

WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

Volume 14, Issue 7

July 2019

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July Summer Program

The WCGS "How To" program was held on the 1st. In the absence of the presenter, Mary Kubeczka and Vanessa Smith led a discussion as well as a show and tell on the "Family Search" free computer program. It was pointed out that this program can be easily used without costs. The program was recommended for those who are getting started in genealogy. It was noted that the program has undergone changes from the previous years and it allows you to develop your tree but those presenting indicated they used it just to look up information on a specific individuals.

It was announced that anyone wishing to receive assistance with learning to do genealogy or the use of genealogy computer programs could contact Geraldine Johnson. Members have volunteered to offer one on one or small group assistance. If someone has hit a "brick wall" in their research and would like assistance, please ask.

Last "How to" Meeting of the Summer

August 5th meeting will be held at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library at 1 pm. District Clerk, Tammy Brauner, will tell what can be found in the District Clerk's office and how to find it.

Reminder

The small group tours of the County Clerk's office are July 18 and 19th. If you signed up, please be in the Court House for the tour at 3 PM.

New Members

Mary Thornton and Brandy Scholze have recently joined the WCGS. Welcome!

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



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

First Tour by WCGS Well Received

The Historical Tour of Independence Area was held on the 15th. This was the first tour presented by the organization. 23 people participated in the riding tour which was organized by the Tour Committee consisting of Mary Kubeczka, Tina Henderson and Geraldine Johnson. Most of the research was done by Mary and Tina with Geraldine compiling and organizing the information and tour. The tour pointed out the locations of the two known plantations in the area, Hoxey Plantation and Seward Plantation. Emphasis was placed on the two historic churches, historic Baptist Church and Museum and the Liberty Baptist Church. No tour of Independence would have been complete without emphasis on the former resident of Independence, Sam Houston and his wife Margaret. This included a stop at his baptismal site. The tour pointed out the importance of Coles Settlement and Independence in the history of the Texas and Washington County.

Other stops included the Independence Cemetery, the Museum and the Rose Emporium for lunch.

The tour was underwritten by the WCGS and the meal and location by Joyce and Gus Pankonien and Geraldine Johnson.

Meet Our Newest Members

Joyce and Gus Pankonien

Joyce and Gus have been traveling from Cypress, Texas for our meetings each month. They both grew up in Washington County and of course have deep family roots here. They are both interested in Washington County history and Joyce has been particularly interested in the WCGS's programs. Joyce became interested through conversations with her sister, Mary Kubeczka, and Gus through discussions with his wife.

Joyce is a CPA and sells real estate. She indicated her skills involve consulting, management, accounting and she owned and managed a children's clothing boutique. Her education has allowed her to obtain a degree and certifications. Gus agrees that his education enhanced his management skills and his career.

(continued on p. 3)

Meet Our Newest Members

Cont. from page 2

Gus participates as a volunteer with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, his church, and Mission of Yahweh. He enjoys hunting, fishing, traveling, church activities and volunteering. What's on his bucket list? He says he wants to travel to places he had not been.

Joyce has been active and has served as the Mission of Yahweh Chairman, church treasurer, Boy Scout treasurer, HLSR Assistant Captain Cookoff, and Board chair of Texas Chapter of Insurance Accountant Association. She likes to travel, enjoys movies and plays as well as church activities. What's on her bucket list? She wants to travel to New Zealand and Peru.

Pictures from The Historical Tour of Independence Area



Tour guides pictured from left to right:
Cheryl DaBera, Geraldine Johnson, Linda Jurecka, Tina Henderson

