

THE JOURNAL

The unofficial newsletter of Wilson County Historical Society



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Juneteenth

by Anthony Delgado

June 19th, or Juneteenth, is an annual celebration recognizing the date in 1865, when General Granger informed Texas citizens of the emancipation of slaves. In 2021, President Biden signed legislation making June 19th a federal holiday. When was the first time you learned of Juneteenth?

I was sixteen years old when I first learned about Juneteenth. I was the morning (6AM-3PM) dishwasher at the truck stop that existed at I35 and Judson road. It was a day like any other. The kitchen was hot and dishes continued to pile up. Approaching lunch time, Ms. Henrietta asked me to join her and the other cook for lunch. It smelled good and I always enjoyed everything they cooked.

I was handed a delicious plate of barbeque beef, ribs, green beans, and mashed potatoes. "You gotta have red soda!", Ms Henrietta told me emphatically. I did enjoy Big Red so I grabbed one but she must have noticed the quizzical look on my face. "Child, you know what the red soda is for?" "No ma'am." "Today is Juneteenth. You gotta have red soda on Juneteenth to remember all our ancestors who shed their blood." Ms Henrietta then proceeded to tell me all about the meaning behind Juneteenth.

Here are some pictures found in the Wilson County Archives for the June 19, 1946 celebration. It appears this celebration was held at the Dunbar school formerly located in Floresville.



On September 16, 1940, the Wilson County Free Library was created when Commissioners' Court voted unanimously to hire Mrs. Lillian Inez Jackson as the first county librarian. Her salary was \$75 a month. She held the position for the better part of 32 years. The library collection was housed in the basement of the courthouse until the brick and mortar building was finished in 1946. The Floresville Musical Club gifted the county library 350 books to create the circulating collection. October 4, 1946 the Martha Eschenburg Public Library on 1144 C Street was dedicated and open to the public.

Archives Queries

Information provided by Nicki Stohr



The Archives continues to help our citizens research our County's history. In April and May the archives saw 58 visitors and fielded 65 queries. Subjects researched included: James Lansin, Salvador Flores, J.W. Hardin of Stockdale, Thomas Y Hardin of Stockdale, El Paistle Rancho, Elijah Grimes for Military Repatriation Project, Wilson County Railroad, Texas Rangers Don G. Gilliland; James Dial; David Webb and his 3 grandsons, Family obituaries, photos of early Wilson County, Palace Drug Story, Rogers Family, Rancho de Pataguilla, Francisco Longoria, and the Wilson County Historical Society.

Have a research question? Contact the Archives, they may have the answer.

May Society Membership Drive



Photos courtesy of Viola Henke



Lots of good food, socializing, meeting the Peanut Festival Court and new members was all on the agenda for our May meeting at the Dewees-Renschel house. Thanks to all who contributed!

Western Shindig A Huge Success



The Western Shindig held on April 15th at the Floresville Event Center was a huge success.

A big **THANK YOU** and **CONGRATULATIONS** to Viola Henke and a team of more than 20 other volunteers (list on the right provided by Viola) for all they did to raise a significant amount of money for the Jailhouse Museum renovation fund.

Another Western Shindig is planned for July 15th at the Floresville Event Center. Please contact Viola if you are able to help out. You can volunteer your time or donate a baked good for the bake sale. You can also contact Ruby Manen if you are interested in donating a silent auction item. There is plenty of display space so the size of your donated silent auction item does not matter.

CAROL CHITTY
CAROLYN LISKA
CLARENCE EHLERS
CLAY MAECKEL
DON MANEN
DORA ORR
HELEN NOLL
ILENE ANDERSON
IRIS BURRIS
JAMES NOLL
JOHN REED
MARK BURRIS
NANCY TRAEGER
NEILA HOPKINS
PAT JACKSON
RUBY MANEN
RYAN LEE
SARAH GELLA
SHARON MEYER
SUSAN REED
TARA LEE
VAL BAYER
VIOLA HENKE

GOT TICKETS?



You do not want to miss this opportunity to spend a great time with about 600 of your closest friends at the Floresville Event Center. The musical entertainment will be by Freddy Cruz and the Noble Outlaws.

Contact Viola to reserve your spots (or volunteer)!

Don't forget to get your silent auction to Ruby Manen. We will have lots of exhibit space.



