



# 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  
Burkburnett  
Historical Society

## 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 II June 1 2023

Becky Trammell, Editor

## From the Desk of Robert Palmer, Commission Chair

Throughout the history of Texas, military installations have served as a valuable historical factor.

Communities grew up around the installations and became an important part of the culture. The installation names are many and the sources of the names are even more varied. How they were named has always been a somewhat cloudy issue.

The policy for selecting names has changed many times throughout history. The earliest policy dated November 8, 1832, stated, "All new posts will receive their name from the War Department." The term "Posts" was used for all military installations regardless of size or mission.

The policy changed many times. At one point, Division Commanders were allowed to select names. In 1893, one General pushed for names to be only "Military Heroes". Geographical features, Native American names, cities, or non-military names could not be used. By World War I, only the Secretary of War could select names. Recommendations would be considered. Political pressure and public opinion often were factors.

After World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower established the Memorialization Board. On December 8, 1958, the Department of the Army took over the full responsibility for naming facilities. It is now the responsibility of the Assistant Secretary of the Army.

For us, the big question is, "How did Sheppard Air Force Base get its name?" It is a very interesting story. Most people know it was named for Senator John Morris Sheppard, but who was he? He was a Texan, born in Morris County, Texas, on May 28, 1875. He was a descendant of Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution. He graduated from the University of Texas, the University of Texas Law School, and Yale

Law School. Sheppard developed many important friendships which would help him later in life.

Prior to entering politics, Sheppard practiced law in Pittsburg, Texas. In 1902 he succeeded his father as a Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1913 he was elected by the Texas Legislature as U.S. Senator.

His focus was somewhat confusing. He worked as a supporter of farmers, the common man, prohibition, and race relations. The latter would cause him problems. He introduced the 18th Amendment establishing national prohibition and strongly championed its cause. During this time a still that produced 130 gallons of moonshine per day was found on his Texas ranch. He strongly supported military preparedness which proved extremely valuable leading up to World War II.

He co-wrote the Federal Credit Union Act of 1934. He supported Women's Suffrage. He also was a very active believer in segregation in Texas and the South. This led to many rough situations with Franklin D. Roosevelt who also disliked his stand on liquor. Roosevelt liked him and realized that his support from Texas was critical even though they frequently clashed on issues.

He was Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee from 1933 to 1941. This was an extremely important position leading up to the war. He passed away on April 9, 1941. Sheppard Air Force Base opened on October 17, 1941. Sheppard would reach a peak of 46,340 personnel.

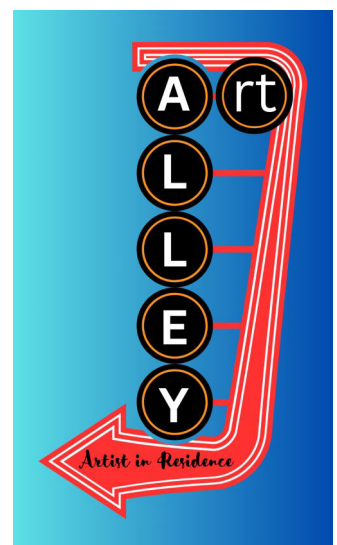
When he passed away, it created a tremendously important position to fill. High-level politics was very involved. The naming of the new airfield was critical. Many differences were set aside and it was named for John Morris Sheppard. Most assuredly, politics was heavily involved.

Wichita County Archive News - May 2023 - Monthly Report

- Wayne Roberts came in looking for information about the history of the Reagan building. He was especially interested why the building was named for Reagan because he was not from the community or a Texas hero. If you are looking for an interesting read, look up John Henninger Reagan.
- Jeff Robb from Pensacola Florida called in because he and his sister, who lives here, have different memories of the location of their grandparents' home in Wichita Falls. Jeff was looking for Fred A. and Lucy Black. Black was a chiropractor. Their last home was 1300 10th Street. Fred moved here in 1918 and set up shop. Over the years his practice was at the American National Bank, Staley Building, 11th Str. and 10th Str.
- The Creme de La Creme award is a bank box belonging to four generations of the Fletcher Family. Not sure where or when the box came to the Archives, but there are four scrap books of fantastic pictures, letters and postcards, news articles, school report cards from Alamo and San Jacinto schools. The Fletcher story begins with a British doctor in the Spanish American War who marries a girl from Montpelier, North Dakota. His sons served in WWI and WWII. Upon discharge they went to barber school and settled in Wichita Falls. Their sons followed them in the barber trade. David, who is the last of the line, worked at the Sears headquarters in Dallas.
- Rachel Alision came to the Archives to do further research on the J.F. Keller building, located on 7th street. She is researching the men who financed and built the building.
- Several months ago we received boxes from the Chamber of Commerce. Inside one of the boxes were several folders of the planning of The Diamond Jubilee. There are names of all the invited members, the minutes of each meeting, the proposed and final cost of the event, and a sample program. Most of the information is hand written or typed.

MoNTH NEWS

Art Alley: Opening June 1st, Artist in Residence Tom Roberts exhibits his bronzes.



