



Preservation News

WICHITA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Wichita County Archives

Bryce Blair, Archivist

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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 Janice Sons The JP's Job

MEETING

12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING:

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

Volume CCLXXIV March 2, 2023

Becky Trammell, Editor

From the Desk of Robert Palmer, Commission Chair

Naming schools, streets, and public buildings is an excellent opportunity to teach history. The City of Wichita Falls and The Wichita Falls Independent School District were exceptional in this regard.

Using a person's name establishes a link between that person and future students, faculty, parents, and community.

The School District named buildings after exceptional educators, prominent community leaders, Texas heroes, famous people, and American legends.

Schools named for Texas heroes include Crockett Elementary, Lamar Elementary, Bonham Elementary, Milam Elementary, Houston Elementary, and Reagan Junior High.

Franklin Elementary was, of course, named for American legend Benjamin Franklin with Jefferson Elementary for Thomas Jefferson.

Carrigan Career Center honors World War I Hero Lt. Alfred Holt "Pat" Carrigan.

Schools named for outstanding educators include S.H. Rider High School, G.H. Kirby Junior High, Joe B. McNeil Junior High, Kate Haynes Elementary, and Kate Burgess Elementary.

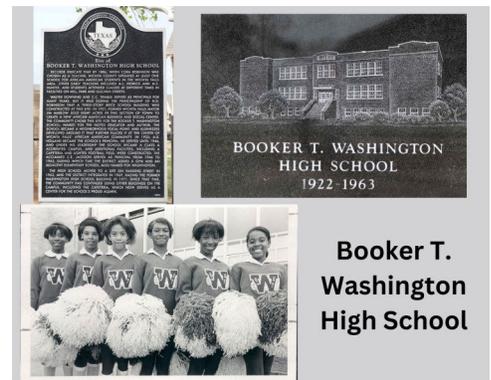
The schools named for Outstanding Community Leaders include Barwise Elementary and Junior High, Zundelowitz Junior High, Hirschi High School, West Learning Center, Fain Elementary, McGaha Elementary,

Fowler Elementary, Farris Early Childhood Center, and Cunningham Elementary.

Booker T. Washington High School and Elementary are in a class by themselves. The name teaches and connects us in multiple ways. He was a hero, educator, and famous American.

After writing about the other community and rural schools, I discovered more. These came through an article written in the Electra Newspaper by Electra and Burkburnett Historian Allen Robb. He listed the Wichita County 1922 Track Meet participating schools of Fairview, Stringtown, Bradley's Corner, Pleasant Valley, Allendale, Lakeview, and Cooper.

School naming is not to be taken lightly. History will be shaped by the chosen names. In a world that, sometimes, wants to disregard the importance of history, that most valuable teaching device is often lost.



Booker T.
Washington
High School

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-Black History Month – The Archives assisted Chantale Belefonti of KAUZ Channel 6 and Becky Trammell in researching several topics on Black History. Chantale interviewed Becky Trammell twice in the Archives for news broadcasts and Becky has been writing articles for the Museum Newsletter & Facebook page.

-Hanaba Welch, Times Record News Columnist brought several old blueprints to the Archives. They were found in the attic of a home in Chillicothe, TX that was being remodeled. The prints were drawn by architect, B.H. Stuckey of Chillicothe. Several of the prints are of a building in Wichita Falls that was being remodeled by a Mr. Stewart located at 717 Wall Street. There is no date on the plans, but the architecture appears to be c.1900. The Archives will keep a scan of the prints and return the originals to Mrs. Welch.

-Cassie Cotnoir from Our Place Eatery & Spirits (formerly Sticks) at 3305 Sheppard Access Rd. came to the Archives and asked for any history we have on their building. It turns out they are in the former M-B Coral which was established by Sam Gibbs. The M-B stood for Miller Brothers, which was the pseudo name of the Gibbs Brothers Band. The brothers worked for Times Record News during the day. Out of fear of losing their jobs at the Times, they called themselves the Miller Brothers for their night gigs.

-Mary Campbell of Katy, TX came to the Archives to research her grandfather, Dod Wiley, Sr. Her uncle, Dod Wiley, Jr. was a Wichita County Commissioner. Wiley, Sr. came to Wichita Falls in 1909 to cash in on the robust cotton industry here. He was a cotton buyer in Wichita Falls for many years. The Wiley Collection in the Archives donated by Wiley Jr. contains a ledger kept by Wiley Sr. during the heyday of his time in Wichita Falls as a cotton buyer. Mary was also furnished with photos of the homes where they lived and the schools they attended. This research project is a classic example of the “value added” aspect of our Archives. Mary came to Wichita Falls for research and stayed two nights in a hotel and ate several meals in our fair community.

-Michelle McCall contacted the Archives for information about her in-laws, Maurice and Jody McCall. She was furnished with several photos and newspaper articles of Jody, Jody’s husband, Maurice McCall, and Jody’s father, Sydney Gaines. Lots of history covering her career as a reporter for Times Record News and her father’s and husband’s career with United Electric.

WCHC News

Issues to be discussed at March meeting

- 1. Cemetery Committee**
- 2. Links to Booker T. Washington Football on Youtube**
- 3. Motion to amend the bank account signature card**
- 4. Posting of archivist position**