

WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

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August Program

District Clerk Tammy Brauner, presented the last of the WCGS Summer Programs on Aug.5th. Tammy discussed the information which is stored in the district clerk's office and how to access it. Naturalization records along with court records can be identified through computers available to the public. Not all records are listed on the computers at this time however staff will assist you in checking other indexes to find records. Efforts are being made to appropriately store old records that have not been digitalized. An extensive question and answer period followed her presentation and Mrs. Brauner plans to send additional information to the President to be included in a future newsletter. Mrs. Brauner will host two small group tours of her office for members of the WCGS on September 5th and 6th

September Program

Finney Clay will be our speaker for the September 9, 2019 meeting. Mr. Clay's family has been in Washington County since the early 1800's. He will be discussing The Civil War in Washington County/Hood's Brigade. Some members of his family were in the Civil War. One member was a Captain in the war and lost a leg in the battles. Mr. Clay has served in the US Marines. He started researching his family history in the early 1990's after joining the Sons of the confederacy.

Notice!

September Meeting will be held on second Monday of the month due to Labor Day Holiday. The meeting will be held on September 9th at 1 pm at Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library

New Members

Welcome Mary Ann Koerth Niswanger to the Washington County Genealogical Society!

Family names researching: Koerth, Korth, Ulrich, Sturm, Boelter, Renn, Marzahn, Podalska, Roesler, Sommerfeld, Loewe

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

A Special Thank You

To Beth Rothermel and Tammy Brauner for presenting informative programs during the WCGS "How To" programs.

To Beth Rothermel, County Clerk, for hosting two small group tours of her office for our members. Nine members participated in these informative tours: Teddy Boehm, Trish Cooke, Gayle Engeling, Joan Griggs, Tina Henderson, Geraldine Johnson, Linda Jurecka, Patsy McLaughlin and Vanessa Smith.

To John Winkelmann and John Muegge for legal advice to the Executive Committee. Attorney John Winkelmann developed a release of liability form for use with the July Historical Tour of the Independence Area free gratis. Member John Muegge, Attorney, advised the Executive Committee on the need for protection.

Thank you to the Project Education Committee, Michael Addicks, Tina Henderson, Geraldine Johnson and Mary Kubeczka for planning and organizing the special summer programs.

Thank you to members who participated in the 1st WCGS tour. A special thank you to Linda De Berra, Tina Henderson, Lu Hollander, Geraldine Johnson, Linda Jurecka and Mary Kubeczka who researched, organized, and acted as tour guides. Kudos to Shelia Demery, tour bus driver, who prior to the event checked the route to assure a safe trip.

A special thank you to the underwriters, Lu Hollander, Geraldine Johnson and Joyce and Gus Pankonien.

Fall Line Up of Programs

Sept. 9 th	The Civil War in Texas/Hoods Brigade	Finney Clay
Oct. 7 th	Burials at Camp Town Cemetery	Charles Swenson
Nov. 4 th	Ghost Towns in Washington County	Jan Kelm
Dec. 2 nd	Book Binding	John Bookman



From Shannon Wobbe: Shannon is looking for information about Hale Gattis Cemetery on Booth Lane. This is on property that was owned by John Hale and Susan Gattis Hale. Shannon wants to know where the cemetery is and who is buried there.

From Jan Kelm: Shannon and I have sent many emails hoping to solve the mystery of who started the cemetery, who is buried there, and exactly where it is on the property. We think that Susan Gattis Hale, her brother Felix Gattis and her sister, Nannie Gattis are buried there. There is a possibility that the Edney Family was a previous owner and that they may have been the first people to be buried there. We're continuing our research.

From Shellie Miller: Shellie is looking for the immigration date of Hermann Heinrich Loesch, born in Germany on December 25, 1818. He married Henriette Louise Frasmann on January 21, 1857. He died in Berlin, Washington County on November 4, 1875 and is buried at Eben Ezer Lutheran. She would also like to have more information on Henriette. Lastly, Wilhelmine Rosenberg Lehmann was born on February 18, 1834 in Germany. She married Julius Albert Lehmann. Shellie wants to know her immigration date.

