

THE JOURNAL

The unofficial newsletter of Wilson County Historical Society



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Hispanic Heritage Month

by Anthony Delgado

Our nation began observing and celebrating Hispanic heritage in 1968 when President Johnson established the week-long observance. Twenty years later, the week-long observance was changed by President Ronald Reagan to a 30-day observance beginning September 15th. Several South- and Central-American countries celebrate their independence on September 15th, Mexico on the 16th, and Chile on the 18th of September. October 12th is recognized as Columbus Day or Dia de la Raza.

To learn more Hispanic Heritage Month check out:

<https://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about.html>

Wilson County Jailhouse Museum

Grand Re-Opening



**Come Step
Back In Time**

1140 C St, Floresville
Saturday, Sept 30th

11AM-4PM

***Ribbon cutting at 11**

See exhibits for:

- Wilson County Law Enforcement
- Historical Sites
- A Special Exhibit for the Peanut Festival
- And much more!



The Rosser Family

Here are two pictures that show Robert Creech's great-grandfather's family.

Pictured are likely B. F. and Texana Rosser and their children at the time, Sarah A.

Rosser and her fiancé, R. G. Seale,

Johnnetta Rosser,

James Lee Rosser (who becomes a Texas

Ranger), Benjamin A. Rosser, Kate Velma Rosser, and Frank Carroll Rosser.



Do you have any photos of your family's old residences or businesses in Floresville? We're collecting them for a project: Historic Homes and Businesses in Floresville. Send your photos with a description to me, melinda creech, at mjcreech@mac.com or drop them by the archives.

Dead Horse Thieves, Old Rock Church, the Vigilante Committee

Source: Sarah Reveley Lovell and Maude Gilliland
(Story shared by Margie Hayden)

It was the fall of 1878 when three Mexicans and one African American were driving a heard of horses in the Fairview Community near the ranch home of Frank Mitchell. The horsemen offered Frank Mitchell, Frank Persnall (Mitchell's son-in-law) and former Texas Ranger Captain S. H. Tom the horses for sale. Unbeknown to the four horsemen there had been a notice in the Western Stock Journal circulating to be on the look out for horse thieves operating in Atascosa and surrounding counties.

The three ranchers realized the four horsemen were horse thieves from the article right away and made a plan to capture the thieves', but things did not go as planned. Captain Tom asked for a bill of sale for the agreed upon horses and the "thieves their pistols and started firing."

Captain Tom, being a former Ranger, shot two of the horse thieves. Frank Presnall was shot in the chest. When Dr. Bird arrived, he drew a silk cloth through the wound to clean it and probe for a bullet. The two dead horse thieves were rolled up in a "wagon sheet" together and "buried in a grave under a pile of reddish-brown stones in the Old Rock Church Cemetery. The rock grave can still be found in the back corner of the cemetery.

The Old Rock Church was built in 1876. It was a communal meeting place for the Fairview Community. The church was for revivals, school, and trails. The church was built during the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877) of our history. At this time in history, there was scatter law enforcement to support county residents on their ranches, so residents formed vigilante committees "to protect their families and property from bad drifters." Charlie Westermann and Grenade Drake Gilliland were members of the last vigilante committee of Wilson County. Outlaws were held accountable in trials of "strict justice proceedings" inside the Old Rock Church. However, once law and order was restored in the late 1870's and the court system became more efficient, the vigilante committee was quickly disbanded.

October Opry



Bob Appel



**HALLOWEEN
COSTUMES
ENCOURAGED!**

**SILENT AUCTION
CONCESSIONS
DOOR PRIZES
DESSERTS**

*Dress
to
Thrill*

*Come listen and dance to some
Live Classic Country Music!
First Thursday of every month!*

Floresville Opry

**Thursday,
Oct. 5, 2023**

Wilson County Expo and Community Center
435 Hwy 97 E, Floresville | 6 - 9:15 pm ~ Doors open @ 5 pm

KING RANCH CHICKEN DINNER
\$10
by Outlaw Catering

*Bring your own
adult beverages!*

*Set-ups &
soft drinks
available.*

Floresville Opry House Band



*(Left to Right) Roger Edgington, Fred Michalczak,
Gary Trial, John Schattenberg, Viola Henke, Producer,
Sally Carlson, Alan Kolby, Terrell O'Neal,
Nell Baeten, Emcee, and not pictured Mark Odem, Sound*

 **General Admission**
\$15

Reserved Table
(Seats 8)
\$100 

Benefit for Wilson County Historical Society
For info., or to reserve a table, call Viola (830) 391-1062

