

Washington County Genealogical Society Officers for 2023

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www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas

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Brenham, TX 77833

Membership dues to be paid at
meetings



Picture of #33 Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany

German Names Changed with Possession of Property

This can create some interesting challenges when tracing ancestry

By — Becky Graeber

In Germany it was the custom to name the farms for the people who lived there. In my case my 8 times great grandfather, Hermann Tiemann, was born about 1610 in Westrup, Germany. His son Richard Tiemann was born on the Tiemann farm #9 Westrup in 1642. His son, Jost Heinrich Tiemann, was born on the Tiemann farm #9 Westrup 11 Nov 1675. His son, Johann Heinrich Tiemann, was born 25 Aug 1704 on the Tiemann farm #9 Westrup. His son, Johann Friedrich Tiemann, was born on the Tiemann Farm #9 Westrup 28 May 1744. His son, Gerd Heinrich Tiemann, was born on the Tiemann farm #9 Westrup 23 Dec 1766.

Gerd Heinrich Tiemann took over the Kramer farm at #53 Oppendorf at the time of his first marriage, undoubtedly through an arrangement by his cousin Anne Marie Elisabeth Kramer. Anne Marie Elisabeth was the daughter of his great aunt Anne Marie Kramer, third child of Jost Heinrich Tiemann and Anne Regina Schwake. Anne Marie married Conrad Carl Kramer of #53 Oppendorf in 1739. Anne Marie Elisabeth and Conrad Carl Kramer had no surviving children to inherit the farm so she bequeathed it to her cousin Gerd Heinrich Tiemann. Thus his name became Gerd Heinrich Kramer after the farm he inherited. Here begins the line of my grandfather Heinrich Freidrich Carl Kramer.

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A Look Back at January's Meeting

Kasia Flanagan, PhD, presented the January program titled, Your Story Is Your Legacy. Dr. Flanagan presented different ways to preserve family history. Ways to preserve family history include written stories, photo journals, video, interviews, etc.

Black German Speakers in Texas: Biographies, Causes and Interethnic Dynamics



David Huenlich

April 3, 2023 @ 1PM

**Nancy Carol Roberts
Memorial Library
Brenham, Texas**

David Huenlich is visiting from Germany and is a lecturer and researcher at the Catholic University of Eichstätt and the University of Texas at San Antonio. He will be sharing his work on anecdotes of rural Black Texans speaking German and Czech, which he has extracted from newspapers, scholarly works, and oral history throughout the last 170 years. The phenomenon has only been systematically studied more recently.

Geographic distributions in the 20th century and census data from the 19th century suggest this type of second language acquisition and language crossing was a rather common phenomenon. This presentation will provide glimpses into the lives of Black German and Czech speakers in various parts of Central Texas. The varying reasons and motives they had for acquiring German or Czech will be illustrated with help of selected cases in three geographically distinct areas.



Brenham German *Schützenverein* - Brenham Heritage Museum

Correction:

The recent 2023 Yearbook for the Washington County Genealogical Society listed the wrong person as President in 2019. **Geraldine Johnson** was the President of Washington County Genealogical Society in 2019.

Names Changed with Property Continued...

In the case of my husband, his 7th great grandfather was Heinrich Moelter, born in 1620 at #42 Dielingen. He married Adelheit Ranke, owner of #71 Dielingen, in 1659 and became Heinrich Ranke of #71 Dielingen. There were five generations of Ranke's born there. Johann Clamor Ranke, a member of the 5th generation, married Anne Marie Schmeltekop in 1805. Their 1st child was born in 1806 at #33 Dielingen and their name had changed to Graeber. They had 8 additional children all born at #33 Dielingen with the last name Graeber. We have not been able to find any connection to the original Graeber family of #33 Dielingen. Robert Jackson, who is very knowledgeable of the Stemwede area, told me he had researched the property and could not find a connection. Their immigration papers list #33 Dielingen as their address.

Meeting Dates 2023

April 3 – David Huenlich -Black German Speakers in Texas: Biographies, Causes and Interethnic Dynamics

May 1- Bernard Meisner-Pushes, Pulls and Records: The Waves of German Immigrants to the U.S.

