

WCGS NEWSLETTER

Washington County Genealogical Society of Texas

www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org

www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas

Information

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2211 South Day St.
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Brenham, TX 77833

1.979.633.4848
link to email

It's time to pay your dues. [Use this link](#) to subscribe or renew your membership?

2017 Officers

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Change of Meeting Time

Because of a Blinn scheduling conflict, we are moving our meeting time 15 minutes later to 7:15 for the March and April meetings. We apologize for any confusion this may create. Also note the change in speaker for this month's meeting found in the side bar.

What You Missed

The WCGS met at Blinn College Student Center at 7:00 PM, on Monday, February 6, 2017. There were 25 present - 16 members and 9 visitors.

The program was begun by Eddie Harrison who introduced the members of the Kesee family and Cheryl McAdoo DaBera, who were present in the audience. He stated that the Kesee and McAdoo families' contributions to the local community were tremendous and theirs is a story that needs to be shared.

The Kesee family lived in Caney Creek and ultimately moved to Kenney, Texas. Don and Leroy Kesee's musical careers were highlighted. Both men were exceptional self-taught musicians; they could listen to a few notes of a song and proceed to join in and complete it. They played many instruments and entertained our community in venues such as Brenham's Hot Times, Cool Tunes, at the Blue Flame Café on highway 36, and the House of Blues. Washington County came first with these fine artists, but their talents were famous over a wide area of the state. One of the Kesee family members told of growing up listening to Don's music and that his tunes can still be found on the internet today. His style was similar to B. B. King's.

Speaking for the McAdoo family, Cheryl McAdoo DaBera, began telling of her journey to learn about her family. The bulk of her talk focused on Hous McAdoo, born about 1828, who was probably a slave of John David McAdoo, a lawyer,

Looking Forward

The next meeting will be March 6 at **7:15 P.M.** The program will be given by professional genealogist Nick Cimino on the topic "Drilling Deeper in the Lone Star State - Techniques for Maximizing Results in Texas Online and Archival Resources."

Queries

We are delighted to post any research questions you may have. Contact us here.

New Members

If you know of someone with a genealogy interest, tell them about us. They can join at any time.

Memberships

Texas State Genealogical Society

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Dues Reminder

Please give Lu Hollander your 2017 dues or mail them to 2211 South Day St. Suite 105 Brenham, TX 77833. The cost is \$12 for a single person or \$18 for a couple living at the same address. [Click here for the 2017 form.](#)

born in Tennessee who came to Texas in 1854. Lawyer McAdoo sold off most of his plantation land near Old Washington, moved into Brenham and became involved in politics. Former slave Hous' own career very nearly mirrored lawyer John's; they frequently appeared in public supporting the same political cause. Both were staunch Republicans and never backed down from a political fight.

Reports

Adopt-A-Cemetery. The committee is considering adopting Washington Cemetery. Also, Mr. Harrison stated that a deed for Camptown Cemetery may be forthcoming, which will facilitate this restoration project.

Schools. The committee is planning to meet with Christina Hoffman from Chappell Hill to compare her knowledge of local schools with ours.

Finance. Treasurer. Lu Hollander reported the current balance is \$12,017.57. 57 members have paid dues. The donations amounted to \$20.00. Total donations to date: \$158.00. The cemetery balance is \$2,114.69.

We had 80 members last year for a total income of \$1250.00. In order to balance our budget, we will discontinue some of our outlays. This year we will not contribute to the Star of the Republic Museum or the Local History Fair. Website update requires \$200 this year. Our TSGS dues are \$25. We have budgeted \$200 for the newsletter and \$25 for member memorials. No yearbook expenses this year. \$500 has been allowed for special projects. Our expenditures will be approximately \$1250. The 2017 budget was accepted.

Old Business. The Museum's WWI Project will not be happening this year. Necessary ADA compliance related construction will be all-consuming. In the meantime, if we get a list of soldiers to research, WCGS may still make some progress by accumulating information about the veterans until the Museum is ready to resume.

Tidbit

Monday's tidbit was presented by Nancy Maass, who related her husband's family story of the "Alien Lights" (translated from German) of Zionsville, Washington County. These lights would be seen by her husband's family in the evenings, in Zionsville,

Washington County, in the 1940s. The lights would “travel” down the creek bed. The cause of the lights was never explained. The soil was tested for phosphorus with a negative result. An interesting fact is that the “Alien Lights” of Zionsville, the “Marfa Lights”, and the “Hardin County Lights” all are located on the 30th Parallel. Coincidence, or not? These lights remain a mystery.

Event of Interest

The 34th Texas German Society State Convention will be held March 18, 2017 at The Knights of Columbus Hall in La Grange, Texas (190 S. Brown Street). Doors will open at 8:00 am with registration and breakfast from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. You are all invited to come and enjoy German Music and information about our German Heritage and Culture. There will be vendors of German and handmade crafts and products. A German style meal will be catered at noon by The Knights of Columbus. For more details or to register , visit their website at www.texasgermansociety.com/Convention2014.html. Early registration discounts are available.

Tentative Schedule- March 18, 2017

- 08:00 am Doors Open
- 08:30-09:30 am Registration
- 09:30 am Opening Program
- 10:00-10:20 am
- Judge Ed Janecka – “Painted Churches & German Settlers in Fayette County”
- 10:20-10:40 am
- Mayor Janet Moerbe – “Casino Hall”
- 10:40-11:00 am
- District Judge Jeff Steinhauser – “Influence of Law in Fayette County”
- 11:00-12:00 pm Business Meeting
- 12:00-01:00 pm Meal
- 01:00-02:00 pm
- County-wide German Singers with Dr. Don Kerby
- 02:00-02:30
- La Grange High School German Folk Dancers
- 02:30 pm Closing Remarks
- 02:40 pm Break and Silent Auction

Registration Form
2017 Texas German Society State Convention
 Hosted by Fayette County & La Grange County TGS Chapters
 Saturday, March 18, 2017
 Knights of Columbus Hall
 190 S. Brown
 La Grange, TX

Registration: Prebooked prior to March 1, 2017 = \$15.00 per person
 (Booked after March 1, 2017 (not to include March 18) = \$20.00 per person

Personalize this name, (name, surname or number tag)
 Name: _____
 Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____
 Chapter or state of origin _____
 Title if applicable (A, President, etc.) _____

Please indicate:

Number of people before March 1	x \$15.00 =	_____	amount enclosed
Number of people after March 1	x \$20.00 =	_____	amount enclosed
Number of people paid online (not guaranteed here)	x \$20.00 =	_____	amount paid
Number of students **	x \$10.00 =	_____	amount enclosed
Booths for vendors (submit by March 1, 2017)	x \$25.00 =	_____	amount enclosed
	x \$10.00 for noon meals	_____	amount enclosed

**Under 21 years of age/not enrolled in an accredited school college or university.

Make checks payable to: Fayette County TGS
 Return form and money to: Marla Ribick
 190 S. Brown
 La Grange, Texas 77846

Questions or registration fee or details go: www.texasgermansociety.com

For this and various recommended items see the schedule for photo by Dr. Steinhauser for more info.