date_____

Printed Name_____