

# PRESERVATION NEWS

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Becky Trammell, Editor

## From the Desk of Robert Palmer

Most residents of North Texas and Wichita County have a vague knowledge of the major presence Native Americans once had in the Red River Valley Region. Few are aware of how they got here, how many there were, who they were, how they lived, and exactly where they lived. They know the Native American names: Wichita, Nocona, and Quanah.

Where did they come from? We use the phrase, "the most commonly accepted theory" to answer that question. Unfortunately, television shows confuse people's minds. The History Channel is no longer The History Channel. Instead, it is a source of wild speculation with shows about ancient aliens and other grossly imaginative theories.

*The most commonly accepted theory* describes human life beginning in Africa and moving across the Earth, entering North America by crossing an Ice Age land bridge from Siberia near the Arctic Circle down through what is now Alaska. The most common evidence is stone-age tools. If you can trace the tools, you can trace the human movement. I had the pleasure of traveling to South Central Africa with my son and

grandson and spending time with native people in their environment in Botswana. These people are virtually unchanged for over thousands of years. They speak an ancient language and hunt with primitive tools. We read the book, **BEFORE THE DAWN** by Nicholas Wade before we went.

I then had the opportunity to travel to China and go to many excellent museums and archeology sites. I, especially, examined the Stone Age tools. The connection was evident. America has many fine museums and historical digs: Mesa Verde, Canyon de Chelly, Lubbock Lake, The Smithsonian, Panhandle plains, The Museum of North Texas History, and many others. The stone trail is there. The stone metates found at these places and the ones in The Museum of North Texas are remarkably similar. One source said the greatest evidence of the Native American movement is the very finely created Paleo Points of the Clovis, Plainview, and Folsom style. There is an excellent display of points in the Tales n' Trails Museum in Nocona. Some have been found along the Red River in Wichita County.

Researchers also

study pictographs and pottery. Very little pottery has been found in North Texas but there are some pictographs on cave walls and flat stone areas.

How does all this work? The best example is the Alibates Flint Quarry near Amarillo. Through trade and conquest, examples of the flint spread across Texas. By following the trail of the stone type, you can follow the travels of the Native Americans.

There were hundreds of Native American campsites in Wichita County. The common characteristic was the nearness of water in the driest summer. These campsites are now found on private property. The most irresponsible action is to go to a site and randomly pick up stones. That kills any accurate study of the site and destroys the history related to the site. A stone then just becomes a stone, not an artifact. There are federal laws covering human remains and artifacts from Native American sites and the sale of these artifacts. New Mexico's laws are strict.

Native Americans have mixed into the general population, but their individual history is still being told. We have only touched the surface of the study of Native Americans in North Texas and Wichita County. There's much more to tell.



### Wichita County Archives

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[wchitacountyhistorical.com](http://wchitacountyhistorical.com)

[mission.org/](http://mission.org/)

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday 10:00am -

12:00pm & 1:00pm -

4:00pm

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

### Program

#### Robert Palmer

The History of Native  
American Culture in  
North Texas

### MEETING

12:00 Noon - 1:00pm  
AGENDA FOR MEETING:

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



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**Wichita County Archive News - March 2022 - Monthly Report**

- Hernandez Jackson was invited to the Archives by Brenda Jarrett to give an oral interview on being a graduate of Booker T Washington High School in WF. Mr. Jackson brought with him, two large binders full of 8”X10” photographs from the Eastside. He is going to let us scan all of his photo collection and help identify the persons in the photos. Mr. Jackson has already shown interest in doing another oral interview at the Archives. Brenda has plans of bringing more Eastside residents in for more oral interviews. Many thanks to Brenda Jarrett for organizing this amazing event !!!
- Doug Carroll came to the Archives to research some of his boyhood homes in Wichita Falls. We gave him some very detailed historical material on the Morningside Addition where he grew up. He was amazed at all the information we maintain on the history of Wichita County. Mr. Carroll worked in the oil industry and volunteered to organize a tour for us at the Oil Information Library in Hamilton Building.
- On March 24th, Oil Librarian Gail Phillips led Becky Trammell, John Yates, and Bryce Blair on a 1½ hour tour of the Oil Library. We were amazed that records are kept on just about every oil well ever drilled in District 9, which includes the 15 counties near us. They even have the notes and log information on the Fowler Discovery Well !!!
- City Councilor Michael Smith called asking for newspaper articles on the businesses that have been located at Municipal Airport in the past. He was doing research on the City’s new and upcoming business expansion project at the airport.
- Bob Hardy came to the Archives and donated an old token of the Wichita Falls Traction Company which was good for one fare. The token is in very good condition.

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**The Wichita County Archives is assisting in a project to gather oral histories about Booker T. Washington School and Eastside of Wichita Falls. Brenda Jarrett and Hernandez Jackson discuss photos from Jackson’s collection.**



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**WCHC and MoNTH News**

**Members of WCHC presented our yearly report to the Wichita County Commissioners Court on March 21st. A copy of Women of Wichita County Texas was presented to Judge Gossom.**

**Legends Exhibit honoring Charlye O. Farris Continues.**  
**Limited edition hard cover copy of Women of Wichita County Texas Book Signing, April 2nd at 1:30pm.**  
**After Hours Art Walk**  
**Thursday, April 7th**  
**5:00pm to 9:00pm**