



# Preservation News

WICHITA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Wichita County Archives

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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

Marla Sharp

Entrepreneur and  
Philanthropist

## MEETING

12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING:

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

Volume CCLXXX October 5, 2023

Becky Trammell, Editor

## From the Desk of Robert Palmer, Commission Chair

Historians of the dog in Texas consider Coronado's Expedition of 1541 the turning point of the transformation of Native American wolf like animals to the more modern European type of dog. The historical importance of the Expedition cannot be over emphasized. The further north they moved in Texas, the Spanish observed parallel ruts in the ground. When they caught up with the Native Americans, they were surprised to learn the ruts were caused by travois pulled by the large, wolf like dogs. The travois were loaded with buffalo hides. In 1920, zoologist Glover Allen identified seventeen breeds of dogs associated with Native American tribes.

The Native Americans were equally amazed by their first sight of Spanish horses pulling wagons and being ridden by the Spanish. The Native Americans called horses a term roughly translating to "giant dog." The horse would quickly create a new culture within Native Americans.

Buffalo hunters have long been accused of destroying the culture of the Plains Indians through their slaughter of the buffalo. Some historians assert a more subtle destruction. It became a regular practice to kill all the dogs when attacking Indian villages. This practice has been ignored by many historians. It presents a picture of Native American life that historians did not want to portray, dogs were critical to the survival of Native Americans. Dogs provided warning of intruders, hunted food, and provided food themselves. Hunting buffalo presented a much clearer picture, but not totally an accurate one.

The black and tan Coon dog and the Labrador Retriever directly trace back to Native American dogs. The black dogs of Newfoundland became our modern Labradors. The desired traits Native Americans wanted in their dogs included ears capable of pricking, requiring no formal training, treeing squirrels, catching burrowing animals, killing rattlesnakes, corralling livestock, and howling when disturbed.

These characteristics describe the milo dog present on most homesteads from the 1920s to 1950s. Called "milo" because of their black and orange color, the Barwise family had three or four milos while farming along the Red River.

Any farm dog developing a desire to kill chicken met immediate capital punishment. From early times to the present, farmers and ranchers possessed many European dog breeds. Texas had an abundance of jackrabbits, raccoons, and quail. This led to Greyhounds, Coon Dogs, Setters, and Pointers becoming common. Modern twists among dog breeds are the pig dogs used by feral hog hunters. Young boys growing up in the first part of the 20th century dreamed first of B.B. guns, followed by a single shot .22, and then a Winchester Model 12 shotgun with a hunting dog.

How precious is a dog? There is nothing more beautiful than a stylish English Setter pointing a covey of quail on a frosty fall morning.

As we become more urbanized, house dogs replaced the working dog. Looking back in Texas history, we can thank Native Americans for starting the whole process.

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**Wichita County Archive News - September 2023 - Monthly Report**

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- Shanon Clark of Burkburnett inquired about the Burk Swim Club. It started in 1958 and members bought a share of stock. The membership pool continued until 1976 when the shareholders turned the pool over to the city of Burkburnett.
- Received a call from Abilene, Tx requesting information about the Webb Landscaping Co. A book about the family business is in the making. The author and the research assistant are planning a trip to the Archives in October.
- Clint Wood came by to do some research for his cousin who is looking for information about the gift shop that was in the Kemp Hotel.
- Jerry Geisert came by with a picture of the newsboys and employees of the Noble Gray News Agency who worked for the Times Publishing Company. The Christmas dinner was an annual event held at the Cameron Cafeteria, located at 714 8<sup>th</sup> St. One of the newsboys was his uncle, Charles Price Geisert, who was killed in Vietnam.
- Gary Lewis came to the Archives to research information on the early days of the Country Club. How much it cost, who were the architects, organization of the golf club, and who were the board of directors. The more information he found, the more he smiled.

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**Electra School Anniversary**

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The 100th Anniversary of the Electra High School building was recognized by The Wichita County Historical Commission during Electra's Homecoming September 15th. Shown in the center of the picture are Electra ISD Superintendent Don Hasley and Commission Chairman Robert Palmer.



Wichita County Historical Commission

October 5, 2023      Agenda

Call to Order: Robert Palmer

Program: Marla Sharp - Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

Approval of minutes for August 3rd and September 7, 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: Membership update

Adjournment:

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum of North Texas History proudly announces its nomination for the Inclusion Advancement Award from the Wichita Falls Alliance for Arts and Culture. The honorees in each category will be announced at The ACE Awards luncheon on October 18th at 11:30 a.m. at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Wichita Falls Convention Center. Tickets to the event may be purchased [here](#).

