



The Journal
 The unofficial newsletter of Wilson
 County Historical Society

- Contents:**
1. WCHS Officers
Meeting Schedule
 2. April Meeting Pictures
 3. Scholarship Recipient
June Opry Poster
 4. Upcoming Opry Schedule
 5. Feature Story: Raabe family from
Germany to Wilson County TX
 7. Wilson County Heritage Festival
Pictures
 10. Tiner-Hendrick House

- Officers:**
- President: Carol Chitty
 Vice President: Sarah Gella
 Secretary: Sharon Meyer
 Treasurer: Clay Maeckel
 Membership: Ruby Manen
 Opry: Viola Henke
 Jailhouse Museum: Layla Brown

WCHS would like to wish all a
 Happy Mothers Day!

WCHS Member Appreciation and Drive will be on May 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Dewees-Remschel House. Potential members are welcome! The WCHS will provide the hamburgers. Members are asked to bring a side or dessert. Sarah Gella has a list of foods needed. Please contact her at 210-275-9091.

For Your Calendar

WCHS Upcoming Meetings
 Wilson County Justice Center Courtroom
 800 10th St. Floresville at 6:00 PM

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Women of Wilson County by Melinda Creech
 Vice-Chair, Wilson County Historical Commission
 Tuesday July 28, 2026, Battle of Medina-Searching for the Battlefield by
 Martin Gonzales, Chair, Atascosa County Historical Commission

April 26, 2026, Meeting

Threads of History

Presented by Mona Parrish



Mona Parrish visited Polley Mansion with her friends after the meeting. Remember the story she told about her mother hanging out of the 3rd floor window?



Face of the Youth Award for Classic Country Music



At the April 2026 WCHS Board meeting, the Society's Board and the Floresville Opry Committee initiated a \$1,000.00 award/scholarship titled "Face of the Youth Award for Classic Country Music" to Henry Neff, a deserving High School Senior for the year 2026.

The purpose of this scholarship was for community support and to encourage participation by the youth of the community in music events.

The criteria for the scholarship were participation and assistance with the Floresville Opry as determined by the Opry Committee.

This scholarship's intent provides an opportunity for a Wilson County High School Senior Student to receive a scholarship for college or a trade school.

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

Floresville Opry

JUNE 4, 2026

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



More Daniel photography

TOMMY HOOKER

Reserved Table (Seats 8) \$100	General Admission \$15
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Floresville Opry House Band
Fred Michalczak, Doug McCollough, Teri O'Neal, Phil Telford, Sally Carison, John Schattenberg, Terrell O'Neal, Alan Kolby, Gary Triak - Manager, Nell Baeten-Emcoe, Mark Odum - Sound, and Viola Henke - Producer

Concessions ✓ Bring your own adult beverages! ✓ Set-ups & soft drinks available.	Scratch Sweets by Gerri Rakowitz Individual Desserts \$2
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Wilson County News
A proud sponsor of the Floresville Opry
gowilson360.com

GRILLED PORK STEAK DINNER AVAILABLE
— \$12
by Outlow Catering

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

Accommodations
Sure Stay by Best Western #830-393-0443 | LaQuinta Inn & Suites #830-235-4345 | Holiday Inn & Suites #830-393-7400





Floresville Opry's Schedule

May 7, 2026, Tony Booth
Jun. 4, 2026, Tommy Hooker
Jul. 2, 2026, Johnny Blaine
Aug.6, 2026, Wyatt Aleman
Sep. 3, 2026, Bobby Marquez
Oct. 1, 2026, Grace Partridge
Nov.5, 2026, Justin Trevino/ Guest-Misty Lubianski
Dec. 3, 2026, Mike Hughes
Jan. 7, 2027, Bob Appel
Feb. 4, 2027, Paul Sanchez
Mar. 4, 2027, Sam & Lilly Platts

Wilson County Expo & Community Center (Show Barn)
435 St Hwy 97 East out of Floresville, Texas
Doors Open @ 5:00 pm--music 6:00-9:15 pm
Info: Viola Henke #830-391-1062

Gen Admission \$15.00 Reserved Table Seats (8) \$100.00

Dinner \$12.00 Desserts \$2.00
Quarterly Arm Stretch Drawing

Concessions

Bring your own adult beverages

Benefit for the Wilson County Historical Society

German Immigration to Texas

German immigration to Texas began in 1831. Johann Friedrich Ernst was issued a land grant which was comprised of Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Washington, DeWitt and Victoria counties.

