

WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

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March Program

This month's program will be presented by Tina Henderson. It is based on the true story of Cathy Williams: Forever a Buffalo Soldier.

Private William Cathay, disguised herself as a man for nearly two years to serve in the ranks of the Buffalo Soldiers: first and only African American woman to accomplish such feat during the 1860s.

In this presentation we will explore:

- ~How did this enterprising young woman become Private William Cathay and why did she decide to wear a blue uniform?
- ~How did she successfully serve so long as a Buffalo Soldier when service by a female in the U.S. Army (Regular) was illegal?
- ~What did she accomplish while in the ranks?
- ~What became of Cathy Williams after her life as a soldier of the West?
- ~What did she have to endure and overcome as a single Black woman first in a life of slavery, then as a Buffalo Soldier?
- ~And finally, as a woman on her own in the Western Frontier?

Please join us for this interesting and informative presentation.

New Yearbook Now Available

If you haven't gotten your new yearbook yet, check your name tag folder.

New Members

Katie Smith
George Lewis
Margaret Albright
Gordon Dutile
Julia Dutile

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

Important!

Returning WCGS Records

We are currently in the process of locating WCGS materials that have been loaned out over the years. If you have any research materials, books, or other documents belonging to the WCGS, please make plans to return them as soon as possible. You may do this by contacting Vanessa Smith at jadetheblade105@yahoo.com or Geraldine Johnson at 979-203-3131. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

February 18, 2020 Grimes County – A Journey in Time – 7pm Navasota Community Center
Renowned photographers Wendy Watriss & Fred Baldwin

February 2020 In honor of Black History Month, The Brenham Heritage Museum African American Content Committee in collaboration with the Texas Ten Historical Explorers, Inc., are hosting an exhibit at the museum depot for the month of February.

March 2, 2020 WCGS Meeting, 1:00pm, Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library in Brenham, TX

May 24-31, 202. The Humble Area Genealogical Society (THAGS) Research Trip to Salt Lake City For more information, please visit <http://www.humblegen.org>

THAGS RESEARCH TRIP: SALT LAKE CITY MAY 24-31, 2020

\$25 registration fee per person

Group activities:

Monday May 25

5:30-6:30: Research class

7 pm: Dinner at The Garden Restaurant

Sunday May 31

8:30-10 a.m. *Music and the Spoken Word* by the Tabernacle Choir

Make your own reservations for hotel (The Plaza/THAGS discount)

For further instructions and more information, contact: Patsy McLaughlin @ 832-439-8045;
email: patsy.mclaughlin@gmail.com



Shannon Wobbe: She is the new owner of the property on which the Hale Gattis Cemetery is located off of North Meyersville Road. She has taken a tremendous interest in these graves and has done some wonderful research. Together, we are trying to determine how many burials are there. If anyone has any information on John (Jack) Hale and the Gattis Family, please contact Shannon at wobbenator@gmail.com

Question: I need a copy of the "inheritance record" of the Burleson/Washington county, Vol L, page 545, showing Sarah Ann Arnold, wife of I N Arnold as documented on ancestry.com. Sarah Ann was daughter of Joshua Parker, who died 1838 in Independence, Washington county, TX and Nancy Sophonia Whiteside Parker who died 1861 in Independence, Washington Co, TX. I have not located the record, but found it listed in Ancestry as above. We've checked Burleson County, so now want to see if it can be located in Wasington County. Jane Cohen, j-cohen@aggienetwork.com.

Answer: I checked with our County Clerk and there is no such thing as the inheritance record of Burleson/Washington, Vol L, page 545. I also went to the courthouse to see if it was actually entered correctly on ancestry and that may not have been the actual name of the book. But other probate books for that volume and page did not have that record. I checked the digitized documents in the county clerk's office and I did find two documents that showed that Joshua did have 3 minor children, Sarah Ann, James, and John. I made copies and sent those two documents to Jane. I did offer to go back and check a couple of other places if this was not sufficient.

Question: I am looking for information on Herman Christoph Meyer (Meier). His grandson Walter J. Meyer Sr. is my great grandfather. I would love to learn more about him and any family. Amanda V. Dixon, avdcats@gmail.com

Answer: I have sent Amanda the obituary from the Brenham Banner for Herman Meier and his wife Henrietta Hagedorn Meier, which I found on the Portal to Texas. I gave her instructions of how to work in The Portal, information about WC county clerk documents on edoctecinc.com, and suggested she also check FamilySearch. Amanda also had told me that Herman was a charter member of Zion Lutheran. I've sent her information from the Zion Lutheran Records and have searched some of the other local church records for times earlier than 1870 but have not found them anywhere else. I do know that he settled first in the Wiedeville area, and have checked those records but nothing was found. I've sent 1860 and 1870 census records and am searching for other years. These are not always easy to find since the name is sometimes spelled Meyer. I've researched the Probate Records and have sent her their wills and other important documents from those files.

Question: I am looking to purchase a book by Mildred Bostick Brinegar concerning her lineage to James Francis Walker, Sr. I am also a descendent through the line of Lucretia Walker Bell. Nancy Baugh Lowry, nlowry@verizon.net

Answer: I responded to Nancy that I have no knowledge of this book but would enter her query into our newsletter.

An Invitation to Join

Hello Washington County Texas!

I am a participant in a genetic genealogy project hosted by Hamilton County, Ohio Genealogical Society that hopes to connect Germans with their "long lost cousins" in the USA.

Since your county has descendants of mid-19th century German immigrants, this project might be of interest to your members.

In my personal experience, I have quite a few DNA matches with people in Washington County, Texas or their near ancestors settled in your county and fanned out from there. My ancestors settled in Washington County, Illinois and some of their descendants ended up in your county. All three counties had immigrants from Minden-Lubbecke, NRW and Lower Saxony.

Even if your members are not descended from those particular areas, please invite them join the project.

Lydia Gaebe
Snohomish, WA