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# Wichita County Archive News

## March 2014

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### Marker Report

**Burnett Horse Ranch** marker is in the ground on Hwy 240 at Slama Rd. Dedication ceremony to be scheduled soon.

Applications for **Wichita General Hospital** and **Bethania Hospital** markers are paid. It will be quite while before we receive the wording for our approval.

We are searching for topics for the Undertold Marker Program. Currently, work is progressing on applications for Dr. C. B. Fuller, Providence Church in Burkburnett, and the "Colored School" in Burkburnett.

**Would you like to know how to submit an application for a marker?** We have planned a Texas Historic Commission Marker Application Seminar on Wednesday, March 19th, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Museum of North Texas History.

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### REECE SAMUEL ALLEN 11-25-1874 - 11-9-1946

Who was Reece Allen, often mentioned in obituaries as the deceased was named for Reece Allen?

Reece Samuel Allen was born in 1874 near Sedalia, Missouri. He was educated in the local school. In 1899, he married Jenie Ferguson and in 1900, the Allens welcomed a son, Reece DeCourse Allen. The following year, Reece Allen entered the oil business in the Spindletop area.

In 1905, Allen came to Wichita County, buying 40,000 acres from Tom Waggoner in the northwest section of Wichita County. With Herman Specht as his agent, he brought over 150 families to the area, many from Missouri. Allen had a great interest in fruit growing.

The first oil well near Electra in 1910 came in close to Allen's land and he soon became a major operator in the Electra field. In 1918, Allen joined in a venture with Joseph Kemp and W. Munger to form the Kemp-Munger-Allen Oil Company. From the company name, K-M-A, the community of Kamay was named. Allen was also the President of Reece Allen Refining Company in Amarillo. He also owned extensive land holdings in the Panhandle, including the LX Ranch. The Hamilton Building was one of Mr. Allen's projects.

Tragedy struck the Allen family when their only son, DeCourse, was killed in an automobile accident in New Jersey in 1922 when he and a friend were returning from the Penn-Cornell football game. DeCourse was 21 and a senior at Princeton University and a member of the business boards of *The Princeton Tiger*, *The Princeton Pictorial Review*, and a member of the Ivy Club. He was a member of the Beta Theta Pi at Cornell. At the time of his death, DeCourse was assisting two students in college with money from his allowance.

Reece Allen was a well known philanthropist, giving freely to community projects. Following the death of DeCourse, Mr. Allen started assisting students to attend college through student loan funds. By 1942, he had helped between 700 and 800 students.