In 1842 Henri Castro was issued a land grant west of San Antonio that included the present-day counties of Atascosa, Frio, La Salle, Medina, and McMullen.

Also, in 1842 Henry Francis Fisher and Burchard Miller received a grant to settle in areas of Concho, Menard, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason, San Saba and Llano counties. This was sold in 1844 to the Adelsverein, an association of German noblemen formed to establish a “New Germany” in Texas. It was run by Prince Karl of Solms-Braunfels and John O. Meusebach. They founded the towns of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg and brought almost 7,500 Germans to Texas.

The Raabe family is one such family that made their way from Prussia, the core of northern Germany, to Texas and then settled in Wilson County.

Journey to Wilson County, Texas

A Tale of Two Families

By Steve Raabe

Farming families from Fayette, Colorado and Lavaca counties came to Wilson County in the early 1900's in search of larger and less expensive tracts of land due to the fact that land in Fayette, Colorado and Lavaca counties was more expensive and harder to come by since those counties were settled in the mid to late 1800's by numerous German and Czech immigrants.

The Raabe's

Joseph and Johanna Raabe and their seven sons came to Texas from Munsterberg in the Province of Schlesien, Prussia in 1852. They settled in the Content community just south of present-day Weimer in Colorado County. One of their sons, Anton F. Raabe moved to Ross Prairie, just east of Ehlinger, in the early 1860's and married Margaretta Reinhard. In the mid-1890's, August Hugo Raabe, one of Anton F. and Margaretta Raabe's sons, moved with his wife Barbara Boehm Raabe to the Cyclone community in Bell County just east of Temple. Barbara Boehm Raabe had asthma and the Raabe's were encouraged to move farther west to drier climate, so they moved to Uvalde shortly after 1900. They were not happy living there as few people spoke German. They boarded a train to San Antonio and then to Hobson in Karnes County to visit Barbara Boehm Raabe's relatives. They then travelled to Poth to visit August Raabe's Reinhard cousins. They liked the Poth area, so they bought a farm on the western outskirts of Poth in 1906. In 1916, August and Barbara bought 450 acres and moved to the Kasper community west of Dewees. In 1925, one of August and Barbara Raabe's sons, Otto Wilhelm Raabe, married Rose Winkler Raabe and they made their home in the Kasper community. Otto and Rose Raabe had five sons and two daughters. Their eldest son, Kenneth Raabe, married Evelyn Koether and they lived on the Koether homestead with their six sons.

The Koether's

Christian Koether came to Texas from Gamzen in the Province of Hannover, Germany in the late 1860's. He later sent money to Germany for his wife, Catarena Koether, and their children to come to Texas in 1871 where they settled in the Swiss Alp community in Fayette County just north of Schulenburg. One of Christian and Catarena Koether's sons, William Koether, bought land in the Charlottenburg community near Shiner in Lavaca County in 1882. William Koether married Marie Harms and in 1898 they moved to the Glaze City community in eastern Gonzales County. In 1901, William Koether bought 450 acres of land in what was to become the Three Oaks community in southwest Wilson County. William and Marie Koether had four sons, Otto, Emil, George and Theodore. Theodore and his wife Lillie Tampke Koether had one daughter, Evelyn Koether, who married Kenneth Raabe and they had six sons.

**Margaretta
Reinhard**

Anton F Raabe



Barbara Boehm

**August Hugo
Raabe**

**Otto Wilhem
Raabe**

Rose Winkler



Highlights from Wilson County Heritage Festival 2026



Dave Regan & Steve Raabe



American Legion Post 38



Wilson County Historical Commission



Robert Leal accepting a door prize from Wilson County Historical Society President Carol Chitty.