The Floresville Opry
Presents a

WESTERN SHINDIG
(With Dancing)
SAT., JULY 15, 2023

Floresville Event Center
600 St Hwy 97 West out of Floresville
Doors open at 5:30 pm

Music from 7:00 to 11:00 pm

SILENT AUCTION
Bar-B-Q Dinner available — \$15.00
Catered meal
Desserts Available \$1.00

NO ICE CHESTS!

Reserved Table (Seats 8) \$100.00
General Admission Ticket
Prepaid \$15.00
At the Door \$20.00

Freddy Cruz
And the
Noble Outlaws

Benefit for the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum
For info., or to reserve a table, call Viola (830) 391-1062

FLORESVILLE

Wilson County News
A proud sponsor of the Floresville Opry
gowilson360.com



Have a favorite dessert?

Consider donating it and others at the upcoming **Floresville Opry** and **Western Shindig**. Contact Viola Henke to learn more about how you can help make these two fundraisers a tasty event.

Save The Dates



2nd Saturdays - Jailhouse Museum Tours
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Wilson County Jailhouse Museum

June 20- Membership Meeting
6:00 PM
"Natural History of Wilson County" by
Melinda & Robert Creech
County Courthouse

July 6- Floresville Opry
County Expo Center
Doors Open at 5:00PM

July 15 - Western Shindig
Floresville Event Center
Doors Open at 5:30 PM

July 18- Membership Meeting
6:00 PM
"El Camino Real" by Dave Regan
County Courthouse

August 15- Membership Meeting
6:00 PM
"Railroad History of Wilson County" by
John Reed
County Courthouse

Note: Society Meetings will be held in the County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom until further notice!

FORMER TEXAS RANGERS RECOGNIZED



On April 22nd, special ceremonies were held to recognize two former Texas Rangers who are buried in Wilson County.

The first ceremony was held at the historic de la Zerda cemetery and recognized Private Nemecio de la Zerda who served as a Texas Ranger during the Texas Republic period.

The Texas Ranger Memorial Cross ceremony is arranged by the Former Texas Ranger Association. Over 800 memorial crosses have been placed at burial sites of former Texas Rangers.

The second ceremony was held at the Floresville City Cemetery and honored Captain Will Wright. Captain Wright served as a Texas Ranger in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He also served as Wilson County Sheriff.

Both ceremonies were well attended by family members, friends, Society members, elected officials, as well as former Texas Rangers.



Texas Historical Marker Honors Dr. Ella Ware



"Dr Ware Babies" gather for a picture with her historical marker.

May 13th was a special day in Stockdale. The overnight storms did not deter family, friends, and former patients of Dr. Ella Ware from gathering to participate in the special historical marker dedication ceremony. May 13th was also the birth date of Dr Ella Ware as well as the date, in 1899, when she graduated from medical school. The dedication ceremony was held in the Masonic Lodge in Stockdale and was standing room only. A tour of the Stockdale Museum followed the ceremony. The museum is housed in Dr. Ware's former medical office.

PRIVATE OBEDIAH "OBIE" WALKER HONORED



A special Memorial Day ceremony was led and conducted by VFW Post 8555 on May 27th to pay tribute to and honor Private Obediah "Obie" Walker, a World War I veteran who died while on active duty in 1918. Private Walker, a native of Floresville, is buried in the historic Walker-Edwards cemetery in Floresville.

The special ceremony was organized by Society member Nancy de la Zerda.

The event was attended by more than two dozen of Private Walker's descendants--from his granddaughter Ms Jaime Walker Harris, who traveled from Las Vegas, to his youngest six times great grandchild.

Pictured above are Ms Jaime Walker Harris and her nephews which include Pastors Melvin and James Amerson, all descendants of "Obie" Walker. On the right is Pastor Ray Warren, a descendant of one of Obie's sisters and cousin of Ms Jaime Harris. The special event brought these cousins together for the first time.



