

THE JOURNAL

The unofficial newsletter of Wilson County Historical Society



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Happy Valentines Day

by Anthony Delgado

Did you remember to get your loved one something special for Valentine's Day?

I heard two young kids the other day at H.E.B. in the card aisle choosing valentine cards with their Mom. Their conversation was adorable. "Who is that one for? Jonah? Is he your Valentine?" It reminded me of the time my Mom bought cards for me to pass out to my friends in elementary school.

Did you know that the earliest written record of Valentine's Day being a romantic celebration was in Geoffrey Chaucer's 1375 poem "Parliament of Foules"? What memories do you have of Valentine's Day?

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Do you have ancestors that lived in Wilson or Guadalupe Counties?

Do you have stories, photos, keepsakes, memorabilia, or information about friends and relatives that you would like to share?

Would you like to learn more about the Freedom Colonies along the Cibolo Creek?

We are trying to piece together the untold stories of the resilient men, women, and children that lived in the Freedom Colonies along the Cibolo Creek. Come and join us for an afternoon of gathering stories.

February 17, 2024

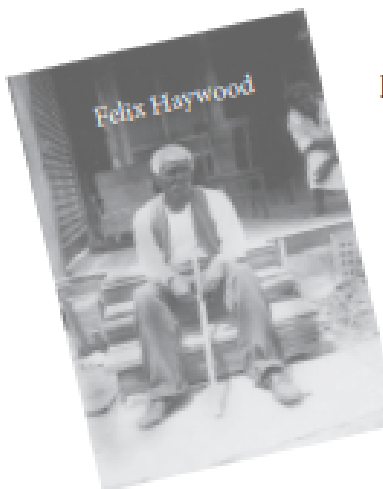
Haven Oaks Community Bible Church

10294 FM539, Sutherland Springs, TX 78161

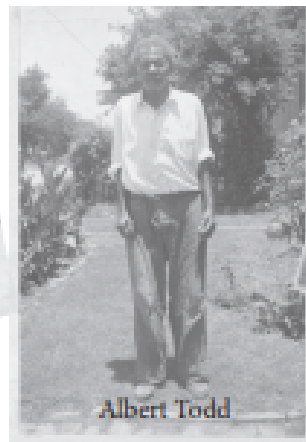
Phone: (830) 900-3186

11:00am-4:00pm

Refreshments Provided



Sponsors:
Sutherland Spring Historical Museum
La Vernia Historical Association
Stockdale Museum
Haven Oaks Baptist Church



Contact: Melinda Creech
mjcreech@mac.com



story gathering 11am-4 pm
dinner 12pm-2pm
storytelling hour 2pm-3pm

We hope you will attend Dr. Melinda Creech's event

FEBRUARY'S MEETING PROGRAM



The 1818 Manumission of Three Girls in Spanish Colonial Texas

One of our own, Anthony Delgado, will be the guest speaker at our February 20th meeting. Anthony is an Air Force veteran with 40 years of combined military and civilian service. He enjoys researching local history and the many families who made that history. He is proud to be a descendant of the first Spanish colonial settlers of Texas and the many 18th and 19th century rancheros and rancheras whose ranches once occupied all of present day Wilson County and beyond.

At our next meeting, Anthony will share what he learned about the subjects in an original February 1818 Spanish colonial slavery-related document from the Bexar Archives. He will highlight the life and times of the three enslaved girls who were freed that glorious day 206 years ago as well as the life of the woman who, with her signature affixed to this official document, declared "...that for no reason may they become enslaved again."

Sutherland Springs Museum Launches New Exhibit



Melinda Creech, PhD, shows Dave Carlson, PhD, Bexar County Archivist, the new exhibit which opened February 3rd at the Sutherland Springs Historical Museum. Dr Creech created and curated the exhibit.

On Saturday, February 3rd, the Sutherland Springs Historical Museum opened its newest exhibit--The Enslaved People of J.H. Polley Plantation. This 29-panel exhibit provides a glimpse into the lives of those enslaved at the Polley plantation. Each panel contains a short biography and a unique, Texas historic quilt square to represent the panel's subject as photographs of these resilient people have not been found. Showcased on the panels are: Jim Bailey, Anna Henderson, Anne Nious, Albert Nious, Theodore Henderson, James Nious, Peter Matilda, Josie Nious, Burell Montgomery, Matilda Bird Nious, Theresa McCloud (Moore), Bill Robinson, Alex Morgan, Jack Robinson, Bill Perkins Morgan, Reuben Robinson, Cato Morgan, Anna Wash, Celia Morgan, Murray Wash, Eliza "Lilly" Morgan, Orange Wash, Joe Cato Morgan, Buck Winn, Melinda (Perkins) Morgan McPherson, John, Charlotte, Hester, Fannie, Anne, Rachel Stevenson Wash Morgan, Mammy Belle, and Uncle Bubba.

The Sutherland Springs Historical Museum is open the first Saturday of each month. Be sure to stop by this wonderful gem in our county.