Polly Mansion Whitehall
Owned by Keith and Robyn
Muschalek



Highlights from Wilson County Heritage Festival 2026



Clay Maeckel accepts Land Legacy Award from Elaine Stephens



Polish Heritage Center



Susan Richter & Elaine Stephens LaVernia Historical Association



Fort Sam Field Hospital Demonstration

Highlights from Wilson County Heritage Festival 2026



Stockdale Historical Museum



Wilson Co. Master Gardeners



Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers



Friends of the Tiner Hendrick House



Viola Henke & Carol Chitty don German attire at the Wilson County Historical Society booth



Tiner-Hendrick House ready for move adjacent to Polley Mansion. Move expected in the next two weeks



Mr. Tudyck's chimneys — connecting St. Hedwig and Sutherland Springs
A Glimpse OF THE PAST
Article credited to the Wilson County News: elaine@wcn-online | on April 14, 2026

Workers with Curtis Hunt Restorations begin dismantling a chimney at the Tiner-Hendrick House in Sutherland Springs; stones are removed one by one and labeled, then carefully stacked, ready for the chimney to be reconstructed at the home's new site near the Polley Mansion.



Work began in earnest recently to move the Tiner-Hendrick House — built by Jesse Tiner — from its current location in Sutherland Springs to its new home near the Polley Mansion on F.M. 539 near La Vernia. (Learn more about the house and its occupants in the Wilson County News articles, “Help save the Tiner-Hendrick House,” Oct. 29, 2025, and “Meet Jesse Lane Tiner and his bride, Connie,” Nov. 12, 2025.)

Efforts included removing the two stone and brick chimneys that had stood for 144 years. Curtis Hunt Restorations Inc., a local company, has been enlisted to remove the chimneys. They take photographs of the chimneys and feed that information into a computer program that maps each of the stones. As of April 3, workers were carefully removing the stones one by one, labeling them with a number, and stacking them on a pallet. Later the stones and bricks will be wrapped in plastic and moved to the new site, awaiting the time when they can be rebuilt.

A Glimpse OF THE PAST

In a blog post, “Sticks and Stones,” I recounted Mr. Joseph Tudyck’s construction of the chimney on the new house. With the help of Sandy Mitchell, he constructed the chimney in 11 days. The total cost was \$75 — \$38.25 labor, \$36.75 materials.

We were not sure who had constructed the smaller house or its chimney. We knew it was older; recently, I found 16 pages from an 1882 diary written by Jesse Tiner. It cleared up a few things. Mr. Tiner himself built the house between 1880 and 1882.

Joseph Tudyck — Tiner spells his name Toodick — along with his assistant, Oscar Palm, built the little chimney between Oct. 16 and Oct. 23, 1882. The chimney was 21-1/2 feet high; he was paid a total of \$21.50, \$1 per foot.

I tried to learn a bit about Mr. Tudyck of St. Hedwig. I learned he was married to Petronella Kosub, and that he was the great-uncle of Allen Kosub, one of our excellent local historians. Allen has a great website, called Lost Texas Roads. He reports: “We can document Joseph’s brick work in the first church built in 1868 in St. Hedwig and his own house in St. Hedwig. We believe that he built numerous chimneys in the area. His specialty was building with ‘rubble and partially dressed’ native sandstone.”

What a neat thought to consider that Allen Kosub’s great-uncle Joseph was the last one to touch those stones 144 years ago until they were carefully removed from the chimney recently by the workers from Curtis Hunt Restorations.

Tiner-Hendrick House Donate toward restoration

Anyone wishing to donate can visit friendsofthetinerhouse.blogspot.com/ and contribute toward the restoration. Click on the amount you would like to donate, or type in the amount that you can give.

Or you can contact Melinda Creech to discuss your donation; email mjcreech@mac.com.

Wilson County Historical Society has donated \$38,000 to rebuild the chimneys. Donations are still needed and appreciated for other phases of restoration on the house