

# PRESERVATION NEWS

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Becky Trammell, Editor

## From the Desk of Robert Palmer

What seems like simple history can get complicated in a hurry. With the naming of the two new high schools in Wichita Falls, I thought it would be interesting to research schools in Wichita County named for people. That is not a simple task! It became an interesting experience.

Most naming was straightforward. Burkburnett is a good example. Hardin Elementary is named for John G. Hardin, a well-known philanthropist and pioneer oilman. Overton Ray Elementary is named for a highly respected Burkburnett Educator. I.C. Evans Elementary was named for a former Burkburnett Superintendent. Burkburnett High School and Junior High were named for Pioneer Cattleman S.B. Burnett. Tower Elementary was named for U.S. Senator and Midwestern State University professor John Tower.

Moving east from Burkburnett lies the Cashion Community, which had a school, Cashion Rural School, named after County Commissioner T.J. Cashion. This is where it gets interesting. Cashion School was formed by the consolidation of three other schools: Cooper Rural School named for landowners James and Dora Cooper, Friberg Rural School named for Will and John Friberg, and Bacon Rural School named for Otis T. Bacon. Bacon Rural School, located at Bacon Switch, was the result of the consolidation of Bacon Rural School and Everett Rural School, west of Bacon. This is where Shannon Morton's Land Abstracts can help us. Everett's name is lost, but

he probably was a landowner and would show up on Shannon's abstracts. The Morton family owns the land where the school was located. Clara Rural School was named for Clara Specht, the wife of Col. Specht, the founder of the Clara Community. Clara was a thriving community with a main street, general store, church, and school. The lack of water doomed its existence.

Iowa Park's W.F. George High School was named for the pioneer community leader and land owner. His daughter found the cornerstone in the 1990s in her barn and donated it to the school. The stone is now embedded in concrete in front of the junior high. Kidwell is named for pioneer Iowa Park educator Ethyle Kidwell. Bradford Elementary is named after School Superintendent W.T. Bradford. Weeth Rural School was named for a local landowner. Harmony Rural School was named for a land owner, but not the one who donated the land. The land was donated by Jess Van Horn. Wichita County historical figure, Clyde Fillmore, attended Harmony Rural School.

Fowlkes Station Rural School was located between Iowa Park and Electra. The community was formed when the railroad made it the "end of the line" during the winter.

Again, the search gets interesting.

It was, originally, Day Station, named for landowner and entrepreneur James Monroe Day. The community had a main street, a cotton gin, a church, businesses, a school, and a famous dance hall named The Bloody Bucket.

After the railroad moved on, Mr. Day sold his property and moved to greener pastures. This infuriated the populace. They renamed the town and the school after another land and business owner, I.L. Fowlkes. I was fortunate to be able to interview two graduates of Fowlkes Station Rural School before they passed away; Mary Parsons, age 99 and Jack Vestal, age 102.

Electra High School and Junior High were, of course, named for Electra Waggoner, the stylish daughter of W.T. Waggoner. The old Waggoner Junior High was named for W.T. Waggoner. Anna Marie Jones School was named for a prominent black leader. The school had other names and I'm in the process of finding the Electra School Board Minutes to research that more. This is also true of Thompson Ward Elementary. I entered Thompson Ward 71 years ago and am sad to say I never was told for whom it was named. There are many possibilities. Research has shown a very well-liked teacher at that time named Lois Thompson. The Waggoner Ranch used Thompson Transport Services to move their race horses from place to place. There were no land owners, county officials, city leaders, or school leaders named Thompson. It will be in the Board Minutes when they are located. They were last used by one of the researchers for the book we wrote on the 100th Anniversary of Electra. B.M. Dinsmore Elementary in Electra is named after the school superintendent. Next, Wichita Falls! To come later: Wichita Falls schools.

### 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 &amp; 1:00pm -

4:00pm

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

### Program

Mark Beauchamp,  
County Commissioner  
County Renovation  
Projects

### MEETING

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

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

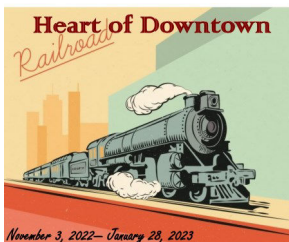


**Wichita County Archive News - October 2022 - Monthly Report**

-Torin Halsey donated to the Archives his collection of photographs he took while working for the Wichita Falls Times Record News. Most of the photos are in the form of slides or negatives. Most of the collection covers the Hotter 'N Hell and the Dallas Cowboys Training Camp in Wichita Falls. We have not gone through the collection yet, but we know it is an amazing collection.

-Update on the Eastside Project: We have discovered several copies of the “Leopard Newspaper” published by Booker T. Washington High School. We have two editions dated: November 1939 and May 1945. We have also discovered two editions of “*The Call*,” a newspaper published in Kansas City, Missouri, that published articles about black communities across this part of the country. In “*The Call*,” there are several articles on Wichita Falls highlighting the arrival of Dr. C. B. Fuller in Wichita Falls in December 1948. It just keeps getting better!!!

-Doug Carroll came to the Archives after hearing about the Booker T. Washington football tapes. He talked to Joey Aboussie who has WFHS football tapes he would like to have preserved. Doug said Joey might even have the 1969 state championship game tape to donate. I mentioned this to another Coyote Alumni, Raymond McCoy, who said he has some game films and would like to donate them.



**Heart of Downtown Model Train exhibit officially opens at the Museum of North Texas History on November 3rd.** The model trains travel around the tracks three times per day, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 2:30 pm, Thursday through Saturday until January 28th. Be sure to see this amazing holiday exhibit.

**WCHC and MoNTH News**

In October, we lost Commission member, researcher, historian, and author, Ginger Beisch. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. Ginger’s commitment to preserving the history of



Kamay and Valley View can easily be seen in her book, *KMA-Keeping Memories Alive* and her work on the historical marker, *KMA Oilfield*.

**We wish “fair winds and following seas” to Madeleine Calcote-Garcia as she leaves MoNTH and heads to her next challenge, Fort Bend History Association.**

**We will miss you!**