Be sure to check out our Website and "like" our Facebook page

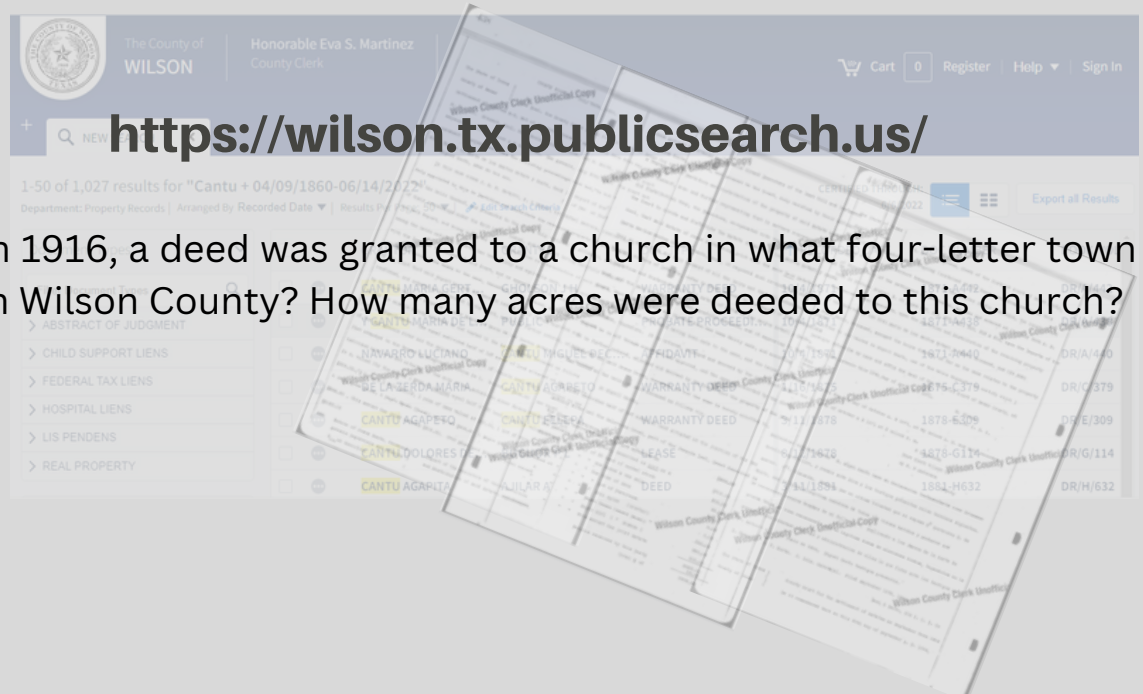


<https://www.wilsoncountyhistory.org>



[facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistorical society](https://facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistorical%20society)

Have you visited the Wilson County Clerk's Official Records Site?



In 1916, a deed was granted to a church in what four-letter town in Wilson County? How many acres were deeded to this church?

Make your mark in Wilson County's history!

BUY A BRICK

Consider an inscribed brick paver as a tribute or memorial to a friend, family member, a loved one, or yourself, as a permanent part of Wilson County History!

We are taking orders for engraved bricks that will replace the existing sidewalk leading to the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum. As a "State Antiquities Landmark" we must preserve and protect the old Jailhouse.

Orders for engraved bricks will help fund the restoration and upkeep of the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum.

The Wilson County Historical Society's goal is for ALL families in Wilson County to be represented with an engraved brick.

Thank You!

4x8 Brick Pavers
3 Lines, 20 Characters per line
\$100

Order at
wilsoncountyhistory.org

Wilson County Historical Society
(Blacksmith, Pottery, Hints)
EST. 1960
(Thanks from the State)

For info., contact
Neila Hopkins
281-376-1364
or Viola Henke
830-391-1062

QR Code: SCAN ME

Diagram showing the location of the brick pavers on the sidewalk leading to the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum. The diagram includes labels for Sector 'A' (Entrance to jailhouse), Sector 'B' (Walking up to entrance), and Sector 'C' (Entrance to jailhouse). It also shows the location of the Archives Bldg. and the Courthouse.

WCHS Graphics • 830-391-1062

Have you purchased your brick yet? You can leave a legacy for generations to come and help preserve our historic County Jailhouse Museum when you purchase a 4x8 brick paver. The pavers cost \$100 and you have three lines of 20 characters to tell your generational grandchildren to come that you were here and contributed to saving this historic landmark. You can contact Neila Hopkins or Viola Henke for purchase information.

Have you taken a Museum Tour?

Tours of our Jailhouse Museum are offered every second Saturday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Be sure to sign up for the special paranormal tours. It's an experience you will not forget.

