

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Walker County Genealogical Society is to further the knowledge of genealogical research; assist others with their family lines; and exchange knowledge gleaned from experience in various areas of research, and to maintain a library of resource materials.

MEETINGS

Third Saturday of each month except
June, July and August
10:00 a.m.
Huntsville Public Library
Community Room
1219 13th Street
Huntsville, Texas 77340

WHO TO CONTACT

Walker County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1295
Huntsville, Texas 77342-1295

SOCIETY WEBSITE

www.wcgen.com

EMAIL:

info@wcgen.com

HISTORY

The Walker County Genealogical Society was organized June 5, 1965, at the home of Mrs. Thomas E. Humphrey, Jr., by a group of local women who had a mutual interest in genealogy.

At this first meeting, a president (Mrs. Humphrey) and a secretary (Mrs. Malvin Stewart) were elected. It was decided that the balance of the officers and the by-laws would be addressed at the next meeting. This early group of ladies set the dates and times for the society to meet as the third Saturday of each month at 9.30 A.M. The twelve charter members were: Mrs. F. Ray Black, Mrs. L. Ewing Bush, Mrs. Alton B. Farris, Mrs. J. C. Felder, Mrs. C. R. Hackney, Mrs. Clyde Hall, Mrs. Thomas E. Humphrey, Jr., Mrs. Brady McCulloch, Mrs. Thomas F. Richardson, Mrs. John T. Smither, Mrs. J. Rush Stewart, and Mrs. Malvin Stewart. All these ladies are deceased. Many of these charter members left their collection of family data to the library.

Over the years, the membership has grown. The by-laws have been revised and the collection of materials has increased. The collection was donated to the Huntsville Public Library and is open to the public. Microfilm, microfiche readers, and computers have been added. Most of the 5,000 books in the library have been donated by the membership. Maps and map cases were donated. The Library budget now purchases most items for the collection.

In 2004, the genealogical/local history room at the library was dedicated to then president Johnnie Jo Sowell Dickenson, and the room was named in her honor. Johnnie Jo served as the society's president for ten years, and made many contributions to the society.

Many dedicated members have worked hard and added much to the society and to the advancement of research in Huntsville and Walker County, Texas. A Texas History and Genealogy Fair was sponsored by the society from 2001 to 2005.

Our 40th anniversary was celebrated in various ways throughout the year 2005-2006.

New Members are welcome and can join our society by completing the membership application that is a part of this brochure.

The members were delighted with the newly renovated and enlarged genealogy room and archive which was opened February 27, 2012. Many new books and research materials have been added. Deceased member, Mrs. Juanita Burton Lynch, sketched ink drawings for our publications, note cards and brochures. These sketches are now framed in the newly renovated room, in her memory. Many members have contributed to the growth of this great collection. Their contributions are appreciated by all who use our collection.

WALKER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



HUNTSVILLE TEXAS



ACTIVITIES OF WALKER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL EVENTS

LIBRARY LOCK-INS

Huntsville Public Library

2nd Sunday Afternoon in February

12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Lunch is served

3rd Friday Evening in August

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Supper is served

A time of fellowship and research assistance is available.

Library is open for genealogical research only.

MAY LUNCHEON

3rd Saturday in May - 11:00 a.m.

Huntsville Public Library Community Room

Covered dish – “Share and Fellowship”

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

3rd Saturday in December - 11:00 a.m.

Huntsville Public Library Community Room

Covered dish – “Show & Tell”

Share your genealogical finds and adventures of the past year.

LINEAGE WORKSHOP

Huntsville Public Library Community Room

2nd Thursday in June

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

How to join patriotic organizations.

Co-sponsored by Daughters of the American Revolution

OUR “VITAL STATISTICS”

Genealogy & Local History is housed in a special room at the newly renovated and expanded Huntsville Public Library named for our past president, Mrs. Johnnie Jo Sowell Dickenson. The collection contains over 6,000 volumes of histories of states, counties, families and “how-tos”. Also available are microfilm of Texas Census 1850-1930; Texas birth, death, marriage and divorce records; all available issues of the “Huntsville Item”; 1867 voter registration lists; Texas Prison records; microfiche of early Texas newspapers; the Andrea Collection (South Carolina research); and an expanded Texas Collection. There are vertical files of Bible records; family papers, county records and Civil War records. A collection of maps is available. There are many records on CD-ROM.

Our Library has computers with internet access available, and is a member of Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest.com and other web sites. Computers are free, but require a library card. Materials can be ordered by inter-library loan.

The library hours are:

Monday - Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Huntsville Public Library is located at 1219 13th Street, and the phone number is (936) 291-5472. Website – www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com

Huntsville Public Library is Affiliate of LDS Library in Salt Lake City.

BOOKS WE HAVE PUBLISHED

Marriage Records of Walker County 1846-1880 - 1978

The History of Walker County, Texas - 1986

Walker County, Texas Cemeteries - 1992

1870 Census of Walker County, Texas - 1993

Black Cemeteries of Walker County, Texas - 1999

Walker County, Texas Cemeteries:

Vol. 1 – South Walker County - 2000

Vol. 2 - North Walker County - 2004

Vol. 3 - City of Huntsville & Prison Cemeteries -2007

Coming Soon:

Walker County Marriages 1846 - 1900

REGISTRY OF PIONEER FAMILIES OF WALKER COUNTY

In celebration of the year 2000, the Walker County Genealogical Society began offering a Commemorative Certificate to eligible persons. Anyone directly descended from an early Walker County settler is eligible to apply for one of these recognitions. The data furnished by applicants as proof of lineage will be a valuable addition to the history of Walker County and will become a part of the resources in the Huntsville Public Library, Johnnie Jo Sowell Dickenson Room.

To receive the “First Families of Walker County Certificate”, the applicant must directly descend from an ancestor who settled within the boundaries of Walker County prior to October 5, 1850 (end of census year).

To receive the “Century Families of Walker County Certificate”, the applicant must directly descend from an ancestor who settled within the boundaries of Walker County prior to June 29, 1900 (end of census year).

Memberships are available indefinitely. Just write for an application form. Cost of certificate is \$15.00 per applicant.

HOW TO JOIN PIONEER FAMILIES

Send a long SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) for application forms to WCGS – P. O. Box 1295 – Huntsville, TX 77342-1295. Applications are also at the Huntsville Public Library. A committee will review your application and the appropriate certificate will be prepared and mailed to you. Check the Walker County Genealogical Society Web Page for more complete instructions on eligibility, proofs, and updates on this project at:

www.wcgen.com

WALKER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Membership Application

I, _____
(name)

(address)

(city) (state) (zip)

(telephone)

(e-mail)

desire to become a member of the Walker County Genealogical Society. I understand that I shall:

. . .pay my membership dues before being counted as a member in good standing.

(\$10 individual; \$15 couple)

. . .complete, as thoroughly as possible, and present a five-generation lineage chart to the Registrar of my:

Maternal lines of:

Paternal lines of:

. . .make a gift to the Huntsville Public Library of genealogical materials each year. Gifts may be a book, microfiche, microfilm, cd-rom, or cash donation toward the purchase of a book, or toward the cost of binding genealogical materials.

Complete form and Mail to:

Walker County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1295
Huntsville, TX 77342-1295