



# Preservation News

## WICHITA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### Wichita County Archives

Carol Rudd, Archivist

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[wchitacountyhistorical.commission.org/](http://wchitacountyhistorical.commission.org/)

Hours of Operation:  
Wednesday, Thursday, and  
Friday

10:00am - 12:00pm &  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

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

### Program

Suzanne Darr

Wichita County Family

### MEETING

12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

#### AGENDA FOR MEETING:

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

Volume CCLXXIX August 3, 2023

Becky Trammell, Editor

### From the Desk of Robert Palmer, Commission Chair

Dogs have been in America and Texas for at least 15,000 years, as long as humans have been here. A new theory, developed through DNA analysis, suggests Paleo-Indians could have crossed the Bering Land Bridge 4,000 years earlier than they did. Giant hyenas and saber-toothed cats prevented the Paleo from entering. The appearance of dogs in their culture gave them the means to confront the giant carnivores.

The dogs were fierce wolfish animals with superior numbers, warning the Paleos with their baying. Having not mastered other load-bearing animals, the Paleo used the large dog as pack animals. The Continental migration, now in full motion, quickly spread across Texas.

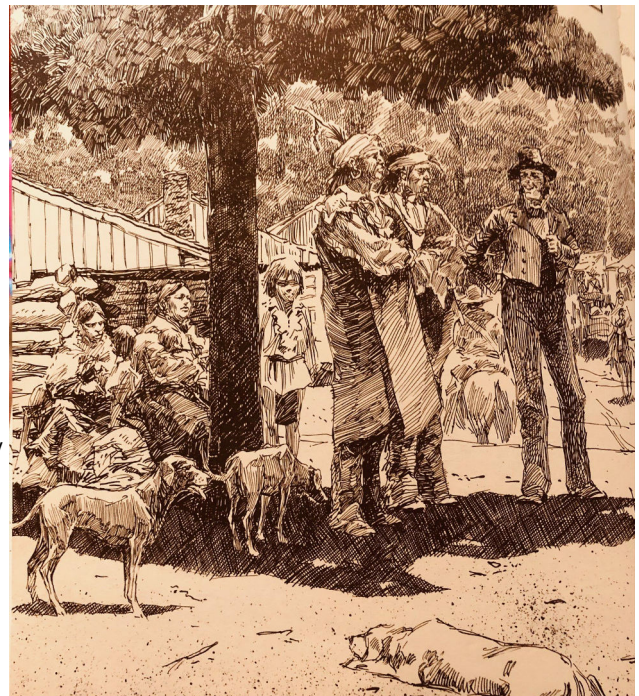
These dogs would remain unchanged until the Spanish arrived with their dogs, smaller and European in appearance. Dogs served many functions in a Native American village: protection, clean up of butchering debris, and in tough times, food. They co-existed with humans, but not as pets. They were much too ferocious for that.

When the Spanish arrived, two major changes occurred, the introduction of horses,

which quickly became part of the Native American life, and the Spanish dog interbred with the native dogs. The Spanish dogs, stronger genetically, quickly dominated the native dogs.

However, even today, genetic markers appear in some modern Texas dogs. The new dog was smaller and decidedly more companion-like. Remains of dog bones and teeth can be found in archeological sites in Wichita County.

In a later column, we will explore the development of the fice and cur dogs. These were not derogatory terms. They describe a dog with highly developed skills useful to the early settlers, farmers, and ranchers.



## Wichita County Archive News - July 2023 - Monthly Report

Who says working at the Archives is dull and routine. Bryce Blair, received an inquiry, via the Facebook page, from a woman in Norway asking about her ancestors, Amelia and Joseph B. Liejois, who immigrated to Wisconsin and eventually moved and lived in Wichita Falls from 1910 to 1927. They lived on Mills Street and for 5 years J. B. had a saloon and eventually he went into real estate. The marriage only lasted two years, and Amelia went back to Wisconsin. Ends up, Amelia was a “Lady of the Lamplight” or, if you prefer, a “Soiled Dove.” She married another saloon keeper named Ole Berg who conveniently ran the saloon next door to the “house of ill fame.”

Received a phone call from MSU about Ima N. Pendergrass who taught art from 1927-1960. She taught at Wichita Falls High School and Junior College from 1927 to 1936 and was head of the art department at Harden Junior College from 1936-1950. She became the first director of the university museum in 1950. Pendergrass was active in Floral Heights Methodist Church, Woman’s Forum, and University Women. In 1960, she moved back to Arkansas. The family is planning to bring Pendergrass’ art work to MSU for a showing for the 100th Anniversary.

James Newland, a lawyer from Houston, called in to inquire about his ancestor, D. Phy Taylor who was part of the Teddy Roosevelt Wolf Hunt. Newland said his father always told great stories about Phy but he sometimes felt the stories were embellished to make Taylor bigger than life. Well, that is not the case. The stories are real and wonderful. Daniel Philomon Taylor was the 3rd son of Andrew Jackson Taylor who rolled into Wichita Falls in 1876. D. Phy Taylor is buried in Riverside Cemetery.

## Museum of North Texas History NEWS

# Art Alley: Opening August 3rd, Artist in Residence, Kathy and Jerry Smyers.



Wichita County Historical Commission

August 3, 2023      Agenda

Call to Order: Robert Palmer

Program: Suzanne Darr - Wichita County Family

Approval of minutes for June 1, 2023 meeting: Sent to all members in newsletter. (No meeting in July)

Financial Report: Status of Account

Committee Reports:

Program Committee: Douglas James, Chairman

Cemetery Committee: John Yates, Chairman

Website Committee: Becky Trammell/Elizabeth Hawley

Marker Committee: Becky Trammell

Old Business:

New Business:

Adjournment:

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## Podcast Receives Recognition

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The **Wichita County Historical Commission** project, the podcast called, **North Texas Tales**, has been selected as one of the top 2022 CHC projects by the **Texas Historical Commission**. The Commission plans to promote the project over the coming months.

Streaming on Spotify, currently there are ten podcasts available for listening.

This state wide recognition of the work of the **WCHC** comes on the heels of receiving a Distinguished Service Award from the **Texas Historical Commission** in May 2023.





## Minutes — June 2023

**Called to order:** Robert Palmer called the meeting to order at 12:08 and opened with a prayer. Because of new faces, people were asked to introduce themselves.

**Attendance:** Members: Douglas James, Carol Rudd, John Yates, Russell Miller, Joreen Ludeke, Suzanne Darr, Robert Norriss, Celia Moseley, Delores Culley, Elizabeth B. Howley, Shanon Dwyer Morton

**Guest:** Dorothy Palmer, Robert Palmer, Phillip Hargis, Diane Hargis, Josh Scott, and Jack Gilmore, his sister Judy Holmes Gilmore, and Mabel Clapp Conner from Iowa Park.

**Program:** Carol Rudd, of the Archives, introduced the story behind the ABC's of Burkburnett and encouraged members to take time to tour the exhibit.

**Minutes:** The minutes were sent via Email. They were accepted by Russell Miller and seconded by John Yates.

**Old Business:** John Yates reported that the digitized photos are up and running in the Archives.

**New Business:** Robert Palmer announced that Electra High School and The Hardin High School will be celebrating their 100 and 200 year anniversary. Electra will celebrate Sept. 15, 2023 and Burkburnett will celebrate Oct. 26, 2023.

**Adjournment:** Carol Rudd made the motion to adjourn and Shanon Dwyer Morton seconded. A reminder was made about no meeting in July. The meeting ended at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Carol A. Rudd

## Museum of North Texas History News (con't)

