



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

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Wichita County Archives

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

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wchitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

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

Volume CCXLIV

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**

February 4, 2021

From the desk of Robert Palmer

**ZOOM MEETING - February 4th
11:00 am**

"Individuals who wish to destroy history should spend more time studying history."...Anonymous quote from Facebook.

Facebook is not my usual source of quotable statements, but that one has a very useable meaning for our present time. Our challenge to preserve history has never been more important than it is now. I was very pleased by the announcement from the County Clerk's Office that they were going to make a special effort to preserve historical documents. The foolish statement that, "We are in a new age where history doesn't matter" is simply that, "a foolish statement." It would be great if we could put all historically important documents and artifacts in the Museum or the Archives, but that is impossible so we must depend on other entities to preserve history. I really think it would be a worthwhile effort to contact as many sources of documents and artifacts with a plan for helping them preserve what they have. Who are those people?

We can start with various levels of government: local, county, state, and federal. Meetings minutes, official documents, announcements, press releases, and memos are all sources of historical information. In the early 1950s, the county sold the Rumely Oil Pull road grader that had graded county roads for almost fifty years. Aside from the fact that it would now be worth several hundred thousand dollars, it would be a priceless artifact. School districts are notorious for "cleaning house." Colleen Roberts alerted me that the records from the old high school in Iowa Park were being tossed in the dumpster. We were able to rescue some, but not all, of the records.

Annetta Reusch, our recently lost commission member, spent a large part of her career as librarian at Wichita Falls High School, preserving documents, annuals, paintings and sculptures. Some were being tossed out the window. With

the coming of the two new high schools to replace the present three, it is critical that the history be preserved. Old annuals have a wealth of historical information. When I taught journalism and we produced an award winning school newspaper, I, constantly, reminded the students they were writing history every time they wrote an article for the paper. Ironically, I purchased the seven "best in division" UIL state awards, that the newspaper won, in a school wide garage sale, for fifty cents each several years ago.

Estate sales are great sources of historical documents. Most of the area people who conduct estate sales, now know my interest in history. Sometimes you have to make a decision. Last week there was a sale that had a scrapbook on the carrying the Olympic Torch across the country. The person had collected newspaper articles from most of the towns the torch had passed through. I pondered buying the scrapbook and then passed on it. Of course now, I wish I had purchased it! Newspapers are changing. They are not as great a source of preserving history as much as they once were. As a former journalism teacher, I am appalled by the, sometimes, one sidedness of their coverage. Newspapers have always taken a stance, but nothing like they do now. Don James, former editor of the local newspaper, and I discussed that thirty years ago.

Forty years ago, I made the huge mistake of preserving historical events on VCR tape. Unless those tapes are preserved, they soon become useless. I taped several 100 year celebrations and those tapes are unusable. We audio taped our meetings for a long time. Someone, looking for an historical project, needs to transcribe those tapes.

The challenge is ahead of us. History must be preserved and studied.

Wichita County Archive News

February 2021

Monthly Report – January 2020

-Kacy Hill of Wichita Falls contacted the Archives with a find she made while touring a home for sale. They were getting ready for an estate sale in this home and she noticed some old letters and photos in a wooden box. She asked if she could buy them and ended up getting it for \$40. Turns out it all belonged to Karl Emil Bauch, early saddle maker in Wichita Falls. Bauch opened his leather shop in 1888 and was one of the longest continually operated businesses in Wichita Falls history. Also in the collection is a very ornate bible written in German. Kacy said that she plans on donating it all to the Archives.

-Another donation was found in the attic of a recently purchased home in Willow Bend. The new owners found several boxes of letters and photos and brought them to the Archives. They said the previous owners were contacted and instructed them to throw it all away. Disregarding the instructions, they gave it all to the Archives. Most of the material in this collection is from Shawnee, OK, but there was a few photos of Wichita Falls included. Our next move is to contact Shawnee to see if there is any interest for this collection.

-We at the Archives are always surprised that some folks have no interest in the history of their families and make no effort to preserve their past.

-Wichita County Clerk Lori Bohannon was contacted about the photos of past county clerks that use to hang in the Clerk's Office. She said they have them stored and that we could have them. We ended up getting the photo of the first Wichita County Clerk W.E. Brothers. He served from 1882 until 1886. We also got the photo of Dora Davis. Both of these photos were digitized, placed back in their frames and hung in the Archives. Lori also gave us a couple old notary seal stamps and a very old time/date stamp. All these items were stored in a closet, collecting dust. We cleaned them up and they are now on display in the Archives. Saving our History... One Item at a Time.

OPEN MEETINGS TRAINING

As members of the Wichita County Historical Commission, it highly recommended that all members receive Open Meetings Training. We can do this on the internet through a one hour Youtube video. You can even print out a certificate of completion.

[Here is the link to the video](#) and a [link to print the certificate](#). Please provide a copy of your certificate to the Commission. If you have questions, contact us.

Email; archives@co.wichita.tx.us Telephone 940-763-0020

February 4, 2021 HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING AT 11:00AM

We will ZOOM again in February. If you have difficulty logging on, please let me (Becky) know. I'll be happy to walk through the process with you.

Watch for a separate email with the ZOOM link.



FRIENDS WE HAVE LOST

Annetta Reusch Ron Wood

