



Preservation News

WICHITA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Wichita County Archives

Bryce Blair, Archivist

720 Indiana Avenue Wichita
Falls, Texas 76301

940-763-0020

E-mail Address -
archives@co.wichita.tx.us

wchitacountyhistorical.commission.org/

Hours of Operation: Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday
10:00am - 12:00pm &
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Wichita County Texas
Archives is on [Facebook](#)

Program

Pam Morgan-Davis
Dying for Love

MEETING

12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING:

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Program
4. Business
5. Adjourn

Volume CCLXXV April 6, 2023

Becky Trammell, Editor

From the Desk of Robert Palmer, Commission Chair

Many fascinating stories emerge as we pursue our study of and efforts to preserve history. This happened to me last week. It's no secret I attend many estate sales, looking for historical items and artifacts. What I encountered last week far exceeded anything I had ever seen. The ad listed some things that suggested the sale had the potential to contain items of historical interest. I found a treasure trove of history along with the fascinating story of a lady who made history and the sharing of it a lifelong passion.

Jesse Lee "Jay" Tindall Keck was born to Henry Ross Tindall and Vara Loris Harbison Tindall on September 20, 1929, in Corsicana, Navarro County, Texas. She passed away on August 4, 2020, at the age of 90. She went to high school in Odessa. She attended The University of North Texas and Midwestern State University earning a Bachelor of Science in Art and Science. She was employed by WFISD teaching at Burgess, Jefferson, and Cunningham Elementary. It must have been a life-changing experience to have her as a teacher!

She married Mack Keck and bore four children outliving them all. She knew the whole state of Texas, traveling extensively, and much of the world, traveling from Morocco to New Zealand. She had a special passion for the Big Bend area. She volunteered extensively for The Korima Foundation, teaching sessions in outdoor events covering archeology, botany, geology, astrology, survival skills, wildlife, and environmental protection of the Big Bend area. She described herself as a historian and naturalist. Her obituary said, "She had a passion for the land and its people that was infectious!"

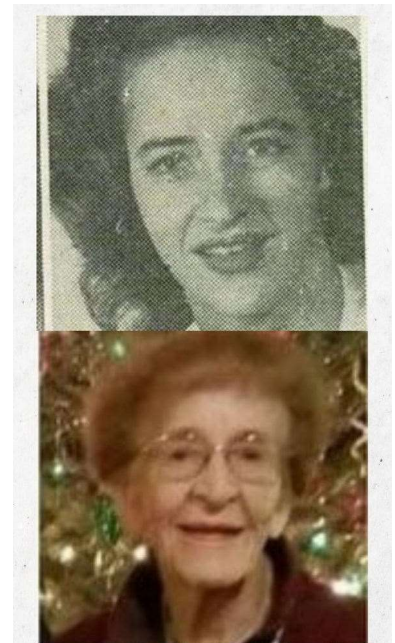
She designed and helped build her house on Home Road, Wichita County, one of the most unusual but interesting designs that you will ever encounter. She was a prolific artist.

She left not only memories and thoughts but a collection of tangible objects capable of filling a large museum. Her book collection was any historian's dream, many books on The History of Texas and the West, Native Americans and their artifacts, how our ancestors lived, and

general knowledge of botany and geology. The Native American artifact collection was one of the best imaginable. She took extensive notes, detailing the importance of different types of artifacts. She had a complete blacksmith shop with all the tools, the forge blower, and the forge coal pan. Her legacy of historical tools was extensive, ranging from Model T jacks and tools to tools that would have been part of any early farm or homestead; bottles, cooking pots and implements, washpots, and wagon wheels.

She had a large collection of branding irons, many from Wichita County ranches. And the list goes on and on.

What is the lesson? They are many. Many contributors to historical preservation don't get the honor they deserve. The history out there will scatter to the wind unless we make an effort to preserve it. History lives today!



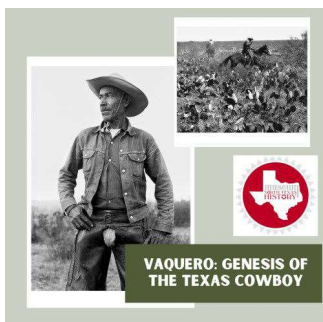
Wichita County Archive News - March 2023 - Monthly Report

-News Flash – Downtown Wichita Falls Development, located across the street from the museum at 709 Indiana, has purchased the J.F. Keller Building at 613 Seventh Street. The Keller building is one of the oldest remaining brick buildings in Wichita Falls. Downtown Development plans on rehabilitating the building to include a new roof and stabilization of the structure. They hope to restore the exterior to some degree of its original façade. Post Oak Preservations of Austin recently visited the Archives to research the history of the building. This starts the process of attaining a state historical designation which will provide tax incentives for a new owner. This is one more step in the preservation of our local history.

-Cynthia Smith, librarian at Hirschi High School, has donated 30 yearbooks from Hirschi, making our collection almost complete. This project was started in anticipation of the high school closings and will soon include Rider and WFHS. Ms. Smith said one of the new high schools (probably Legacy) will also get a full set of Hirschi yearbooks. The other two high schools will follow suit.