Wichita County Historical Commission

June 1, 2023      Agenda

Call to Order: Robert Palmer

Program: Tour of Burkburnett Historical Society Museum

Approval of minutes for May 4, 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/Elizabeth Hawley

Marker Committee: Becky Trammell

Old Business:

New Business:

Adjournment:

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**June Meeting at Burkburnett Historical Society, includes LUNCH!**

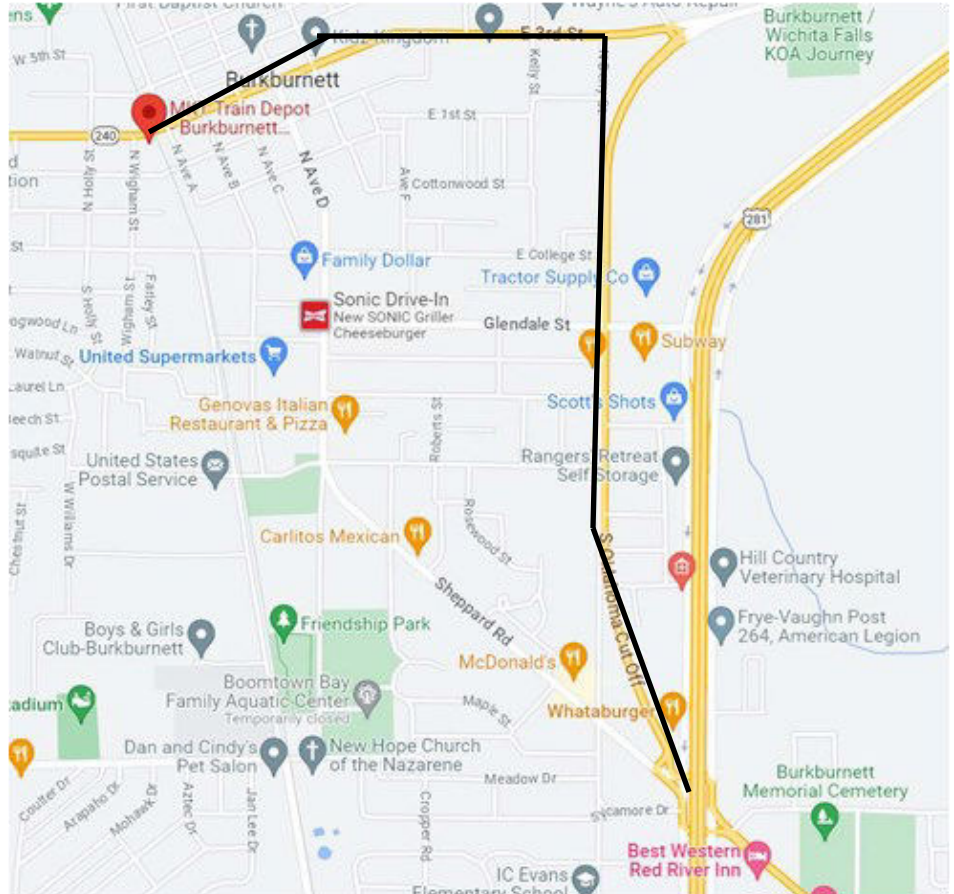
**108 W. 3rd, Burkburnett, Texas**

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I-44 to Exit  
14/Glendale  
Street; Turn Right  
on Berry Street;  
Sharp left on  
East 3rd Street

**OR**

I-44 to Exit  
15/East 3rd,  
Highway 204;  
Stay on 3rd  
Street; Society is  
just across the  
tracks.



# Minutes of Meeting, May 4, 2023

Page Four

**Meeting called to order:** Robert Palmer called the meeting to order. Palmer asked the visitors to introduce themselves: Suzanne Darr, Barbara Patton and Debbie Dwyer Wineinger.

**Attendance:** Elizabeth B. Hawley, Robert Palmer, Paula Elmore, Becky Trammell, Billy Clark, Douglas James, Celia Mosley, Suzanne Darr, Paul Bata, Don Burkman, Shanon Dwyer Morton, Genie Ratliff, John Yates, Carol Rudd.

**Guests:** Alys Glaze, Josh Scott, Barbara Patton, John Glaze, Debbie Dwyer Wineinger, Joshua Ysaia, Suzanne Darr.

**Reading of the minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were sent to the members via Email. Becky Trammell made the motion to accept the minutes. Paul Bata seconded.

**Program:** John Glaze gave a fascinating program on making Boots. After retiring, he took a course to learn how to make boots. Consequently his wife, Alys, also makes boots. Great Program!

## **Committee Reports:**

Program Committee: Becky Trammell announced that the next meeting would be at the Burkburnett Historical Society. More information later.

Cemetery Committee: No report.

Website Committee: Elizabeth Hawley said information posted on Facebook is being transferred to the WCHC website which is linked to the Wichita County website.

Marker Committee: Becky Trammell reported that five markers are waiting to be cast. Three markers have been accepted in this cycle: Athletic Park/Spudder Park, George Barringer, and the Burkburnett Jr. High School. The deadline for submission is May 15th.

**Old Business:** John Yates unveiled the new TV that displays digitized photos from our collection. The TV will also be available to be used for power point presentations. The set up cost was \$596.89.

**New Business:** Becky Trammell encouraged members to consider volunteering to help work on the newest acquisitions from George Barringer and Lloyd Ruby.

**Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was made by John Yates and seconded by Carol Rudd. The meeting ended at 1:06 p.m.