From Jan Kelm: I found Hermann and Henriette in the Stemwede Emigrant Database which gave us some information but did not give us an immigration date for either. I was able to answer many of Shellie's questions but still need to go to the District Clerk's office to see if I can find naturalization documents.

From John Sommer: Is there an organization in Poland that will help people locate Polish church records? I am seeking an 1840 birth record that has not been digitized yet.

From Jan Kelm: I don't know the answer to that. I would suggest you contact the Polish Genealogical Society of Texas <http://www.pgst.org/poltexan.htm>

From David & Janet Kasner: They are trying to locate the marriage record of Tom Polachek and Rozina Shebesta, performed by Johann Moegle, Minister of the Gospel, on 6 October 1874. They want to find the village in which Tom was born.

From Jan Kelm: Pr. Moegle spent time as an itinerant pastor and I have looked for many years for his records. I think that many years ago I found some of his records in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top and in the Welcome Lutheran Church in Welcome. I think that Bethlehem also has some records of defunct area churches. Many of the Czech/Bohemian/Moravian people settled in Nelsonville in Austin County and Moegle may have also worked there, however, that church did not begin until 1893.

From John Sommer: He is asking where he can find information about the name change of Jozef Kueczka to Kubeskie.

From Mary Kubeczka: The spelling of names was often changed by whomever was writing it at the time according to what they heard. As the next generation came along, it continued with the change of spelling.

From Vanessa Smith: The county clerk's office has nothing regarding name changes. She suggested looking through the edoctecinc.com site for clues and also to check with his previous employer to see if the change had occurred while he was working. She also suggested that he contact St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Chappel Hill as there are both spellings shown on Findagrave in their cemetery.

From Patricia Reinke Roy: Can you identify this photo as a Washington or any surrounding county school, date unknown, students unknown.

From Jan Kelm: I've searched through the information I have and was not able to identify. Hoping someone else can.



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

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, dnainter.com. She shared some visual examples of her matches with dnainter 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.

WCGS Executive Meeting Minutes,

12 June 2019

Unfinished Business

It was discussed that we would continue to invite members to volunteer to serve as officers for 2020 and that we would revisit this again on our next meeting, 13 August 2019.

Response was good to the questionnaire that the officers prepared for new members. We will introduce 3 new members in the next Newsletter.

WCGS Brochure redesign was presented and edits were suggested.

At our August Executive meeting we will review our website membership form. Then Susan will update and place on the website. We need to check that the Newsletter link to it is updated also.

Discussion ensued regarding the July 15th Independence Tour: liabilities, and ad promotion in the paper. Insurance coverage will be investigated.

It was decided that there would no change to the dues amount or structure at this time.

New Business

A member requested that the agenda for each meeting be publized before the meetings. It was decided that we could either provide a hard copy on a table at the meetings and/or show it on the large projection screen before each meeting begins.

Susan has separated our Mail chimp account from her personal account and George is learning about using it.

Subject of adding new books and materials to the library. No one could locate copies of the book Common Schools of Washington County for donation. Vanessa will ask Andria if she has any sources for this. Also, ask if the Library would like a subscription to Stirpes?

Our president will start requesting member publications to donate to the library. Vanessa will ask Andria for guidelines of what kinds of materials the library will accept.

Announcement: Latest on our Projects

Over 50 obits handed out for scanning at the last regular meeting and more at the May meeting with many completed. Project #10 is progressing.

\$500 check was presented to Camptown Cem. Assn. Project #2 completed.

Repairs have begun on Fisher Cemetery Stones. Project #1 in progress.

Funds allocated for Washington and Old Gay Hill (aka Spencer money) Cemeteries on hold until further developments. Projects 3 & 4, suspended for the present.

Queries and FG requests are continuing. Project # 5 in progress.

Summer programs and tour being organized by Education committee. Project #6 is progressing.

Volunteers for Indexing have progressed to book #3. Project 7 is ongoing.

