



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

www.wichitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

Wichita County Texas Archives is on Facebook

Volume CCVIII

Location: Luby's Lunch at 11:30AM Meeting 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

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

October 3, 2019

From the desk of Robert Palmer

PROGRAM

To Be Announced - Watch the Email

A letter from a 10th Cavalry Soldier to his Mother

Momma,

I hope you get this letter. I gave it to a friend and he promised to mail it if he got where he could. The Armys not everything I thought it would be and it's not everything you thought it would be.

I'm at a place called Camp Auger. It's on the north bluff of the Red River in the Oklahoma Indian Territory. Texas is across the river and I can see it every day. We sometimes cross over to a camp on the other side. Camp Auger's not much of a fort like Fort Sill, north of here, and Fort Richardson, Fort Belknap, and Fort Griffin south of here. We are at the river crossing and details pass through going to those other Forts.

Auger has three stone half dug outs that the Captain and the Sergeants stay in. Me and the other troops stay in trenches dug in the ground with canvas spread overhead. Its hot in the summer and really cold when what they call "a norther" blows in, but its ok.

Remember how I used to watch the Calvary ride by our place during the big war and wish I could ride one of those beautiful horses. Well, I'm in the 10th Cavalry and the horses we ride sure aren't that good. The fancy Cavalrys like Custer's 7th get the best horses. We get the left overs plus saddles that have been patched together. Our uniforms have been patched a lot. We do have good rifles - 1873 Springfields. They're clumsy on a horse - the others got the carbines, but they're fine rifles and do well when we fight the Indians.

Our job is to keep the reservation Indians from crossing into Texas and raiding. Its hard to stop them because the Kiowas' and Comanches' life is too raid. It makes them big in their tribe.

Momma, I miss your cooking. We mostly eat things that won't spoil - salt pork, beans, and hard tack. Sometimes, we get to shoot things and catch fish. It sure tastes good.

Don't worry about me. The Indians would like to kill us,

but we have guards all night long. Last week, one of the guards went to sleep and the Captain told him he was going to be shot at sunrise. They blindfolded him and he was shaking. The Captain hit him in the chest with a folded leather strap. He fell on the ground weeping, "I'm dead, I'm dead!" I'm sure not going to sleep on guard duty.

We did get into a fight on April 9th. A large number of Indians shot at us from about 65 yards. We left the Camp and rode like the devil across the river to the south camp, where our horse cannon was. When we fired it, that sure stopped the attack. I've got to stop. We have to ride a patrol west to Doan's Creek. I'll write again.

Your son,
Dick

Question of the Month

What local bookmaker made boots for Hank Williams?

A note from Lita Watson:

The opening of the Children's Exhibit at the Museum of North Texas History. What fun to see the children interacting with the exhibits.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the exhibit in my name. Also, thanks for the beautiful flower arrangement and the generous gift cards.

Wichita County Archive News

October 2019

Monthly Report – September 2019 Financial Report – Speaker Fund

Balance from Aug 2019	113.35
Lunch for Speaker	-12.00
Copies in Archives	0.50
<u>Knight Donation</u>	<u>10.00</u>
Balance Sept 2019	111.85

-Ann Knight came in from Tulsa, Oklahoma to research her grandfather, Dr. Robert L. Hargrave of Wichita Falls. Dr. Hargrave and Dr. Michael Walker started the Hargrave-Walker Hospital at 11th & Grace, which later became Bethania Hospital. The archives had a large amount of information on Mrs. Wright's grandfather. Sifting through all we found proved to be a very emotional moment of discovery for her. Mrs. Wright donated \$10 to the archives.

-Randy Johnson, a local oil producer, came in looking for an old Burkburnett oil field photo similar to one we have in the archives. He has an old panoramic photo of the Burkburnett field in his office and wanted one like it for his new home. He was invited to bring it into the archives to let us digitize it so he can make a copy for his home. He went back to his office and brought it in. His photo is the same as one we have in the museum, except his has all the oil well owners named on it. Amazing find for the Archives!!!

-Tai Kreidler from Texas Tech contacted the archives. He and his associates have completed the digitization of the Times Record News microfilm dated 1907-1923. Those newspapers along with many other local papers are available online for free. They are high resolution and easily searchable. We are waiting on permission from TRN's parent company to get the remaining newspapers digitized as well. Contact the archives for easy links to those websites.

-Tom Cartlidge from Henrietta came into the archives looking for information on the Olsen Stelzer Boot Co. He and friends are gathering information and artifacts for an Olsen Stelzer Museum in Henrietta. He was provided with many photos and newspaper articles for their project.

Museum of North Texas History News - Upcoming Events



Be sure to stop by the **Museum** on Thursday, October 5th for the last After Hours Artwalk of the season. Come by and see the new Children's Exhibit!

Legends of North Texas Honoring Ms. Arthur "Bea" Williams

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

The Forum on Speedway 2120 Speedway

Social Hour 5:30 P.M. Dinner served at 6:30 P.M.

Tickets are \$50, \$45 for Museum Members

\$360 for a table of eight

**For reservations or more information, please call
the Museum at 940-322-7628**