The nomination acknowledges the work of the Museum to include *all* the citizens of Wichita County. Building on its mission to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret the history of the North Texas area, The Museum of North Texas History strives to truly embody North Texas.



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## WCHC Minutes – September 7, 2023

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**Call to order:** Robert Palmer called the meeting to order at 11:59 am.

**Attendance: Members:** Carol Rudd, John Yates, Joreen Ludeke, Suzanne Darr, Don Burkman, Celia Moseley, Robert Palmer, Paula Elmore, Pam Morgan-Davis, Bryce Blair, Medrith Collins, Joyce James, Douglas James, Shanon Dwyer Morton, Genie Johnson Ratliff, Leanne M. Ray, Whitney Snow

**Attendance: Guest:** Ellen Jahnke, Josh Scott, Janice Sons, Matt Thiele, Billy H. Elder, Amy L. Dreimiller, Barbara Snow, Karen Hamlin, Rose Wallace

**Program:** Ellen Jahnke gave an informative and entertaining program about some of the early pioneers who are buried in the Riverside Cemetery. Ms. Jahnke is a member of the “Friends of the Riverside Cemetery” and is author of the Riverside Cemetery booklet.

**Minutes:** The August minutes were sent via Email and read by the members. However, due to a time crunch, the minutes were not officially approved. Therefore, the August and September Minutes will be approved.

**Old Business:** Robert Palmer read the “Proclamation recognizing the Wichita County Historical Commission's Distinguished Service Award.” The certificate is hanging in the Archives.

Three beautiful plaques are being prepared for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the following schools: Electra High School in Electra, Hardin High School in Burkburnett and Midwestern State University Texas in Wichita Falls. Each runs approximately \$350. Members are encouraged to give generously. Please see Carol Rudd in the Archives to make a donation.

**New Business:** Historical Commission polo shirts are being ordered. The members were asked to please place your shirt size next to your name.

### Committee Reports:

**Cemetery Committee:** Paula Elmore reported that the Riverside Cemetery booklets are being reprinted. Paula shared that a generous donor is providing funds for cemetery repairs that Wichita County does not fund. In the works is a new headstone to be placed at the bank robbers’ grave, as well as many headstones to be leveled.

No other committees reported.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Minutes prepared by Carol A. Rudd

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## Podcast Additions

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There are five new episodes on our podcast, North Texas Tales. Learn the mystery of Mr. Hooker’s Hand, explore three episodes related to Lake Wichita, and relive memories of Terrible Tuesday.

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## WCHC Minutes – August 3, 2023

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**Called to order:** Robert Palmer called the meeting to order at 11:55 am.

**Attendance: Members:** Carol Rudd, John Yates, Russell Miller, Joreen Ludeke, Suzanne Darr, Don Burkman, Celia Moseley, Robert Palmer, Paula Elmore, Nadine McKown, Pam Morgan, Bryce Blair, Meredith Collins.

**Attendance: Guest:** Dell O. Darr, Kelly Reis, Josh Scott, Phillip Hargis, Diane Hargis, John Rollins, Dee Rollins, Leeann Ray.

**Program:** Suzanne Darr gave an impressive account of her ancestor, Columbus Waller. Leaving Tennessee, Waller settled in Wichita Falls, bought a great deal of property to farm and sell. Eventually, he left Texas and moved to New Mexico.

**Minutes:** The July minutes were sent via Email and voted on at the meeting. They were accepted by Russell Miller and seconded by John Yates.

**Old Business:** Robert Palmer reminded that Electra High School and Hardin High School in Burkburnett will be celebrating their anniversaries in the Fall. Electra will celebrate Sept. 15, 2023 and Burkburnett on Oct. 26, 2023.

**New Business:** Air Force Blue polo shirts with the commission logo will be available in the near future. The shirts would be wore at dedications and special events.

### Committee Report:

**Cemetery Committee:** It was confirmed there are four Texas Historical Cemeteries in the county: Journey’s End Cemetery, Clara Cemetery, Burkburnett Memorial Cemetery and Riverside Cemetery. Also, there are four on-line videos on Cemetery Preservation that are available. No other committee report.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm. Russell Miller made the motion and Joreen Ludeke seconded.

Minutes prepared by Carol A. Rudd

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## Burkburnett School 100th Anniversary

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“Built in 1923, the main building served as the High School until the current High School opened in 1964. Buildings during that time were built to stand the test of time (100 years of teenagers are evidence of that)” so proclaimed the Burkburnett Independent School District.

Please join in celebrating this event on Saturday, October 21st during the Bulldog All Class Reunion. Located at the corner of Glendale Avenue and Avenue “D”, the program begins at 1:00pm