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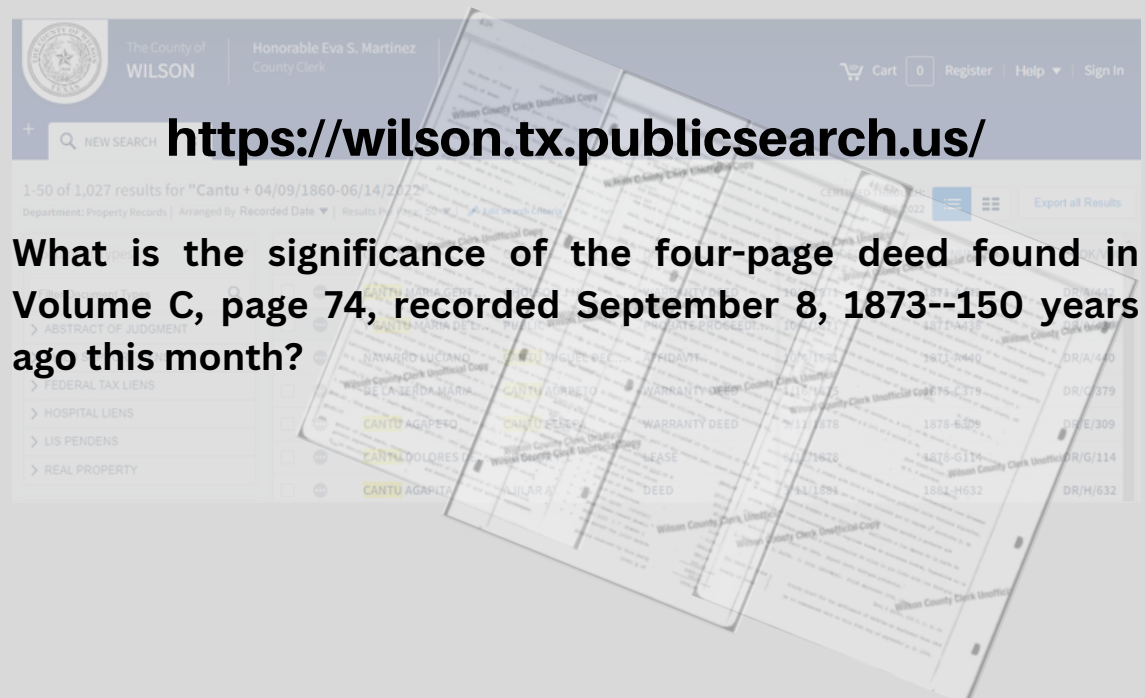


<https://www.wilsoncountyhistory.org>



facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistoricalsociety

Have you visited the Wilson County Clerk's Official Records Site?



<https://wilson.tx.publicsearch.us/>

What is the significance of the four-page deed found in Volume C, page 74, recorded September 8, 1873--150 years ago this month?

2023-2024 Historical Society Program

Tuesday, October 17, 2023	Spain's Role in the American Revolution and Bernardo de Gálvez: The Story Behind the Founding of the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez José González, Governor San Antonio Chapter	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday, November 21, 2023	Texas Heritage Project Rudy de la Cruz, Jr. American Indians of Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday, December 19, 2023	Annual Christmas Party	Deweese-Remschel House
Tuesday, January 16, 2024	The History of Casa Navarro and the Navarro Family Belinda Gavallos President, Friends of Casa Navarro State Historic Site	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday, February 20, 2024	Let Freedom Ring: Manumission of Three Spanish Colonial Slaves in Bexar Anthony Delgado	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday, March 19, 2024	Notable Women in Texas Erika Haskins, UIW Women's Studies	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Historical Lecture Larry Carter - Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday, May 21, 2024	Membership Drive	Deweese-Remschel House
Tuesday June 18, 2024	Hidden Truths Of Our Past Gary Perez Cultural Preservation Officer - Pakahua/Coahuiltecan Peoples of Mexico and Texas	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday July 16, 2024	Wilson County Texas Rangers Nicki Stohr Wilson County Historical Commission	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday, August 20, 2024	Wilson County Cattle Brands - Volume 2 Allen Kosub WCHS Member & Historian	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom
Tuesday, September 17, 2024	The Engines of Texanity Brandon Seale Historian, Researcher and Podcaster	County Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom

Be sure to stay current with our schedule posted on our website.

Make your mark in Wilson County's history!

BUY A BRICK

Consider an inscribed brick paver as a tribute or memorial to a friend, family member, a loved one, or yourself, as a permanent part of Wilson County History!

We are taking orders for engraved bricks that will replace the existing sidewalk leading to the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum. As a "State Antiquities Landmark" we must preserve and protect the old Jailhouse.

Orders for engraved bricks will help fund the restoration and upkeep of the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum.

The Wilson County Historical Society's goal is for ALL families in Wilson County to be represented with an engraved brick.

Thank You!

4x8 Brick Pavers
3 Lines, 20 Characters per line
\$100

Wilson County
(Old Black Town)
Historical Society
(Rockwell Extra Field)
EST. 1860
(Child-Free 25¢ Box)

Order at
wilsoncountyhistory.org

WILSON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For info., contact
Neila Hopkins
281-376-1364
or Viola Henke
830-391-1062

SCAN ME

The map shows the layout of the sidewalk leading to the Jailhouse Museum. It is divided into three sectors: Sector 'A' (Entrance to Jailhouse), Sector 'B' (Walkway up to entrance), and Sector 'C' (Entrance after I.S.S.). The map also shows the location of the Archives Bldg. and the Courthouse.

WCN Graphics • 830-214

Thanks to all who purchased their brick. The first 130 sold bricks are with the engraver and will hopefully be installed soon.

Your contribution will help us renovate the historic Jailhouse. At the same time you'll be leaving a legacy for generations to come.

Oh, you have not purchased yours yet?

You can purchase a 4x8 brick paver for \$100 and you have three lines of 20 characters to tell your generational grandchildren to come that you were here and contributed to saving this historic landmark. You can contact Neila Hopkins or Viola Henke for purchase information.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES IN ONE WEEK

This year is flying by. September 30th is the expiration date for those of us who have an annual membership in the Society. You do not have to wait until September 30th to renew. Here's the link to the Membership page where you can either fill out the membership application form online or download the form to fill out and mail.

<https://www.wilsoncountyhistory.org/membership>