March Floresville Opry



Floresville Opry

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

**THURSDAY,
MAR. 7 2024**

**TONY
BOOTH**

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

Floresville Opry House Band
Roger Edgington, Fred Michalczak,
Larry Horwedel, John Schattenberg,
Sally Carlson, Terrell O'Neal,
Alan Kolby, Gary Trial-Manager,
Nell Baeten-Emcee, Mark Odom-Sound,
and Viola Henke-Producer

General Admission \$15	Reserved Table (Seats 8) \$100
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Bring your own adult beverages! Set-ups & soft drinks available.
SMOKED HAM DINNER AVAILABLE — \$10
by Witte's Catering

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






Jeffrey & Julie Oltjendiers
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WEB GRAPHICS • 830-210-4210

Be sure to check out our Website and "like" our Facebook page



<https://www.wilsoncountyhistory.org>

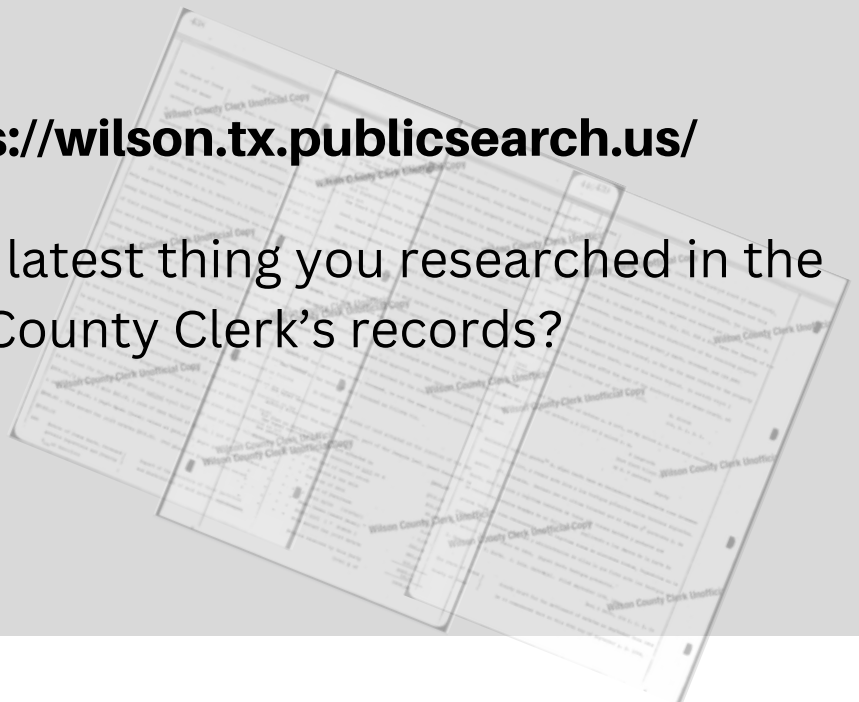


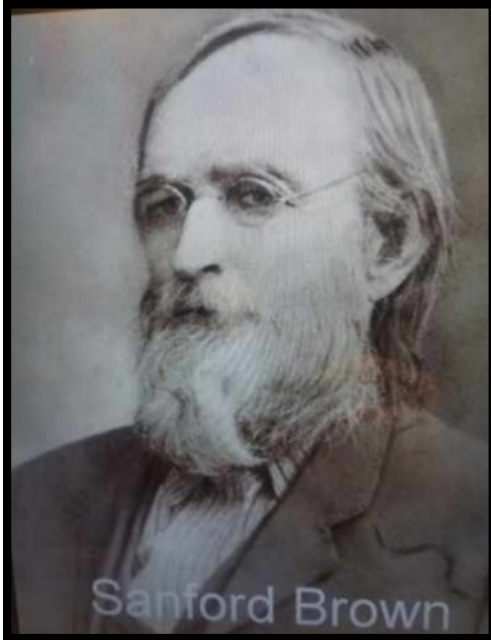
facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistoricalsociety

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

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

What is the latest thing you researched in the County Clerk's records?





A young Sanford Brown (1830-1916) and his family arrived in Texas in 1837. He was about seven years old at the time. His family settled along the Cibolo River, near present day Sutherland Springs, Texas.

Starting the family tradition Sanford mustered into the Texas Mounted Volunteers of Company C in December of 1854. Company C was led by William R. Henry and was one of three companies of men sent to the newly constructed Ft. Davis, out in West Texas along the Davis Mountain Range.

At the outbreak of the American Civil War, Sanford enlisted in 8th Infantry of the Confederate States of America's Company K.

Next member to support a Texas Ranger was Sanford's daughter Mary Ann "Mollie" Brown Wright (1871-1958) was married to the famous Ranger Captain William L. "Rattlesnake Willie" Wright. Capt. Wright has a long career with the Texas Rangers. He was one of the few who was able to make the change from horseback mode of transportation to the automobile.

First son to join the Texas Rangers was Gratz D. Brown (1875-1950). Gratz enlisted in 1900 with brother-in-law for a short period of months. Gratz was in Colorado County, Texas to control the violence the was occurring in the Reese-Townsend family feud. This family feud is one Texas's longest running and bloodiest to date.

Second son to join the Texas Rangers was Charles Buckner "CB" Brown (1875-1939). CB enlisted in 1906 with Captain John R. Hughes and was part of the Frontier Battalion Company D. CB left the service of the Frontier Battalion in July of 1907.

Grandson Emanuel Avant "Dogie" Wright (1901-1989). Dogie was the son of Captain Will Wright and Mollie Brown. Born on the Texas-Mexico Border, Dogie followed in his father's footsteps to become a Texas Ranger and one of the first United States Border Patrol Officers.

Research and story by Nicki Stohr