



# Preservation News

WICHITA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ROBERT PALMER, CHAIR

Wichita County Archives

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

### Nadine McKown Kell House Renovation

#### 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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JANUARY 5, 2023

Becky Trammell, Editor

## In Honor of Lita Fay Huggins Watson

Born in Arizona to Native Texans, Lita's family moved to Wichita Falls where she graduated from Wichita Falls High School. Starting at Hardin College, Lita later graduated from Phillips University. After marrying and traveling with husband to military bases, the family moved to Iowa Park.

Lita taught adult Bible classes for some forty years at the First Christian Church. She was president of the 23 Study Club and the Santa Rosa District Federation of Study Clubs.

Lita contributed several articles on the history of the town and local organizations for the Centennial of Iowa Park, published by the Iowa Park Leader in 1988. She served nine years on the Iowa Park City Council, six of those as mayor pro tem. Lita was reorganizing president of North Texas Genealogy Association about 1980. She also taught genealogy classes at MSU Continuing Education for several years. She was active in Major Francis Grice Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and Rebecca Jane Fisher Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Lita worked extensively in the establishment and development of the Wichita County Archives, serving as the Archivist until her retirement in 2016. As the Archives grew, the need for a museum to display artifacts became apparent. Lita along with a committed group founded the Museum of North Texas History. Besides serving on the Board, Lita also served as Executive Director for three years.

Some of the honors Lita received along the way were Outstanding Citizen by Iowa Park Chamber of Commerce in 1976; honorary member of Iota Omicron, Delta Kappa Gamma; Daughters of the American Revolution History Medal; Preservation Service Award from Wichita County Heritage Society, 2009; 1998 Community Builder Award from Iowa Park Lodge No. 713, A.F. & A.M.



Lita's final recognition was from the Governor of Texas, honoring her with The Yellow Rose of Texas award. This award recognizes women who have provided exceptional community service such as: volunteerism, charitable contributions, achievements related to the preservation of the history of Texas, or achievements toward improving the present and building the future.

If asked, she would say that her greatest joys are her children and their families.

(Excerpted From *Women of Wichita County*)

**Lita Watson died peacefully on December 20, 2022 in the company of her family. A Celebration of Life is planned for 1:00 pm Friday, January 27th at First Christian Church, 3701 Taft.**

## Wichita County Archive News - December 2022 - Monthly Report

-**Hanaba Welch**, columnist for the Times Record News, came to the Archives looking for information on a building at 613 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Wichita Falls. She researched the city directories and found the information she wanted.

-**Stephanie Robledo** came to the Archives looking for articles & photos of Mexican Heritage events in Wichita Falls. Several articles with photos were found in the TRN collection. We scanned all the images she requested and downloaded them on her flash drive. Ms. Robledo is working with the Zavala organization on a Mexican Heritage project. She said she would share the results of her project with the Archives. *(The Archives does not have very much information on the Mexican/Hispanic community in Wichita County. Hopefully with this connection we can expand our collection.)*

-**Mary Campbell** of Katy, Texas emailed the Archives looking for information on her ancestor, Doddridge Walter Wiley, Sr. The senior Wiley was a cotton buyer and had an office in the post office at 9<sup>th</sup>& Ohio. Wiley's son, Dod Wiley Jr. was a Wichita County Commissioner.

-**Dina Gachman** contacted the Archives looking for information on Lillian Inez Williams, an ancestor of hers. Apparently, Inez set her ex-husband's house on fire. Research revealed Inez had lived in Wichita Falls before the fire, but the arson incident occurred in Fort Worth. She was found insane and committed to Wichita Falls State Hospital.

-**"Down a Rabbit Hole"** While researching a topic, an interesting, but unrelated incident was found. It seems there was a wife who found her husband in a buggy with another woman. The wife shot and killed the woman. The dead woman operated a "resort" (house of ill repute) on Mulberry Row. Further research indicates that Mulberry Row was located at the south end of Ohio Ave, across the railroad tracks. Mulberry Row was also referred to as the Flats. Several newspaper articles were found describing incidents of violence and crime involving the women working in the "resorts". We have yet to find out why it was called Mulberry Row.

## News - Archives and Museum Of North Texas History

The Wichita County Historical Commission yearly makes a report to the Texas Historical Commission about its activities. This report includes the number of volunteer hours performed by Commission members. Please total your hours and submit them to the Archives during January.

The Wichita County Historical Commission submitted final wording for one and wording revisions for four Texas Historical markers in December. These markers honor Jimmie Kolp, Ralph Harvey, Jr., Providence Baptist Church, Lloyd Ruby, and Church of the Good Sheppard. Hopefully in 2023-2024, we will see a number of new markers.

The Museum of North Texas History reopens on January 5th. The Heart of Downtown Model Train Exhibit continues through January 28th.