Calendar: Family Search Program, Monday July 1st.

Independence Tour, Monday, July 15th;

WCGS Exec. Meeting, Tuesday, August 13th.

WCGS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes,

Aug. 13, 2019, 10:30 AM, Room B, NCRML

President Johnson opened the meeting by presenting some documents and asked for comments whether they should be filed in a President's binder, kept for a while or discarded. It was decided to put Insurance information for future tours, the contract with the bus company, the liability statement by atty. John Winkelmann and the blank registration forms into a President's binder. We will keep the completed forms for a short while and then discard.

There was then a short discussion about the confusing use of Google Voice # when callers contact the society. The phone number works. Nothing will be changed for now.

Unfinished business

1. Questionnaires for new members that have been received by WCGS have been published in the Newsletter. Not everyone answers. Pres. Johnson will continue to contact newest members for responses.
2. Trish showed the final forms of the WCGS Brochures and everyone approved of the design.
3. Charlene read her suggestions to be added to the online membership form. A question will be added asking "What is your interest in the WCGS?" with examples in parenthesis. Charlene will contact Susan to ask that this be added.
4. Vanessa talked with Lowell and asked the progress of stone restoration at the Fisher Cemetery. He has completed two of the five, but the grass is overgrown and it is too hot to work on more until maybe October.

New Business

1. Lu-Treasurer's Report. Income: \$850 from memberships plus balance from the general fund = \$1180.00. Expenses included Chamber of Commerce dues, TSGS dues, Newsletter mailings, program expenses and projects=\$1180. (\$264 remains for programs and 245 remains for projects for this year). She shared the figures for the Independence tour and

indicated that WCGS had a net loss of \$367.52, which was balanced by the projects fund.

2. Vanessa reported that the first six books' indexes are complete and cataloged and are beginning to appear on the shelves at the library. The seventh book has been started--The Common Schools of Washington County, which Jan Kelm's mother compiled and Jan typed. We found no copies to purchase to add to the library but found that the library had two copies that had been withdrawn because of poor condition. It was decided to place the pages in sleeves and a binder, and to index it also.

- 3-4. President Johnson led a discussion about the evaluation of the Independence tour and County Clerk's tour by attendees. (She may go into this in more detail at the general meeting, but the majority felt the tours were a success and some offered additional activity suggestions). Pres. Johnson requested that a thank you be sent to the Pankoniens for their generous gift to underwrite the Independence tour.

5. Programs for the remaining months of this year:
Sept-Finney Clay on the Civil War (Tidbit, Tina Henderson-Texas 10 Explorers)
Oct- Charles Swenson, Camptown Cemetery burials (Tidbit, TBA)
Nov-Jan Kelm, Ghost Towns of Washington County (Tidbit, TBA)
Dec-John Bookman on his binding company (Tidbit, Santa Shares his Genealogy)

6. October 18th, 2019, 10:30-8:30 PM will be the WCGS and Library sponsored Genealogy all day event. Vanessa and Joan Griggs will be cochairs and will provide a sign-up sheet for members wishing to volunteer their time during the seminar to answer questions about our society and man our table.

7. President Johnson announced the members of the Nominating Committee: Nancy Maas, Linda Jureka, Marlene Schumacher, and Joyce and Gus

Pankonien. The Executive Committee will meet again on Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 10:30 AM to review the findings of the Nominating Committee.

8. President Johnson and Exec. Committee discussion on how to publish the agendas for the regular meetings. It was decided to place this on the large projection screen prior to the start of the meeting.
9. Vanessa wondering what happened to the press notices about WCGS doings. She has not seen anything in the paper this Summer other than the ad for the Independence tour. Discussion between President Johnson and Trish. It was decided that there was a misunderstanding in that President Johnson thought that Trish was doing this and Trish thought we were not doing this for the summer. It was decided that keeping our society's activities in the news all year is important.
10. Lu announced that with the help of the newest volunteers that all Lydia Hines' contributed obituaries have now been scanned and placed on our website.

Meeting adjourned.

Vanessa Smith, Sec.