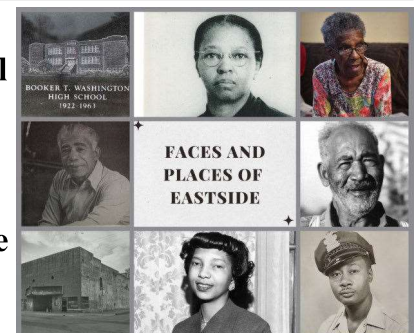
-Harvey Coombs came to the Archives with information about the story of his family's baseball team in Wichita Falls. In 1929, his father and his 10 brothers organized the Coombs Brothers baseball team. They were the only team to be made up of all brothers. Harvey was the only one of his cousins to pursue a career in baseball. He only played 3 seasons in the minors during the mid 1950's, making it to a AAA baseball club. Harvey was on his way to playing in the major league, but was sidelined by an injury that ended his baseball career. Amazingly, Harvey was playing for a club out of Victoria, Texas that played against the Spudders in 1957. They were scheduled to play a second game the next day, but it was cancelled, ending the Spudders legacy. We recorded the interview of Harvey Coombs and John Yates edited the recording to perfection. We provided a copy of the interview to Harvey and his daughter, Beth. In appreciation of the recording, they donated \$100 to the archives.

-Kim Zamiska of Kirtland, Ohio contacted the Archives looking for a photo of the William-Mary Hotel in Wichita Falls. Her grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Salmi stayed there for their honeymoon in 1942. The Archives furnished Ms. Zamiska three different photos of the outside of the William-Mary and one of the lobby. She was very grateful for the photos and sent us a scan of her grandparents receipt from the William-Mary. The cost of their hotel room for seven days was \$14. Mr. Salmi had commented to his family that the William-Mary was the second best hotel in town at that time. Makes us wonder which hotel was the best in 1942 !!!



Vaquero: Genesis of the Texas Cowboy opens in the Museum of North Texas History on April 13. A Humanities Texas photographic exhibit.

Faces and Places of Eastside remains open in the Museum, showcasing the history of Eastside and the people who contributed to that history.



WCHC News

We welcome Carol Rudd as our new Wichita County Archivist.

Carol Rudd came to the Wichita County Historical Commission thanks to Joreen Ludeke of Burkburnett. A member of the Burkburnett Library Book Club and the Wichita County Historical Commission, Carol became a volunteer at the Wichita County Archives in 2020. A native of Wichita County, Carol attended Harrell Elementary and Zundy Junior High, graduating from Wichita Falls High School (Old High). Carol attended Bob Jones University to Midwestern State University (now MSU Texas, receiving a teacher's certificate. After teaching at Electra, she and her husband, Ray, moved to England as part of a military transfer. In Upper Heyford, and then in Landstul and Baumholder, Germany, and Yokoto, Japan, Carol taught for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). After retiring in 2017, Carol and her husband, a retired chief master sergeant, moved to Burkburnett, Texas.





Wichita County Historical Commission

April 6, 2023

Agenda

Call to Order: Robert Palmer

Speaker: Pam Morgan-Davis

Approval of minutes for March 2, 2023 meeting: Sent to all members in newsletter.

Financial Report: Status of Account

Committee Reports:

Program Committee: Douglas James, Chairman

Cemetery Committee: John Yates, Chairman

Website Committee: Becky Trammell

Old Business:

Farewell to Bryce Blair who is retiring after four years of service. One of his favorite activities was posting pictures of favorite buildings and events on Facebook which prompted people to come to the Archives to do further research. Bryce will be missed but he plans to volunteer in between his travels.

Welcome Carol Rudd to the Archives. In 2017 Carol retired from teaching from the Department of Defense Military Schools. New to Burkburnett and needing something to do, Carol met Joreen Ludeke who suggested she come to the monthly meeting at the museum. Carol began volunteering at the Archives under Bryce's leadership.

New Business: Proposal to purchase large screen and small computer for Archives

Adjournment:

Minutes of Meeting Held March 2, 2023

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Wichita County Historical Commission

P. O. Box 1619

Wichita Falls, Texas 76307

Meeting called to order March 2, 2023: Chairman Robert Palmer recognized that today is "Texas Independence Day." He led the group in singing "Texas Our Texas." Palmer asked Bryce Blair to come forward and receive two shadowboxes of the Texas flag and United States flags that belonged to military veteran W.H. George Maxwell. The gifts will be added to the archives.

Attendance: Bryce Blair, Becky Trammell, Billy Clark, Brenda Jarrett, Shanon Dwyer Morton, Celia Moseley, Josh Scott, Don Burkman, Paula Elmore, Douglas O. James, John Yates, Elizabeth B. Hawley, Robert Palmer, Pam Morgan, Whitney Snow, Carol Rudd.

Program: Retired Judge Janice Sons was the speaker. She did a review of some of the most unusual cases she dealt with in her 32 year career.

Old Business: Bryce Blair will be leaving the position of Archivist at the end of the March. The position is being posted.

New Business: Palmer encouraged members to sign up for one of the five committees for 2023. See attached.

A motion was made by Becky Trammell for nominating new Historical Commission Signatories for First Capital Bank of Texas. The motion was seconded by Brenda Jarrett. The new Signatures for 2023 are: Carol Rudd, John Yates and Robert Palmer. The present balance is \$2896.18.

Adjournment: The motion was made by John Yates and seconded by Don Burkman. The meeting ended at 1:00 p.m. Minutes submitted by: Carol Rudd

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Douglas O. James".

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V.P.