September 1- Tammy Brauner, Washington County District Clerk

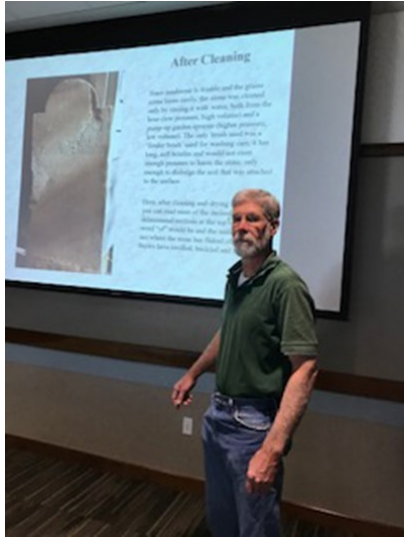
October 2 — Perry Gotcher. A descendent from one of the early Texas families will speak on their history in Texas.

November 6 - Richard Paul Chamberlain-Henrietta Morse (Chamberlain) King

December 4- Barbara Coakley-Extra, Extra ,Read All About Your Ancestors

Lowell Herzog Digs Up Local History at Masonic Cemetery

Speaker Lowell Herzog discussed the history surrounding a headstone he unearthed at the Masonic Cemetery, also known as the Yellow Fever Cemetery. The sandstone marker was buried 30 inches in the ground and not in good shape. Lowell took it home to clean it, washing it repeatedly. In researching the partial information remaining on its surface, he determined it was for Matilda Graham, the wife of Joshua Graham. The couple was married in Washington County and he served as one of the first city commissioners. Lowell thinks Joshua somehow acquired the land for the local Masonic Lodge, including land for the cemetery, and that Matilda may have been the first burial. This is the history behind the Lodge being named for Graham.



Lowell Herzog



We would like to welcome our
new members for 2023.

Jeff Hagerlin

Kathy Ruesing Hagerlin

Kenneth Graeber

Melissa Seureau

Stephanie Ddughdhnemimmier

Floyd W Rosenbaum

Connie Averitt

Carol Diane (Zischang) Gaskamp

Gregory Herman Gaskamp

Laura Little Benford

WCGS Meeting and Events Pictures



December Christmas Party

Members were asked to relate a Christmas memory at the December meeting. We also celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the WCGS. The attached photo is of the three charter members present at that meeting – Bill Thane, Teddy Boehm and Jan Kelm. The cake and punch were enjoyed by attendees.

Independence Day at Washington on the Brazos

The WCGS had a booth at the Texas Independence Day Celebration at Washington on the Brazos State Park. Linda Jurecka, Trish Cooke and Becky Graeber enjoyed meeting lots of people and sharing information about genealogy and the WCGS. Below is a picture of Becky after our booth was blown away by the high wind on Sunday.



Rosenwald Schools: A Vision Fulfilled

Presented to the Washington County Genealogical Society's February Meeting
at Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library



Tina Henderson, PhD



J. Michael Solar, J.D.



West Columbus Rosenthal School
(Texas Highways)

This team will presented the story behind the vision of a freed slave, educator, orator, activist and leader, Booker T. Washington, who proposed that educating Black children would certainly ensure them a successful economic and social future, especially during the Jim Crow Era. He sought the help of businessman Julius Rosenwald to help him make that dream come into fruition.

The Julius Rosenwald Fund was established to support the construction of schools for African-American children in the southern United States. Between 1920 and 1932, the program donated more than \$28 million in fifteen states, and resulted in 527 funded buildings on approximately 466 school campuses in Texas.

Rosenwald Schools represent an important chapter in Texas history, reflecting the initiative of African-American communities which sought educational opportunities for their children during the Jim Crow Era, when all public schools in Texas were segregated by law.

With financial assistance from the Rosenwald Fund, communities built modern school facilities, many of which continued to operate as schools into the 1960s. Most Rosenwald buildings were built of wood following standardized plans, and many were demolished after they ceased serving as schools, while a few were converted to church-

es or community centers.

Rosenwald Schools in Texas

The Rosenwald Fund supported the construction of schools, teachers' homes, and shop buildings in small cities and unincorporated rural communities in 82 Texas counties. Ten of these schools were built in Washington County. The THC's Rosenwald School database indicates that 21 buildings have been confirmed to be demolished, while 39 are extant. Approximately 85% of all Rosenwald-funded buildings in Texas have not been surveyed nor accounted for.

Many of the Rosenthal students would go on to be leaders in their communities and in the Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. Henderson has been a member of the WCGS for five years and has conducted various research projects on untold stories of Washington County. She has over 25 years creating and implementing behavioral research programs for health compromised populations.

Mr. Solar is a trial attorney from Houston and currently owns one of the Rosenwald schools that now serves as a home. He spends time between Houston and Brenham. His extensive research on the subject of Rosenwald Schools has made him thoroughly appreciate the historical value of his property. He has over 35 years in his law practice protecting the rights of working-class families.



School picture taken in front
of Sandy Grove in Burleson
County (Texas Highways)