



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bryce Blair, Archivist

Wichita County Archives

720 Indiana Avenue

Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

Telephone 940-763-0020

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm

E-mail Address - archives@co.wichita.tx.us

wchitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

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

Volume CCLX

Location: Museum of North Texas History Meeting 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING: 1. Call to Order 2. Introduction of Guests
3. Business 4. Program 5. Adjourn

August 5, 2021

From the desk of Robert Palmer

Stephen Santellana
Mayor of Wichita Falls

One entity stands out as most representative of the Spirit of Texas. The Texas Rangers (a division of the Texas Department of Public Safety since 1935) have been a part of Texas from the beginning. Stephen F. Austin formed citizens into a group to protect the colonists he had brought into the Spanish province. He called them Rangers beginning in 1823. They had one simple goal, protect the people. That has remained their function for 198 years. Without question, they are the most respected law enforcement agency. They have been a critical element of the state throughout all this time. Politicians have, at times, attempted to manipulate them, but they have always emerged intact.

Their early years were spent protecting the frontier. Texas had a very broad area separating them from the hostile, unsettled areas to the west and north. This area was the home range of the Comanche, the Native American group that quickly saw the advantage of raiding into the slowly moving edge of civilization. It was a brutal time. The Comanche fierceness combined with their excellent horsemanship made them a force causing great damage and destruction. The Rangers were, initially, poorly equipped to fight them. A Comanche could unleash eight arrows in the time it took a Ranger to reload his muzzle loading firearm. This quickly changed when the Rangers purchased Colt Patterson pistols. However, the Colts fired a small bullet with a very small powder charge. Samuel H. Walker suggested to Colt that he build a bigger pistol with a larger charge. The result was the Colt Walker, a giant of a gun. It would knock a Comanche's horse to the ground. Only 1100 were made and the last one to sell at auction sold for \$1.5 million.

Ranger companies were formed all along the frontier. An interesting connection to Wichita County is Ranger Moses Johnson. A Ranger Memorial marker is on his grave at the entrance of the Bowie Cemetery. He was the father of Mose Johnson, the chicken entrepreneur, who owned the area now occupied by Rider High School and Hospice of Wichita Falls, the main building being his former home.

Most people are aware one of the most legendary Rangers was involved in the Wichita Falls Bank Robbery and lynching, William Jesse McDonald. McDonald, known for his "One riot, one Ranger" statement, was here along with two other Rangers. When the outlaws were pinned in, one yelled, "Is that Captain McDonald?" When the answer came back in the affirmative, they asked would he would protect them if they surrendered. Of course, that didn't work out.

Another legendary name was Frank Hamer. He began his service at a time when concern was growing about the number of Mexicans in the border counties. Land grabs from people of Mexican descent became common. The Rangers were involved in many encounters, many became brutal. Frank Hamer was a young Ranger caught in the middle of the brutality. When Ma Ferguson became Governor, Ranger service was even more political, to the point Hamer left. When Bonnie and Clyde were doing their bloody escapades, Hamer was brought back in to aid the Dallas Police Department. He, with his Remington Model 8 Automatic rifle, was an important part of the final shootout.

In 1901, the Frontier Battalion was abolished. They were organized into four companies. They were to aid other law enforcement agencies in protecting citizens.

What is the Ranger mission? One Ranger described it this way, "A Ranger is an officer who is able to handle any given situation without definite instructions from his commanding officer or higher authority. This ability must be proven before a man becomes a Ranger."

An interesting sidebar is, three current Texas Rangers call Iowa Park their hometown; Rangers Toby Catlin, Jason Dudley, and Matt Kelly.

Texas Historical Marker News

In July, we were notified that markers honoring Ralph Harvey, Jr., Lloyd Ruby, and Providence Baptist Church were approved With Jimmie Kolp, that makes four for 2021! Congratulations to the writers/researchers.

Wichita County Archive News

August 2021

Monthly Report – June-July 2021

-**Martha Mason** of 1400 Tilden contacted the Archives to help research the history of her home. She already had quite a bit of research completed. We were able to help her establish a construction date of 1918-1919 by using our City Directories and the Sanborn maps. Turns out her home was first occupied by Robert “Bob” Waggoner which also owned the Bob Waggoner Building at 8th and Scott.

-**Anndrea Harris** of the Junior League was furnished TRN articles covering the early days of Christmas Magic for an upcoming program they are having.

-**Lita Watson** was asked to recommend a story we would post on our Facebook page. We’re not sure how she remembered, but she suggested a story that was researched in 1994 about the first Inspector of Hides and Animals in 1882. It turned out being a very interesting story about a man that committed a murder in Florida. He then changed his name and came to Wichita County to become the first Inspector of Hides and Animals (it was his job to help prevent the theft of cattle by inspecting all hides and animals leaving the county). We are continually amazed at the amount history contained in our Archives and Lita’s knowledge of it.

-**Louann Breton** contacted the Archives about the history of Jack’s School of Beauty at 804 7th Street. It was located there from 1958 until 1969. She wanted to know if we have a photo of the building. We had just recently scanned some photos of meter maids in WF. One photo was of a meter maid at 7th & Scott checking a meter. In the background was a clear view of Jack’s School of Beauty. Louann was researching for the granddaughters of the owners of the school, Jack & Gladys Warden. They were elated to receive that part of their family history.

-**John Yates** has taken on the monumental task of digitizing the oral interviews we have on cassette tapes. He is able to record the interviews in to the computer and even clean up some of the background noise. John is planning on continuing to record new oral interviews and even record our Historical Commission meetings.

-Another project started at the Archives was the listing of the hotels in Wichita Falls. So far the list contains 37 different hotels dating from 1885 to 1907. Sources for our list were the 1885-1908 Sanborn maps, 1894 & 1907 City Directories, and the 1890 Fowler map.



Minnie May Kemp Adickes was featured in a story published in the Sunday, August 25th, *Wichita Falls Times-Record News*. The writer, Lynn

Walker, contacted the Wichita County Archives and was provided photos and information concerning this amazing Wichita County Pioneer.

MONTH NEWS
Hotter N’ Hell Hundred Exhibit
Opens Thursday, August 5th