

# WCGS Newsletter

Washington County Genealogical Society

Vol. 15, Issue 24

April 2020

[www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org](http://www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org)

[www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas](https://www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas)

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## April Program

This month's program will be presented by Clarence Gerke.

Clarence grew up in the William Penn area of Washington County. He will talk about the history of William Penn. He is an owner of Memorial Oaks Chapel in Brenham and will also discuss information that can be found in funeral home records that can be used for genealogical research.

Please join us for this interesting and informative presentation.

## Announcements

NCRML is starting an Oral History Program. See librarian for more information

Whoever borrowed obituaries, please return them to Lydia.

San Felipe Site has evening program once a month on Thursdays.

- March 26 - District Judge Ken Wise.
- April 23 - Dr. Bruce Winsor.
- April 25 - Free genealogy workshop

~Bill Whitner's family has lots of pictures, resources, and documents of their history that may be useful.

## **New Members**

Patsy McLaughlin – Renewed Membership

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

## **You are Invited**

Baylor Scott & White – Brenham would like to invite you to participate in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seniors Day. This educational, informative, and fun day is important as we celebrate and appreciate the seniors in our community. This event will take place Wednesday April 8, 2020 from 10:00am – 1:30pm at Brenham Fireman's Training Center

## **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](mailto:jadetheblade105@yahoo.com) or Geraldine Johnson at 979-203-3131.

Thanks!

## **Upcoming Events**

**May 24-31, 2020** The Humble Area Genealogical Society (THAGS) Research Trip to Salt Lake City For more information, please visit <http://www.humblegen.org>

April 6, 2020 WCGS Monthly Meeting – 1:00pm Nancy Carole Memorial Library

## **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](mailto:patsy.mclaughlin@gmail.com)

## New Yearbook Now Available

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



Question: Joseph McLaughlin wrote "I'm attempting to see if there was ever any known and recorded 'public access' to the Old Gates-Perry Cemetery?" Feb 29, 2020, [pat64499@yahoo.com](mailto:pat64499@yahoo.com)

Answer: As far as we know, there has only been a private road to the cemetery. Jan Kelm

Question: Shelly Rhodes contacted us about the Clark and Belcher families. Shelly is the daughter of Caren Dee Eames, who had been in correspondence with us several years ago. Caren had other issues come up and our emails stopped. Shelly has a paternal great uncle, David Thomas, who was a signer of the TX Declaration. She is also still working on her maternal families, Clark and Belcher, and is interested in applying for a historical marker for the family.

Answer: I gave Shelly information about applying for the marker. I also gave her the name of the owner of the property on which the Clark Cemetery is located.

Question: I need to retain the services of a paid researcher to search for property records in Washington and Waller counties. Can you recommend or refer such a person? This is not a large project. I estimate five to eight hours. Mark Lomax, Pasadena, CA, [mlomax1074@gmail.com](mailto:mlomax1074@gmail.com) Feb 16, 2020

Answer: I explained that I didn't know of a paid researcher in Washington County and have no connection to Waller County. I suggested he send me the names of his family so I could check my records to see if I already had information on them. I also offered to do some basic research in the county courthouse and pass on to him what documents were there so he could proceed to make the contact at the WC offices if he wanted official copies. I mentioned that we offer these services at no charge and, if he were happy with what I sent, we would appreciate a donation. He responded that he would take me up on the offer but I've not heard from him since. I don't know the names he is researching at this time.

Findagrave: We continue to have requests for corrections or added information on our Findagrave memorials. For many cemeteries, we have entered what we knew at the time, basically from a walkover or the actual listing from a cemetery. Tim Allen has sent us many comments during the past month for burials in Flat Prairie Cemetery. He seems to have reviewed each burial we have listed to see if he can find more information on that person, such as death certificates or census records, to obtain the parents' names, etc. I always like to review the suggestions, so this has taken a tremendous amount of time this month to review. He has done some excellent work. I've questioned a couple of his suggestions and we've worked through them together to come to a solution. Although it is still ongoing and a very time-consuming process, I am very appreciative of what he is doing.

### **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